

# Term 2 Senior School Newsletter

Kia ngātahi ai te tu, E pakari ai te tuarā  
Together we are strong

## Kia ora e te whanau,

Term 1 was an engaging start to the year, with students living the school vision to making a positive difference in the world through our topic 'I am an Environmentalist'. We were fortunate to have the Tread Lightly Caravan visit our school and each student participated in a pledge to help protect our planet. The education outside the classroom opportunities in Term 1, were the Year 5 Beach Education trip to Mairangi Bay which was a highlight of the term. The weather couldn't have been more perfect with blue skies all day. Summer Field Day gave senior students the opportunity to compete against other schools at different sports. Looking ahead to Term 2 we anticipate months of enjoyable learning for our students and look forward to seeing the fantastic work they create.

## Term 2 Learning Programmes

### 'I am an Astronomer'

Excitement and anticipation is high in the Senior School for our science topic, 'I am an Astronomer'. Students will be thinking in the mind of an astronomer and using their observation skills and ability to ask questions. The contexts children will be learning about are: Our Solar System, The Space Race and What's Beyond? At the end of the term the senior students will work on a project for the Astronomy Science Fair which they will share with the Junior and Middle schools. Week 3 is the national Science week and the Senior School will be making their way to the Stardome Observatory in Cornwall Park. This topic coincides with the beginning of the Maori New Year and the rise of the constellation Matariki in June. Children are currently preparing for ENPS's annual fundraising event 'AstronomyAthon' and testing will take place next week.

1

### OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

What is needed for a planet to become inhabitable?

2

### THE SPACE RACE

Who owns space?

3

### EXTRAGALACTIC

Is a black hole really a hole?

### T3 Senior School Assemblies

Friday 24th May &  
Friday 14th June

### Performance Assemblies

Friday 7th June &  
Friday 5th July

### Stardome Trip

Year 5: Monday  
13th May

Year 6: Friday 17th  
May

### Senior School Disco

Thursday 13th June

### Mid Year Reports

These will go home  
on Monday 1st July

### Parent Teacher Conferences Monday

Tuesday 2nd July &  
Wednesday 3rd  
July

## Senior School Home Learning

Weekly Home Learning will consist of:

- Thirty minutes of reading five nights a week
- Fifteen spelling words each week
- Matific - Targeted mathematical learning tasks will be provided
- Three questions per week focused around the term's topic, the arts and te reo Maori. These questions are related to what the children will be learning about in class during that week

*Week 1/Wiki Tahi: What do you know about space?*

*Week 2/Wiki Rua: What causes day and night on Earth? What causes seasons on Earth to change?*

*Week 3/Wiki Toru: How are planets, stars, and the moon different from each other?*

*Week 4/Wiki Wha: What are the special qualities an astronaut needs to have?*

*Week 5/Wiki Rima: Who owns space? Do you think countries or individuals should be able to own celestial objects? Why / why not?*

*Week 6/Wiki Ono: What sort of questions do you think astronomers ask themselves? If you could ask an astronomer a question about space what would it be?*

*Week 7/Wiki Whitu: Name one astronomer you have learnt about this term? How have they impacted our world?*

*Week 8/Wiki Waru: How much do you think it would cost to build a space suit or a rocket? Do you think it is worth the money?*

*Week 9/Wiki Iwa: What do you think it would be like to live in space? What would be some of the challenges you might face?*

*Week 10/Wiki Tekau: How does learning about space affect how we make decisions in our daily lives?*

All Senior School students will record home learning in their student diaries. Parents are expected to sign their child's homework each week.

### SENIOR SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

A number of extra-curricular sporting opportunities are available through ENPS during the year. However, in order to provide these learning experiences for our students, parent volunteers are required to manage and coach the teams.

ENPS enters teams in the following extra-curricular sports:

Flippa Ball	Terms 1-4	Year 4, 5, 6
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Netball	Terms 2-3	Year 4, 5, 6
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Please contact Ian Galvan at [igalvan@epsomnormal.school.nz](mailto:igalvan@epsomnormal.school.nz) for additional information regarding these opportunities to volunteer.

## Tuesday Wednesday Sport Programme

In Term 2 our Senior School Winter Sport Programme for soccer, hockey, netball and rugby (touch and tackle) begins. During Tuesday afternoons, we will be leaving the school grounds to go to nearby parks and will also participate in exchanges. Please contact your child's sport teacher if you are able to volunteer your time on a Tuesday afternoon. Your assistance is really needed for these days to be successful, as we have to cancel sport for safety reasons if there is not enough adult supervision. Winter Field Day will be held in Term 3.

## Important Message

If your child arrives at school prior to 8:30am they have to wait at the hall steps until the 8.30am bell rings for entering the classrooms. All parents and children are kindly requested to wait at the hall steps till the 8.30am bell. For health and safety reasons we do not encourage parents and children to wait in other areas of the school. Your support with these routines will be greatly appreciated. The Parnell Trust continues to run before and after school care. If you require their services, please contact them on 09 3792095.

## Communication

Communication between home and school is important. There is a lot of information in the newsletters that are sent home. You can also access newsletters on the school website at <http://epsomnormalprimary.school.nz>. We are all very happy to meet with you if you have any concerns or queries about your child's learning or social development. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher, Gabby Robinson, Year 5 Team Leader, or Casey Gilligan, Year 6 Team Leader. Should an extended time be required, an appointment may be made. We look forward to another enjoyable term!

Yours sincerely,

Casey Gilligan (R1), Emma-Jane Caldwell (R2), Charlotte Priestley (R3) and Ryan Abbott (R4)

Year 6 Team

Gabby Robinson (R8), Sharon Overall (R5), Ian Galvan (R7), and Huda Parvez (R6)

Year 5 Team