

Manuka Team Newsletter
Term Two
April 2009



Kia Ora Tatou, Greetings to all

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to school! We hope you all had a lovely holiday break over the Easter period. We are all looking forward to the exciting learning that will take place during term two. A very special welcome to the new children who have joined us in Room 22!

Curriculum Topics for term two:

The overall theme for 2010 is *“Am I making positive connections with the world?”*

Science:

“We are Scientists” – “The Butterfly Effect”

The Butterfly Effect is a metaphor that encapsulates the idea that small differences may produce large variations. The idea is that even the small force created by the flapping of a butterfly's wings can have an effect on other things! When exploring this idea, we will be focussing on the physical world and developing concepts about forces. This topic looks at how forces are related and involves children experiencing practical science.

General Information

1. **Routines:** The establishment of routines across our team remains a consistent focus. School begins promptly at **8:55 am** and finishes at **2:55 pm**. To encourage independence we would like the children to hang up their own bags, bring in their book bags, fruit snacks and their water bottles.
2. **Lost property** continues to accumulate. Thank you to those who have already named every item of clothing. The lost property collection is located in the main block in the senior area. Property is kept in large cupboards in the corridor opposite room 5. On the last day of term the lost property is also displayed on the hall steps.
3. **School Uniform:** We especially ask for your help in having all of our children wearing their correct uniform with pride, and representing our school properly. As the weather becomes colder, children will need to have ‘closed toed shoes’. To encourage independence, we would ask that children wear shoes that they are able to put on and take off by themselves. If they have laced shoes please ensure that they are able to tie and untie them.

4. **Jewellery:** We ask that jewellery is worn at home and not at school (with the exception of cultural jewellery). This is to ensure that children do not lose special and precious items and also to prevent any unnecessary accidents.
5. **Assembly:** Each Friday we have a small team assembly to celebrate our learning. We call this Manuka Magic. During this time we sing songs, give out certificates, welcome new children and share some of our amazing work. On Friday 30th April there will be a Junior Sector assembly with all of the classes from both the Manuka and Totara teams. You are welcome to attend. This will be held in the hall beginning at approximately 2.00pm.
6. **Performances:** This week we have a very talented young musician coming to visit the school. Dylan Elise will be performing on Thursday afternoon. Towards the end of May we will also have the opportunity to watch Mana – The Spirit of Polynesia perform.
7. **Kelly Sports:** This week, classes will have the opportunity to work with some representatives from the Kelly Sports team. This will be integrated as part of the Physical Education programme.
8. **Safe Walking:** In week four (10th to 14th May) the children in the Manuka Team will be meeting Constable Cam. We will be learning about safety, with a focus on safe walking. This will be an exciting week for children but also a very important one.

We look forward to a successful, productive and fun term! Please take the opportunity to talk with your children about all of these exciting experiences we have planned at school.

Communication between home and school is very important. There is a lot of information in the school 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. Should an extended time be required, an appointment may be made.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel O'Shea, Team Leader, (R23), Andrea Morgan, (R20), Heather D'souza, (R24), Zara Jackson, (R19), Fiona Murphy (R22)
The Year 0/1 Team