

Te Hua Rakau Team Newsletter

Term One, 2023

Be Your Own Star - Follow your heart and what you know is right!

Welcome to the 2023 school year! We hope you all had fabulous holidays and are feeling refreshed and ready for a great year.

Our teachers this year are: Mr Peter Nolan who is based in Room 11 and Mrs Danielle McMurchie who is based in Room 12. We also have Jo Mason and Kylie Morete working with us for set blocks of the day. Mr Dave Saunders will be in on a Thursday as Danielle's release teacher. If you have any queries or concerns over the course of the term please feel free to contact your child's teacher directly. Contact can be made by phone 06 364 3071, or by email; peter.nolan@th.school.nz, danielle.mcmurchie@th.school.nz. Of course you are welcome to call in and see us face to face, Peter and Danielle will be in or around their classrooms from 8:30am in the morning and also after school until 3:15pm when at times we have meetings we need to attend.

Term One Curriculum	
Positive Behaviour For Learning (PB4L)	Exploring the Te Horo School expectations and values Class routines and practises Team work Trying new things and challenging ourselves Celebration time!
Inquiry Topic (Health & Visual Arts)	Hauora <i>We have a personal responsibility for our own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others.</i> We would like our learners to understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I can make all four dimensions of my hauora strong and stable• I can make positive choices for the wellbeing of others• Certain choices we make not only affect our own hauora but also the hauora of others, so we need to make responsible ones Week One/Two Focus: Treaty of Waitangi Week Ten Focus: ANZAC
Literacy	Handwriting & Spelling (own class programmes) Reading & Writing (own class programmes based on 2022 data and links made into inquiry as noted above)
Mathematics	Inspirational Maths - developing a positive maths culture Statistics: Statistical Investigation Addition, Subtraction & Number Knowledge (Collaborative)
PE	Athletics Recreational Swimming and Safety
Technology	Hour of Code - each Monday afternoon during Term One. A rotation of Cooking, Construction and Sewing will begin in Term Two.
Languages	Room 12: Japanese Room 11: Sign Language

Dates For Your Diaries

Feb		Mar		Apr	
2	First day of Term 1	1	GRIP Leadership Year 8s	5	Kapahaka
6	Waitangi Day		Kapahaka	6	ANZAC Service
7	Mihi Whakatau (9:30am)	2	Goal Setting Interviews		Last day of Term 1
15	Kapahaka	3	School Assembly	7	Good Friday
17	School Assembly	8	Kapahaka		
22	Kapahaka	15	Kapahaka		
28	Goal Setting Interviews	17	School Assembly		
		21	Weetbix Tryathlon		
		22	Kapahaka		
		23	Band Auditions		
		27	Swimming @ Haruatai		
		28	Swimming @ Haruatai		
		29	Swimming @ Haruatai		
			Kapahaka		
		30	Swimming @ Haruatai		
		31	Swimming Sports		
			School Assembly		

Cricket sessions with outside experts will take place in Week 3, Week 4 & Week 6.

We are waiting on confirmation of dates for the Otaki and Kapiti Interschool sports events - we will update you on these once we know more.

Seesaw

Seesaw is a virtual window into the classroom. Both the teachers and children will be using the Seesaw platform / app to share key classroom events, share learning and celebrate success on a regular basis throughout the year. An email has been sent with a link and instructions about how to join this, however, if it was missed;

If your child is in Room 12 with Mrs McMurchie please use the link below.

<https://app.seesaw.me/s/351-238-526>

If your child is in Room 11 with Mr Nolan please use the link below.

<https://app.seesaw.me/s/047-689-346>

We look forward to seeing you in the Seesaw world!

Sunhats

This term all of our children must wear a fully brimmed sun hat which shades the neck and ears. Students without sun hats will need to play in the shade. Caps and beanies are not suitable as sun hats. Replacement hats can be purchased from the Office should you wish to purchase a school one.

Year 7 & 8 Swimming Programme 2023

As part of our PE programme, the Year 7 & 8s will be taking part in swimming at Ōtaki Pool in Week 9 of Term 1, Monday 27th March - Thursday 30th March and culminating with a Swimming Sports event on Friday 31st March (12:30pm - 2:30pm).

Will leave school at 11:10am and return at 12:30pm, Monday - Thursday.

Will leave school at 12:10pm and return at 2:50pm on Friday.

We require help, particularly with our students who are not confident in the water and are still learning to swim. If you are confident at teaching students to swim and you are able to help please let us know using the form below. Likewise, please also let us know if you would like to participate in the parent/teacher race at the swimming sports event.

Please also indicate your child's swimming ability so that we can group the students initially. If you could complete this [form](#) by Friday 3rd March that would be greatly appreciated.

There will be a small cost for swimming and this will be finalised in the coming weeks.

Lost Property

The Lost Property Box is located on the ramp to Room 7 & 8. To assist with the safe return of items it would be appreciated if you could clearly name your child's clothing. Unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of each term.

Headphones / Earbuds

We do not have any headphones at school for the children to use. If your child has a set of headphones or earbuds that they use at home it would be great if they could bring these to school with them. It can get quite confusing in the classroom when all the children are listening to an activity in surround sound ☺ Thanks to those who have already thought about this and sent them along.

COLLABORATION (across Rooms 11 & 12)

Your child will have been placed in either Room 11 or 12 and the classroom teacher associated with that room will take primary responsibility for their pastoral and learning needs. Your child will also have planned opportunities to work with other teachers and children from other classes during the week for parts of their programme. For Term One these opportunities to work with other teachers and children include:

- Beginning of the day of notices
- Selected activities as part of our Inquiry topics
- Languages
- Digital Technology
- Buddy activities with the children who are new to school
- Collaborative mathematics programme – the children will be working across the two classes for addition, subtraction, and number knowledge this term. The children will be involved in identifying their strengths and areas for development and will opt in mathematics workshops (with either of the teachers) based on their areas for development. The children will attend workshops, have the opportunity to practise their new learning and regularly practise their basic facts. This programme will better allow for children to take ownership of their learning and have more targeted teaching based on their needs.

As a team, we have decided that we would like the opportunity to develop relationships with the children and get to know their learning needs before we open 'collaboration' up any wider than mentioned above. For collaboration to be successful, establishing relationships with the children first is key.

Homework

In Term One of 2023 we are going to trial a homework programme for the Year 7 & 8 children. The homework programme will provide activities in Reading, Spelling, Mathematics and STEM Tasks. These are designed as additional activities to support the learning that is taking place in class and are individualised to meet the children's needs. By no means is homework compulsory, but we know that some parents and children are keen on continuing learning in the home environment. It is also a good opportunity to prepare the children for the requirements that may come once they head off to college. A large part of homework is about self-management skills. We know several children have other commitments outside of school and so our suggested activities are just that, only suggestions. The children can do as little or as much as they like, or as you like if you choose to direct it. This is about the children taking ownership of their learning.

We have chosen to provide homework in the form of a website and the website link can be found [here](#). Only people with an @th.school.nz email address can access the site, so we ask that you get your child(ren) to show you. There is substantial detail on the website under the tabs; Reading, Spelling, Mathematics and STEM tasks, however in short;

Reading: we recommend that the children read for 15 minutes per night. The website provides some ideas for what reading can involve, some online texts if the children can not locate any reading material and ideas for how parents can help at home.

Spelling: your child's teacher will provide 10 spelling words for the children to learn each week. These will be individualised and will be a combination of words that contain a spelling rule that the child is working on and words that they have spelt incorrectly from the Essential Word Lists. Spelling rules will have been taught in class. This is an opportunity for children to practise the words that they have been asked to learn each week. We recommend that the children complete one spelling activity each week from a menu of options that is provided on the website.

Mathematics: early in the term we will check your child's basic fact knowledge and will let the children know which basic facts they are currently working on. This is an opportunity for children to practise the basic facts that they need to master. We recommend that the children complete one basic fact activity each week from a menu of options that is provided on the website.

STEM Tasks: STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics. These tasks are designed to combine learning in an interesting way. We suggest that your child completes one STEM task a fortnight. So if they complete them we would be interested in seeing them on the Friday of Week 4, Week 6, Week 8 and Thursday of Week 10. We would love to celebrate your child's learning with them. A menu of STEM tasks can be found on the website.

Homework from term to term will look different depending on what we are focussing on at school. For example, you may find in Term Two the children have mostly mastered their basic facts and we may switch to problem solving tasks. Homework will be reflective of needs and will be fluid in its content.

Please note; we have not yet shared this with the students and will need to do some checking of spelling and basic facts in the next few weeks. This is advanced information.

PE

We have timetabled PE daily; whether it be swimming safety, recreational swimming, fitness activities or PE lessons. For this reason, we ask that your child(ren) wear appropriate footwear daily. Room 11 will be swimming on a Monday and Friday, Room 12 will be swimming on a Wednesday and Friday for most of the term so we ask that they bring and togs and a towel on these days. The exception to this is 27 - 31 March, when they will be swimming every day. We do ask that if your child is unable to do PE for a prolonged period of time that you do let us know via email.

SNACK BREAK AND WATER

Water and food fuels the brain! The children are welcome to have a water bottle in class and will be encouraged to have a healthy snack break during the first session of the day. We ask that you send a named water bottle - with water - to school daily. The children will be able to fill up their drink bottles from the classroom taps. Please, please, please send along a named water bottle - it is very hot!

CELLPHONES

We understand that many of the children need their cellphones at school for personal arrangements and safety reasons before and after school and encourage them to bring their cellphone to school for this purpose. From 8:30am or once the children are at school the cellphones are locked away for the duration of the school day. If you need to get a message to your children during the day, we ask that this is directed via the school office so that we can ensure the message gets through to the children.

Endnote

If you have any concerns regarding your child's performance both academically and / or socially, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher in the first instance. Looking forward to a great Term One.

Kind regards

Danielle McMurchie & Peter Nolan