

FOXTON BEACH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

25TH MAY 2022

Kia ora, e t whānau

Welcome to week 5 of term 2.

I'd like to welcome Owen to our staff as our new Caretaker. The place is looking amazing in such a short time!

It has been really good to get into a few classes to see and hear some of the learning they are doing around Space. A big part of this will be our focus on Matariki which will be celebrated for the first time this year with a public holiday on the 24th of June. The acknowledgement of Matariki has been a long time coming in Aotearoa/New Zealand and now we need to make sure the children understand what the significance of it is and why it was so important to Maori.

As part of our focus on Space the children have also been posing some of their own inquiring questions that as a class they are finding the answers too. I heard a good question from one of our 5 year olds wanting to know why we have satellites in space and attached to our houses (they were referring to the satellite dishes). This is an amazing question and will lead to a lot of learning.

Winter sports have started and we have teams playing netball, basketball and hockey. I really want to thank all the parents and the staff who have given up their time to either coach or manage one of our teams. It is great to have parent support for transporting children to the games too. Each year I take this opportunity to remind everyone that we are not playing in the Olympics and that school sport is meant to be fun while also being competitive. I also remind parents that we need to respect our opponents and the referees. Most of the refs that are involved in school sport are teenagers from our local Colleges that are giving up their time. If they get a hard time from parents on the sideline they eventually give it up.

COVID-19 Update:

At the moment our cases are almost non-existent. This does not mean that it isn't in our community though. The Ministry of Health and Education have advised us to be ready for a really bad flu season as everyone's immunity is low as our borders have been closed so flu's have not got into the country. I would strongly recommend that everyone gets a flu jab and if children are unwell that they stay away from school.

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, if our cases spike over the winter we may have to bring back mask wearing for a short period of time. We will keep everyone informed as cases increase.

Attendance:

This term we have been working hard on trying to get everyone back at school and back into regular routines. We monitor the attendance quite closely and we have noticed some patterns around Mondays and Fridays. If parents can please work with us and ensure that Mondays are not the day their children miss. A lot of work is done on Monday to set the hubs up for the whole week and to start looking at new focuses. After missing days, children coming back struggle, as they have missed the initial instruction at the start of the week. Please keep an eye on this as we all have to work together to ensure all children are happy and learning.

Houses:

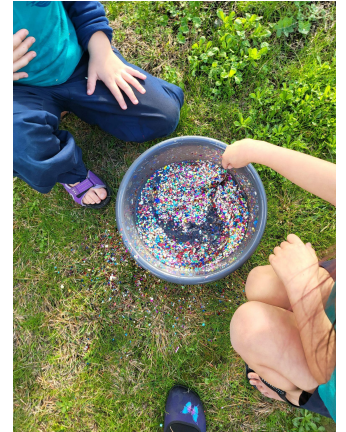
Now that we are able to mingle a bit more as a school we are taking this opportunity to get our school Houses up and running again. Our house leaders, Riley, Reretua, Skyla and Sienna are doing an amazing job with their houses. We held our first assembly in their houses the other day and we are going to meet in their houses each fortnight.

Hamish Stuart
Principal

Team Kotare

This term is absolutely flying! What a lot of learning we have been doing! We have started looking at our 'Planet Earth and Beyond' unit. The children have been really engaged with our discussions around space - and may even have a song to share with you about the solar system

Making Galaxies !!



Thank you for dressing up for Pink Shirt day. It was great to see the children all dressed up and having so much fun and we had a lot of great discussions about being good friends and looking after each other.

Team Kotare... Reminders

Please bring your warm school jerseys each day as it is getting cooler.

It is also important to remember your drink bottles as the water fountains are currently turned off.

Team Tarānui

What a busy couple of weeks we have had. The students are all so interested in our space topic and are asking amazing questions and have many wonderings. Some great work is already being produced and I am sure there will be some great displays of work in the coming weeks. Feel free to come in and see what we have been learning in class.

With winter finally arriving we are still having our doors open to circulate the air. Please make sure school polar fleeces are worn to keep warm.

New fleeces are available at the office for purchase

For math we have been delving into the world of multiplication and division. Many students are coming to grasp what multiplication is and how we can use it for so many things in math. If you are making any trips in the car ask your child some multiplication facts to help them practice their times tables.

Here's hoping we have a settled term.



Kuaka Hub

It has been a pretty full-on start to the term in the Kuaka Hub. Our students have completed some great work during literacy time around our solar system, in preparation for our inquiry on astronomy, which begins next week. We used an app called Padlet to assemble, organise and present the learning involved with the literacy tasks and it was awesome to see the range of visual information our students included in their presentations, from diagrams and charts to images, video links, and even recorded audio clips of their answers. We have also completed our ANZAC Day focus which turned out to be really successful - our students completed individual research tasks to develop their knowledge of the event and then worked in pairs to create infographic presentations that demonstrated their learning.

Awesome work team, well done!