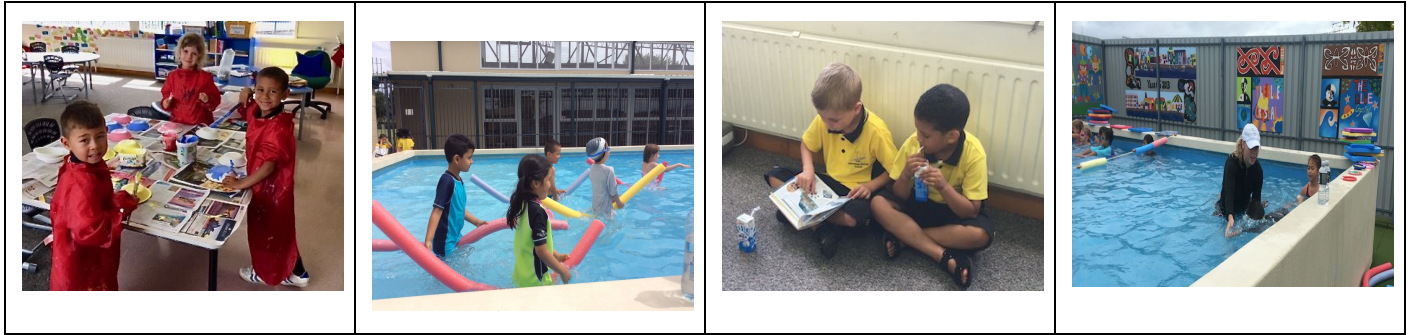


Junior Syndicate Newsletter Term 1 2018



Welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the children and families who have joined us at Sunnybrae Normal School for the start of the 2018 year. As teachers, we value the partnership of the home and school and are grateful for your support and encouragement in your child's education. We encourage you to take the time to visit your child's classroom on a regular basis throughout the year and spend some time looking through their books and work on the classroom walls.

This year the Junior Syndicate, while working as a team, continues to have separate team leaders for the different year levels. Wendy Frazer is leading the Year 1 team and Geeta Naran is leading the Year 2 team.

We are always happy to talk with you so if you have any questions or concerns please contact us before or after school to arrange a time to meet, or via email as outlined at the end of this newsletter.

School Values and Vision

As the school values and vision underpin all of our teaching and learning, we take the time at the beginning of each school year to highlight these to the children. This is achieved by making explicit to the children that we are ...**A connected community of positively engaged learners** and how our actions need to reflect the school values namely RICE:

Respect which includes empathy, courtesy, honesty, integrity, diversity

Independence which includes perseverance, resilience, confidence

Co-operation which includes teamwork, sharing, friendship and

Excellence

Inquiry units

To start the school year, Year 1 classes will explore what is required of them as a learner at Sunnybrae, class expectations and the school vision and values. As part of this unit we will explore the key competencies of managing self and identity.

They will then participate in an exciting unit looking into how and why houses are built to end the term. We will explore our own homes, the history of houses and why people choose to live in different types of houses. If you are able to get wood offcuts please let us know for our carpentry table.

The Year 2 team will investigate contexts of inquiry into the nature of the self beliefs and values, personal, physical wellbeing, social relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures.

Following this unit of work, classes will look at elements of dance and learn some dances in preparation for the International Food Festival. Children attending the Festival on March 9th will be invited to perform a dance together during the evening.

Visual Art and Music

For Visual Art, we will be focusing on the art of Robyn Kahukiwa and making self portraits that recognise our cultural identity. Later in the term we are creating pictures of buildings using perspective. This links directly with our inquiry unit.

Music lessons are taught fortnightly for each class on a Monday by our music specialist Leanne Barlow.

Physical Education

For the first six weeks, swimming will be the focus with all classes timetabled for sessions in the school pool 3 times a week. Two of these sessions are undertaken with qualified swimming instructors working in the pool with the children, the third sessions is taken by your class teacher. During this time, swimming is compulsory and the children need to bring their togs on the day specified by their teacher. In March, parents and extended family members will be invited for our annual Junior School Swimming Carnival, which gives the children the opportunity to share some of the skills they have acquired. During weeks 7-11, weekly PE sessions taken by your class teacher will focus on Run, Jump and Throw.

Trips and Visitors

Visitors to our school and trips outside the classroom are an integral part of our programmes. These are planned in advance to ensure they reflect key concepts and ideas we are teaching. Payment for these events will be requested as and when they occur during the year.

Classroom Support

Working alongside us as classroom teachers we have support programmes from the following personnel: Christine Mason - ESOL Support, Catherine Sands - Literacy Support. Rachel Poole - Reading Recovery We also have the following teacher aides supporting individuals and/or groups within the class: Sung Hee Hong, Jocelyn Ley, Jenny Koch and Rania Anderson. Parents/caregivers will be informed of their child's involvement in the ESOL, Reading Recovery and Literacy Support programmes.

Junior Syndicate Teachers

Wendy Frazer, (Room 1), Leanne Barlow and Kezia Delowe (Room 2), Carolyn Hutton (Room 3), Glenda Pretorius, (Room 4), Anna Blair (Room 6), Geeta Naran (Room 14), Kelsey Robinson (Room 15) and Melanie Hanson (Room 16).



General Organisation

Arriving at school: While the school day starts at 8.55 am, we advise that children should be at school by 8.45 am so they have time to settle and ensure that they are ready to start the day by putting away their **own** school bag, book bag and drink bottle in the classroom. Arriving at this time also gives your child to talk and play with their peers before the school day begins. Please note that children should not be at school before 8.30 am.

Leaving school: At the end of the day, we ask that parents/caregivers and siblings remain outside the classroom until children are dismissed by their teacher. It is important that your child knows who is picking them up and where they are to meet.

Hand towels: Each child should bring their own hand towel to school to dry their hands after washing them. You may like to attach this hand towel to your child's school bag, to ensure it is not lost and comes home on a regular basis to be washed.

School hat: The school hat is to be worn as part of the school uniform whenever the children are outside - especially in Terms 1 and 4. If your child does not have a school hat, they will need to play in the shade.

Naming of school uniforms: It is important that all items of your child's uniform are named. The lost property box for the Junior Syndicate is located in the cloakbay between Rooms 3 and 4. There is also an additional lost property box in the Senior Syndicate cloak bay between Rooms 8 and 9.

Book bags: Children need to return their book bag everyday with their reading log/home learning book and their reading book/s. Please ensure that at least one family member listens to your child read daily and signs the reading log/home learning book.

Each child has a regular library time where the children are able to choose **two books** to bring home for the week. The children need to have returned their library books, in their library bag before they are able to take home new books.

Mathletics and Reading Eggs: Children will participating in the Mathletics and Reading Eggs computer programmes this year. These programmes will be monitored by the classroom teacher. Regular time time will be set aside during the classroom programme, however both programmes are also designed and encouraged to be used at home. Logins and passwords will be included in your child's reading log/home learning book.

Seesaw : This year we have introduced an online portfolio. This will keep you up to date with what is happening in your child's classroom and share with you their learning on a regular basis. You are encouraged to give positive feedback when viewing your child's work using the comment tab.

Parent/Grandparent Help: Parent/Grandparent help is always welcome in our classroom. If you or an extended member in your family is able to help out on a regular basis, please let your child's teacher know. A training session is held early in the term that outlines what is required of you as a helper.

School Newsletters: These are sent home electronically. For those families who do not have access to the internet, a school newsletter will be printed and sent home.

We are always happy to talk to with you so if you have any questions or concerns please contact us before or after school to arrange a time to meet, or via email below.

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