

## Kia Ora Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the final term of 2018! We hope you all had an enjoyable break whether you stayed in Wellington or ventured further afield. In staffing news this term, Jane Fairless will take over from Vicky Balfour (who will be going on maternity leave) from Monday 19 November. Jane has taught at Northland School for many years and is a very experienced Year 5&6 teacher. Lizzie Ryan will become the acting team leader for the remaining few weeks of term.

## What's Happening This Term?

### Digital Technologies: Coding

The New Zealand Curriculum now includes a Digital Technologies component, which schools should aim to incorporate into their teaching programmes by 2020. This year Team 3 students have been working with a variety of digital tools (such as video editing software) and learning key skills (such as touch typing). They have also learnt a lot about being a digital citizen: how to keep safe online, avoid and prevent cyberbullying, and make sensible decisions about their actions. Team 3 students have also created videos on these topics, which are on the school website.

We will now explore coding and develop an understanding of how computers process information. We will use coding software such as Scratch to learn the building blocks of coding and students will work through tutorials before embarking on a coding project of their own choice. We will also focus on BitCode (binary digits code); learning the meaning of all those 0s and 1s and how to create numbers and words using binary digits.

### Sporting Ventures

This term we will continue our athletics training in the lead up to the school athletics on Wednesday 24 October. For the remainder of the term we will attend the ASB Sports Centre for gymnastics, ultimate frisbee and speedball lessons. Physical Education lessons typically take place on Tuesdays, except in Weeks 3 and 9, when we will go to the ASB Sports Centre on Thursday 1 November, Monday 10 December and Thursday 13 December. Please remind your child to wear appropriate clothing and shoes for physical education lessons.

### Maths

We will spend the first few weeks of the term revisiting number maths concepts before exploring probability and geometry (position and orientation). If your child would like to continue their maths learning at home, encourage them to refer to their maths folder in Google Drive where their teacher will have shared resources and activities with them.

### Literacy

Daily literacy programmes will continue throughout the term. We ask that you continue encouraging a love of literacy by ensuring your child reads each night, engages in practical and/or creative writing tasks and practises their spelling words. Students may also enjoy using websites such as Kiwi Kids News, StoryNory, Read Theory and Read Works.

### The Arts and Languages

In visual art we will be studying the works of Friedrich Hundertwasser (an artist who was based in New Zealand) and creating our own art in his style, before celebrating the upcoming holidays with festive creations. Our music programme will delve into different musical genres, exploring the different sounds and emotions conveyed and learning about their cultural origins. Our Te Reo programme this term will focus on celebrations.

### Homework

The focus this term is on giving back to our families and/or communities by providing a helpful service to others. Weekly spelling, grammar and vocabulary building homework tasks (shared via Google Drive) will also continue this term, as will our ongoing Oral Language programme. A homework letter is going home today with more information about these tasks.

A reminder that sun hats (with a brim) must be worn by all students when they are outside this term.

Kind regards, Vicky Balfour, Lizzie Ryan, Juliet McPhee and Jane Fairless.