

Wednesday 7 February 2018

## Team 4 Newsletter Term 1 2018

Tēnā Koutou

A very warm welcome to all of you and to the new students joining our team this term.

### ***Introducing us...***

Fiona Valentine: Kia ora. After spending part of the holidays in Scotland I am very glad to be back in the sunshine of Wellington, ready to start the school year. I have been at Northland School for seven years and have to say that Years 7 and 8 are a firm favourite for me. I am looking forward to getting to know all the students and support their learning. I encourage the students to be open to new learning and able to take on different roles and responsibilities. It is going to be another busy and exciting year.

Katie McGrath: Kia ora! I am delighted to be teaching in Team 4 again in 2018. I am really looking forward to camp, swimming, the science fair and those other challenges that make Team 4 a special part of Northland School. I am a born and bred Wellingtonian and live in Ngaio. My experience teaching ranges from Upper Hutt to Clapham, London and from Year 2-8. I look forward to meeting you throughout the year.

Alex Oliver: Having taught from year 1 to 13, the intermediate years are very possibly my favourite! I see great things happening in the minds of Year 7 and 8 students, and find it exciting to work with them. In Team 4 we aim to provide a nurturing environment, it is important to us that students are treated as individuals and each given the support and challenge to enable them to be reflective, resilient and resourceful learners. During their two years in Team 4, students are encouraged to develop the independence and initiative necessary for success at college, and there are many opportunities for them to develop and practise leadership. I have two children, one is in Year 12 and the other is here with us in Team 4.

We send a newsletter home at the beginning of each term, you will find that communications such as this newsletter, timetables, rosters, and other relevant information can be found under 'Team 4' on the school's website. Most importantly, all camp communications will be posted there as well. All students are expected to have and use a diary to encourage them to be ready and organised for each day.

### **Swimming and PE/sports**

**Please note:** swimming starts very soon and we will be departing Northland School at 8:30 on the dot to arrive in time for 9am lessons. Students are encouraged to pack their swimming gear the night before to ensure they are organised and ready to learn. In Team 4 Swimming lessons are held at the Kilbirnie Aquatic Centre. We are making a bag of spare goggles, towels and togs to ensure that those who might forget their gear don't miss out on this programme. If you have spare togs that you are happy to donate to the spares kit, please send them to school. (We have sufficient goggles).

The days for swimming are Tuesdays and Thursdays and the dates are: February 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>; March 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>; April 5<sup>th</sup>. On these days please ensure your child is at school by **8.20am** for the roll. If you are going to deliver them yourselves, please email your child's class teacher to let them know.

As well as regular fitness classes and running to get fit for camp, we will be honing our softball skills with trained instructors over four sessions on Thursdays starting February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Literacy Art Key Competencies and Northland School Qualities**

We will be reading and writing biographies. Students will use models to unpack the elements of a biography and use that to create success criteria to self and peer evaluate the writing. Following this, Art will be self-portrait drawing and will demonstrate our students understanding of the Qualities and Key Competencies.

Key Competencies (KCs) and Northland School Qualities guide our students and help them develop the attitudes and behaviours that best support learning and independence. The Key Competencies are: Relating to Others,

Participating and Contributing, Thinking, and Using Symbols, Language and Text. These are an important feature of being in Team 4, each week we recognise and reward students who demonstrate these, a Qualities cup and Key Competency certificates are given out at our hui. You can read more about the KCs here:

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/The-New-Zealand-Curriculum/Key-competencies>

## Maths

We revise number knowledge and place value before developing addition and subtraction strategies for problem solving. We will be regularly practising problem solving tasks that ready the students for the Otago Problem Solving competition that most students are enrolled in.

## Te ao Māori

We will learn to talk about and describe family, our feelings and request and name food this term. We will be learning te reo at least twice a week with lessons following our morning Team karakia, waiata and whakatauki. Students are encouraged to share their te reo at home to reinforce new learning.

## Camp

For most of our students, camp and technology are two stand-out high-lights of their time in Team Four.

This year camp is being held from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the YMCA Kaitoke. Next Wednesday a request for parent help will be sent home along with a gear list, a permission slip and a request for medical information.

If you are keen to give up a week of luxury for very little sleep, too much noise and heaps of fun, there will be a slip to complete and send in, otherwise email Alex (I will reply to show receipt). If you are wanting to come on camp because you believe your child needs your support, please do explain this. Please note that all parent helpers will be police vetted.

An outline of the camp programme will be presented at the meet-the-teacher evening on **Wednesday 21 February, please join us in the school library at 6.15pm** for further information. Your children will be supervised outside during this session.

## ICT

Students hopefully have a full compliment of the necessary stationery, including ear plugs for use with the chrome books. We will begin the term revising and discussing Cyber Safety and effective management of Google folders.

## Sunhats and sports clothing

Students are reminded that sunhats are compulsory attire in Terms 1 and 4. It is highly recommended that students bring a sunhat to Friday's Otari trip. It is expected that all children have a hat with a full brim at school by next Monday.

Because we have sports most days, we ask all students to wear or bring each day some sports shoes and suitable clothing for moving in.

We're all looking forward to an enjoyable and productive year, and continuing to develop positive relationships between home and school. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible on Wednesday 21 February. If you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch with us.

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Nā mātou noa na

Alex Oliver (Team Leader), Fiona Valentine and Katie McGrath