

Team 4 newsletter term 4 2017

Wednesday 18 October

Dear parents and caregivers

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Last term ended on a very high note, we thoroughly enjoyed our students' inquiry presentations and were very impressed with their choices of topic and the depth of thinking and research that went into these. We have a **very** busy nine weeks ahead of us which involves:

Speech writing and performance

It has become a tradition in Team 4 to write and perform a speech in Term 4. This prepares the Year 8s for speech making at their Leavers' Dinner, and success at college. Having just completed informative presentations, we are now focussing on the language features of persuasion. Students will be selecting a topic that is of interest to them, then researching, writing and performing their speeches in weeks 5 and 6. Specific information about this is outlined below.

Sexuality

Ten sessions of Sexuality Education will be held over the next few weeks. Year 7 is taught separately from Year 8 and Jane Fairless joins us in these classes so that we can reduce class numbers and have two teachers for each year level. We will also learn more about how to keep ourselves safe in the Cyber world, this is a very important and relevant topic. If you work in an area related to cyber safety and wish to share your ideas with the students, please get in touch with us.

Maths

We are completing algebra, looking at various aspects of geometry, reviewing number and spending a week on Financial Literacy.

Money

A number of students have already demonstrated excellent entrepreneurial skills, and have been running small businesses. Unfortunately, this involved the exchange of goods and money at school, which is against our policies and rules. We do not encourage students to have money at school for obvious reasons, and we ask for all exchanges within the school grounds to be stopped please.

Technology and EPRO8

Technology this term runs on Fridays: 20 and 27 October, and Tuesdays: 17 and 31 October and 7 and 14 November. Students are asked to be at school by 8.30 for the roll and to get the early bus, to have plenty of morning tea, sunhat and covered shoes. The first 2 EPRO8 teams competed at Raroa on Tuesday night, one of those teams came second equal and go on to compete in the semi-finals. Teams 3 and 4 will compete at Tawa Intermediate on 14 November. The EPRO8 students have demonstrated an excellent ability to work co-operatively to solve problems.

PE and sports

After athletics (tomorrow) we have several sessions on ball handling, we are very lucky to have the expertise of trainees from The New Zealand Institute of Sports to run these sessions.

Leavers' Dinner and end of year

The committee have the planning underway, and from week 6 the year 8s will be writing and preparing speeches in small groups and writing their personal memories of their time at Northland School for the memory book. They will be asked to contribute a photo of themselves, can families please help them find one they are happy with. Planning for end of year fun will be sent home later in the term.

Speech Making information:

The students have been given information about the upcoming speech making. It should be both informative and persuasive, and last for no more than three minutes. Students are asked to do **some** of the work as home learning. They will be assisted along each step of the way in class. We envisage that home learning might include you supporting them in some or many of the following:

- Assisting them to select a topic of interest
- Assisting them to develop a range of arguments and supporting evidence
- Providing guidance as they research to gather ideas and content
- Listening to them practise their speech (with cue cards)
- Providing feedback that encourages them to improve and develop their writing and performance (without doing the writing for them!)

Students are expected to write their speech during weeks 2-3 (it should be written by Friday 3 November), to practise it with cue cards early in week 4, and be ready to present it during weeks 5 and 6 (from 13-24 November).

Our reading is currently in the area of point of view and persuasion, and all students are currently writing persuasive texts.

Please don't hesitate to make contact if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi nui

Alex, Fiona and Katie

alexo@northland.school.nz

fionav@northland.school.nz

katiem@northland.school.nz