

RAUMATI BEACH SCHOOL

9 February 2017

Dear parents, guardians, caregivers,

TEAM KAPITI NEWSLETTER: TERM 1

A very warm welcome back to school! It's wonderful to see the students settled back and re-energised for the new year. A special welcome to families who are new to Team Kapiti, and also those new to RBS. It was lovely to meet and catch-up with so many of you at the Team Up day interviews - please remember that you are very welcome to make an appointment to meet with us during the term.

Here is some information about our team, our learning and activities. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any queries. We have also started a team Facebook page to help with information and updates. We are Team Kapiti: Raumatibeach School, @TeamKapitiRBS. We would like to post photos of our students in their learning, please let your child's teacher know if you do not give permission for this.

Who's Who in Team Kapiti

Room 12	Mr David Clare	dclare@raumatibeach.school.nz
Room 13	Mrs Karen McKay	kmckay@raumatibeach.school.nz
Room 14	Ms Kristy Goodwill	kgoodwill@raumatibeach.school.nz
Room 19	Ms Amanda Jones	ajones@raumatibeach.school.nz
	Miss Kate Coughlan	kcoughlan@raumatibeach.school.nz
Room 18	Mrs Hayley Tanga	htanga@raumatibeach.school.nz
Room 17	Mrs Wendy Keating (Team Leader)	wkeating@raumatibeach.school.nz

Learning contexts this term

We are starting the term with an inquiry focus on IDENTITY; the students are involved in mapping their community, finding out how they belong, and how they can be *Change Agents* in their own communities. Literacy studies will support this inquiry, and form a core part of learning programmes. Learning in mathematics this term is focussed on developing skills in Measurement, Geometry and Number Knowledge.

A key aspect of this term is consolidating our culture of learning by ensuring that all students are developing effective and settled work habits, and that they understand our behaviour expectations as a team and school.

Some Team/School "rules"

- Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds without being signed out by an adult, this includes leaving school to buy lunch items etc.
- Hats are required everyday in terms 1 and 4, please check that your child has a school hat.
- Correct uniform is expected: please send a note if your child needs to wear a non-regulation item.
- Phones are not permitted in-class; they are to be left at the school office each morning before 9am.

Dates for this term

The school calendar is also posted on the homepage of the school website (www.raumatibeach.school.nz). Please refer to this for updated information and extra dates for our team. We'll also use our Facebook page.

Excursions and Trips

Last year, we trialled a new approach of offering a greater variety of trips and excursions on an optional basis. This was successful, and we would like to extend this in 2017. Notices will come home about the term's trips, often there are deadline dates for return slips to enable us to confirm bookings. Please check for due dates to avoid disappointment!

Technology Centre Classes

All year 7 and 8 students are involved in specialist technology learning at the Raumati Technology Centre. Our sessions started yesterday, and continue on Mondays for the rest of the term. There is a charge of \$60 for materials used (please see the School website for this notice). Your help in ensuring your child is ready for their technology class is appreciated:

- covered footwear
- long hair needs to be tied back
- no jewellery to be worn, other than plain ear studs
- a coat/rain jacket is appreciated for wet/cold days (we walk to technology).
- students working in the foods room will need a sealing container to take food home in.

Digital learning and activity

Last year, we dealt with an increasing number of incidents involving student mis-use of ICT *outside of school* which impacted on the behaviour and learning of students at school. We will continue to address issues as they arise, but are often powerless to resolve issues without home support. **We emphasise your role as parents in monitoring and regulating your child's use at home, particularly around social media platforms.** We suggest:

- keeping your child in family spaces and being aware of device use in "private" areas such as bedrooms
- setting time limits and being aware of late-night usage/device availability
- having access to your child's device and sites they use, and being aware of age limits on social media sites
- encouraging them to talk to you about any concerning content, posts or conversations
- notifying the Police of concerning, ongoing posts/interaction.

We love the engagement that students are showing in their learning through using ICT at school and at home. Thank you for working collectively as a community to ensure that this usage stays safe and positive for all students. Please do not hesitate to talk with us about this.

Reporting to Parents

Written reports will be sent home in term two. This will be a summary of their progress against National Standards in reading, writing and mathematics. There will not be a formal interview evening this term, but you are welcome to make a time with your child's teacher to discuss their learning progress.

Homework

As per our school policy, Team Kapiti has a homework framework to support learning outside of school. We aim for this to be flexible to fit in with each student's out-of-school activities and busy home lives, and for it to be self-managing (we no longer send home weekly homework sheets/tasks). Teachers post tasks on Google Classroom and monitor homework completion/engagement but it requires independence from the students. Please email the class teacher if you do not wish your child to complete homework tasks.

Home learning for all classes will include tasks such as:

- Completing any unfinished work from the day's learning
- Class tasks or projects to build on class learning
- Online practice sites (eg, Sumdog, Studyladder) as set out on your child's Google Classroom
- Reading: books, newspapers etc

Thank you for your continued support of learning in Team Kapiti. We're looking forward to an exciting end to the year! Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries.

Kind regards,

Team Kapiti Teachers

Involvement - Resilience – Communication - Respect - Responsibility - Curiosity - Having Fun