

# Junior Team Newsletter - Term 1 2019

## *Kia ora Parents and Whanau*

A very warm welcome to all families in our Junior Team for 2019. An especially warm welcome to our 5 year olds beginning school for the very first time. Starting a new school year is always exciting for both children and teachers! There has been a real 'buzz' around Junior classrooms over the last few days.

The Junior Teaching Team for 2019 is:

| <b>New Entrants/Year 1</b>                       | <b>Year 2</b>  |
|--|--|
| C1 Mrs Jacqui Graham (Team Leader)               | B1 (Atrium) Mrs Jess Richardson (Acting Team Leader) |
| C2 Mrs Louise Macdonald                          | E4 Mrs Jude Clarke                                   |
| C3 Miss Emma Gill                                | B4 Ms Heather Chapple                                |
| E6 Mrs Angela Gee                                | A5 Miss Rebecca Barkla                               |
| E7 Mrs Erica Hatcliffe                           |  |
| A3 Mrs Elizabeth Gibb (composite Year 1-2 class) |  |

### **Learning about Learning**

Children will learn about who they are as learners and how they learn best. Children are encouraged to use a '*Growth Mindset*' - they will use phrases like "I can't do it yet" or "I will keep trying until I can do it". Students are encouraged to work together, make mistakes, try again and communicate their ideas, thoughts and feelings respectfully.

### **School Values**

Our new school values guide our learning and our experiences in the classroom and out in the playground:

- We choose Respect
- We choose Responsibility
- We choose Resilience.

### **Learning through Play**

The Junior Team also focuses on learning through play. In all Junior classrooms children will be encouraged to create, explore, think, manage and connect through a variety of play based experiences. Our play based activities are integrated into our curriculum learning areas. Play is a natural part of 5 and 6 year olds development. Play is hard work for busy little minds!

### **Inquiry**

Inquiry learning is a process where students first explore, formulate questions, investigate, and then build new understandings that might be used to develop a solution. Inquiry learning allows us to explore and learn about a range of science concepts, and the world around us.

## EHS Inquiry Cycle

| <b>WE SEE AND WE WONDER</b>                      | <b>WE EXPLORE, INVESTIGATE AND DISCOVER</b>          | <b>WE SHARE OUR THINKING</b>  | <b>WE REFLECT</b>  | <b>WE ACT AND WE CHANGE</b>             |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| What do we notice?<br>What questions do we have? | How could we find out?<br>What sources could we use? | How can we share our new skills and learning?<br>Can we use our new skills and learning in other areas? | We used to think....<br>Now I know....<br>What did we notice?<br>What did we wonder? | How have we independently taken action? |

This Term the Junior Team Inquiry is all about the concept 'Identity'.

The understandings we will focus on are;

- When we belong to a group we have different roles and responsibilities.
- When working in a group we need to share our ideas, needs, wants and feelings clearly, and listen to others.
- My actions affect myself and others.
- Personal needs and wants affect my learning, health, growth and development.

### **Getting to Know Your Child Form**

Forms were sent home on Friday 1st February for you to complete. These forms give you an opportunity to share with us any valuable information about your child. Please return these to your child's teacher by Friday 15th February (Week 3).

### **Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP)**

This year we are hoping to continue running our PMP programme for our new entrant and Year One children. PMP helps to develop and maintain children's perceptual and physical motor skills. These provide the foundations necessary for them to succeed in their early school years. We will need adult volunteers to help run PMP on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.. We will be sending out a letter with more details shortly. We would love you to help out with PMP, if you are able. Please talk to your classroom teacher for more information.

### **Collecting Children**

It would be appreciated if you could wait outside your child's classroom until they come out as corridors and classrooms are always congested with parents dropping off and collecting children at the end of the day. Please also leave strollers outside. Don't forget we have scooter stands to store the children's scooters while they are at school. This saves cluttering corridors and cloak bays. You can lock scooters to the stands. We are unable to take responsibility for unsecured scooters.

### **Sunhats**

**Sunhats must be worn** during outdoor activities and break times in Terms 1 and 4. Please ensure your child has a **named** sunhat at school **every day**. It is preferred that children have a wide brimmed sunhat that provides enough shade for their face, neck and ears. Caps and sun visors leave a child's face, neck and ears exposed to the sun's harmful rays during the hottest part of the day. Children without sunhats at school from Week 2 will spend their break times being supervised in the hall.

***No hat - No play - No fun today!***

### **Book Care**

A special plea to all families to take extra care of guided reading books that children bring home in their yellow bookbag. It is disappointing when readers are not returned, or come back to school damaged and wet. They are an expensive and precious resource for the Junior school, and an integral part of reading programmes in all classrooms. Please ensure your child has their yellow book bag with books and reading diaries at school everyday.

### **Tissues**

Could all children please bring a box of tissues to be kept in the classroom for shared use. This is especially necessary for the winter months.

### **Clothing and Footwear**

Please label children's clothing, lunch boxes, drink bottles and swimming gear with their name and room number, so that children can be responsible for their personal belongings. Please ensure children wear sensible footwear for our daily fitness and exercise activities.

### **School Arrival**

Classrooms are open to children from 8.30am. We are unable to guarantee supervision prior to this time, due to morning meetings and preparation commitments teachers have. It is unsafe to drop children off earlier. To help with settling into the school day it is a good idea to arrive with plenty of time to allow children to unpack bags, say goodbye and settle before the bell rings at 8.55am.

### **Pōwhiri**

This will be on Friday 8th February to welcome all new children and their families to EHS. It will begin at 9.45am. If you are new to our school, we would love you to come and be welcomed into our school family! The school newsletter has more information about this special event. You are invited to have a cup of tea and a biscuit with us in the hall afterwards.

### **Parent Evening: 'Meet the Teacher'**

This will be held on Thursday 14th February from 5:30 - 6:15pm. Teachers will outline classroom programmes, and you will have a chance to meet the teachers your child works with. More information about this evening will follow soon.

### **Junior Team Assemblies**

The Junior School come together fortnightly, on Monday afternoons in the hall at 2.15pm. Our assemblies are a time to share our learning and celebrate each other's achievements. Parents and whanau are most welcome to attend assemblies. Our first assembly for the year will be in Week 2.

### **Permission Forms**

When permission forms are sent out, please ensure these are returned to school as quickly as possible as they are needed to cover all school trips and the use of devices.

### **Sickness**

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home until they are completely over their illness. This prevents other class members and teachers from also becoming ill. If your child is going to be absent, please remember to contact the school absence line or use our texting service.

## **Emergencies**

The school will have food and water for emergencies available to all children and stored safely in an easily accessible area. We have regular practices of emergency drills over the year to ensure children know what to do in order to keep safe in such situations.

## **Nude Food Healthy Lunch Boxes**

*What is a Nude Food Lunch?*

We encourage and prefer reusable containers, homemade food, fresh fruit or vegetables and recyclable or reusable packaging. We discourage plastic wraps, and single use bags or packaging.



*Why have Nude Food Lunches?*

This helps us to reduce rubbish, keep our school tidy, protect the environment and eat healthy food. We are one of four schools in the Wellington region to hold a green gold enviroschool award. We appreciate your support in helping us to maintain our enviro school beliefs and practices.

## **Dates for your Diary**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 6th February  | Waitangi Day - SCHOOL CLOSED   |
| Friday 8th February     | Powhiri at 9.45am  |
| Thursday 14th February  | Meet the Teacher information Evening 5.30-6.15pm                                       |
| Wednesday 20th February | Whole School Picnic at lunch time (you are welcome to join us!)                        |
| Thursday 14th March     | Parent Teacher Interviews (Year 1 - 6)   |
| Monday 18th March       | Junior School Trip to the Festival of the Arts<br>(more information to follow)         |
| Wednesday 20th March    | Parent Teacher Interviews (Year 1 - 6)   |
| Thursday 28th March     | "BluGuru" Arts Performance.<br>(An Indian Classic and Bollywood journey through music) |
| Friday 12th April       | End of Term One  |

### **Back to School - Settling in**

The beginning of the school year is a busy time and can seem overwhelming for some junior children, especially those new to school. We know the children will be a little nervous as they get to know their new teacher and classmates, but also excited as well to begin school after the holiday break. Children may become tired at the end of the day, and need more time to rest and sleep during the first few weeks of the year.

If you have concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher first. As a team, we are there to support and encourage your child in their learning, and to ensure they feel happy and confident at school!

We look forward to a fantastic first term at school for 2019!

Ngā mihi nui,

*Junior Teaching Team*