

## Junior Team Newsletter - Term 2 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to Term 2 2018!

A very special welcome to all the families who are joining us in the Junior Team at Eastern Hutt School this term. An especially warm welcome to our 5 year olds beginning school for the very first time, and to their teacher Miss Emma Gill who is the teacher of our New Entrant class in A3. Beginning a new school year is always exciting for both children and teachers!

### Class Programmes

#### **Keeping Ourselves Safe**

Eastern Hutt School are starting off Term 2 with the Keeping Ourselves Safe (KOS) programme which is run by the New Zealand Police. It consists of a comprehensive range of child protection resources to help students learn and apply a range of safety skills that they can use when interacting with others. There will be activities that will need to be talked about at home, so look out for these in your child's school bag. There is a parent information afternoon on today, **Monday 30 April at 2pm** in the **staffroom**. We encourage you to come along to meet Constable Blue who will guide you through what your child will be learning about in the KOS programme and answer any questions.

#### **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.*

This Term the Junior Team Inquiry is all about the concept 'Power'

The understandings we will focus on are -

- Knowing that we have the ability to influence.
- Understanding that the use of power can have positive and/or negative consequences & can be natural or manufactured.
- Discovering how power can provide opportunities for change.

Within this Inquiry there will be chances for students to learn about Power in a range of contexts. One of these contexts that the junior school will all explore is looking at powerful people/superheroes in our community.

#### **Physical Education**

Our physical education focus this term is Gymnastics. Classes will get two sessions a week in the school hall. Teachers will let you know what days your child's class will go. P.M.P will continue to run on Tuesdays and Thursdays for those New Entrant and Year 1-2 children involved. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately in comfortable clothing for movement and exercise.

## **School Values**

In Term 2 we are continuing to focus on the EHS value of **Respect - We are aware and we care**. Please support your children in understanding and applying this value throughout the term.

## **General Information**

### **Class Times**

Just a reminder that classes commence at 8.55am. Classrooms are open from 8:30am. There is a morning tea break at 10.35 until 10.55am. Lunchtime is 12.30pm until 1.30pm. The school day ends at 3pm.

It is important that children arrive at school with plenty of time to put reading folders away, to hang bags up and bring water bottles and book bags into the classroom so they are ready to start the day when the bell goes. It is also good to allow some time for children to interact and socialise with their peers before the school day begins. This helps children to feel comfortable and confident.

### **Clothing**

Please ensure all children's clothing, lunch boxes, drink bottles, etc. is named so children can take responsibility for their belongings. Children also need a change of clothes in their bags for accidents that may occur, or if they get wet or muddy playing during break times. As children have regular fitness and P.E. lessons, suitable footwear for these activities is much appreciated.

### **Homework**

This varies from class to class and differs for Year 2, Year 1 and New Entrant children. Classroom teachers will keep you informed about their expectations. Generally, children take home their book bags with reading material regularly, along with poetry, alphabet, spelling and maths activities/basic facts relevant to the age of the child. It would be appreciated if reading books could be returned daily, as they are often required for use within the class programme and in other classes across the junior school.

Please take extra care of our reading and library books that are sent home, as they are an expensive and a highly valued resource in our school.

### **Assembly**

Junior assembly is held every second Monday afternoon beginning at 2.15pm.

You are very welcome to join us. The first assembly of the term will be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May (our second week back).

### **Parent Help**

A special thank you to all those parents who have assisted in the junior book room. This is a wonderful help, and is greatly appreciated by all the teachers.

If other parents would like to help in the book room putting reading books away, please talk to your child's classroom teacher and they will show you what to do.

## **Environment**

Teachers encourage children to take care of their environment. To promote this message we ask children to have reusable containers or bags for sandwiches, fruit etc. We discourage children from bringing plastic food wrap into the school and we appreciate the support you give to this initiative. We also like children to have water to drink in their drink bottles. Water fountains are available in the playgrounds to refill bottles.

Please check school wide newsletters regularly (either on the school website or paper copy) for upcoming dates and events that are happening at the school.

As a Junior Team we carefully plan teaching and learning programmes for all our children. Teachers endeavour to cater for the learning needs and social and emotional development of your child. At times you may have concerns or questions. Please see your child's teacher or myself if you have any queries, as we are committed to a strong home-school partnership for all our families.

## **Dates for your Diary**

Monday 30 April	Keeping Ourselves Safe Meeting 2pm in Staffroom
Friday 4 May	Powhiri to welcome new families to EHS
Friday 18 May	Pink Shirt Day Anti Bullying Campaign
21 - 25 May	Constable Blue Visits to Junior Classes for Keeping Ourselves Safe
Friday 1 June	Teacher Only Day
Monday 4 June	Queens Birthday
Friday 15 June	Matariki
Thursday 21 June	EHS Cultural Show
Thursday 28 June	Mana: Spirit of Polynesia Performance
Friday 6 July	End of Term Two

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 at school! We look forward to a fabulous term together!

Kind regards,

**Junior Teaching Team**