

AKONUI NEWSLETTER TERM ONE 2012

To the Parents/Caregivers of the children in Akonui.

Welcome to the Akonui syndicate for 2012. We hope you have enjoyed a fantastic and relaxing summer holiday. We look forward to getting to know the students in our classes and working with them in class, syndicate and school learning programmes. We warmly welcome new (and old) students to school and trust they will make friends and settle quickly into their new classes.

This year the Akonui syndicate will consist of four classes; Mrs Swann in Room 13, Mr Oades in Room 15, and Mrs Edgoose in Room 16 with Year 5 and 6 class groupings, and Mrs Butler in Room 14 with a Year 4 and 5 class grouping. Please note that the Year 4 students in Room 14 will be part of the Akonui syndicate but will not be participating in some activities and programmes that are specific to the Year 5 and 6 students such as the Waterwise sailing sessions.

Term one promises to be interesting and exciting. We are very fortunate to be able to continue with the specialist arts sessions. Waterwise and swimming programmes are planned and we will be continuing with the development of sports abilities and knowledge through specialist sessions run by North Harbour as well as regular physical fitness activities and physical education lessons.

Our integrated studies will be based around the theme 'Participating and Contributing'. This concept will be explored in a range of authentic contexts with a focus on students becoming involved and engaged learners, able to take responsibility for setting their own learning goals and being able to discuss their next learning steps.

In maths the students will continue developing their numeracy knowledge and skills and in strand maths they will explore aspects of measurement and geometry.

Reading and writing skills will be developed in formal instructional sessions and also as part of the integrated studies.

There will be opportunities for students to join a variety of lunchtime and extra curricula activities like sports teams, music groups, and the gardening group. Students need to be proactive and ready to make the most of the opportunities available.

To help your child settle quickly into class routines could you please ensure they arrive at school after 8.30 am, but before the 8.55 am morning bell. Students who are late will be marked absent on the roll and will need to inform the office on their arrival. School starts at 8.55 am. The school day finishes at 2.55pm. As the school hall is still under construction, we ask students and parents to follow the arrows and walk around the back of the school buildings when entering and leaving the school grounds.

The school has a compulsory sun hat policy and all students are required to wear an appropriate sun hat when participating in outdoor activities in terms one and four. Students who forget their sun hats will need to stay in the shade areas and may miss joining in activities. We also encourage students to wear sun block as well as sun hats.

Students should be wearing our school uniform with pride. It is important that the correct uniform is worn however we do understand that there may be times when it is necessary for non-regulation items to worn. An explanatory note would be appreciated.

Parent help is always welcome and there are many tasks that you can do to assist, for example – supervising with trips outside the classroom, coaching or helping with sports teams etc. Please contact your child's home group teacher if you wish to help. Also we do appreciate assistance with school-wide programmes such as Bookworm.

Students will receive regular homework. Homework may consist of reading, spelling, maths and integrated topic work. Homework will begin in week 3 and will be available on the class website. Students will be able to access the homework through their web page and will also be able to complete the homework online. We will make provision for those students who are unable to access the internet and individual class teachers will explain to their students the expectations and routines.

As everyone is wearing our school uniform please do label all items of clothing. Please also name all your child's items, especially pencils, ruler, coloured pencils, rubber etc. Teachers expect students to look after their possessions and to take responsibility for putting things in the right places. Students should not bring money to school unless it is requested by the teacher/school. Any money sent to school needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name, room number and the purpose, in an envelope and needs to be given to the appropriate teacher as soon as possible after arrival at school.

We currently have a number of students at school who have severe allergic reactions to peanuts so we do ask that products containing peanuts do not come to school.

Please feel welcome to pop into the classroom before and after school to view your child's work. There may be times when you wish to discuss your child with us. If we are not immediately available, we will arrange a convenient time to talk. It is very important to have good communication between home and school and we hope you would contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

Our e-mail addresses are –

Mrs Butler – Syndicate Leader - julieb@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Mr Oades – dano@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Mrs Swann – liannes@longbayprimary.ac.nz

Mrs Edgoose – dianee@longbayprimary.ac.nz

We would like to compile a current list of contact details so we ask you to complete the form below and return it to your child's class teacher.

School newsletters are sent home every Friday with your child and they are also available through the school website. We do ask that you read them as they contain important information.

There will be a number of notices coming home in the next few weeks with information about trips, sporting events, Waterwise and swimming programmes and the Life Education caravan visit. Please check with your child to ensure you have the information and that permission slips and money comes back to school in the required time.

Forthcoming Events

Life Education Caravan visits. Parent information session on Tuesday 14th February. (\$5 cost per student)

School Council elections will be held in the next few weeks.

Waterwise/swimming programmes begin on Thursday 16th February. Please refer to separate letter for dates and costs.

'Give It A Go' on Friday 17th February from 3.15pm. A chance for your child to explore different sports.

'Get Ready, Set, Go' opportunity for Year 6 students and some lucky Year 5s. A very special invitation for a limited number of students to participate in an athletic event on Thursday 23rd February. (No cost)

Akonui trip to the zoo on Friday 24th February as part of our science topic – Animal Adaptations. (\$15 per student)

Goal Setting Conferences– Wednesday 29th February. An opportunity for parents to meet with the teacher to discuss their child's learning and progress and to establish learning goals.

School Swimming Sports on Friday 23rd March at the Northern Arena swimming centre.

We look forward to an enjoyable and productive year.

**Kind regards,
Akonui Teachers.**

Student Name: _____ Room: _____

Parent(s) / Caregiver(s) Name(s): _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Home Address: _____