

## Akoranga Newsletter Term One 2012

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We would like to extend a warm welcome to returning families and to parents and students who are new to Long Bay Primary School. We hope that you have had a relaxing and happy summer holiday and look forward to working alongside you and your children during the 2012 school year.

This year the Akoranga syndicate consists of four classes. Mrs Tracey Hardey will be teaching in room 6, Miss Briar Parker will be teaching in room 7, Mrs Stephanie Masefield and Mrs Ann Grayson will be teaching in room 8 and Mrs Nicola Couch will be teaching in room 9. Miss Victoria Koopen will be releasing Mrs Couch on Wednesdays.

The school concept for the first two terms is '**Participating and Contributing**'. The Akoranga context for learning will be 'Taonga' – things we treasure. This term Akoranga students will focus on developing knowledge and understandings about food and nutrition (health), the influence of people on places and places on people – marine reserves (social sciences) and ecology - marine reserves (science).

Term one literacy programmes will focus on developing skills within the context of a variety of genres through reading, writing, oral language, viewing and presenting tasks.

Classes are timetabled to visit the library once per week. Books must be taken home in a book-bag and either returned or renewed the following week please. The computer programme used for the issuing of books will not allow students to continue to take out books should there be any outstanding items.

Mathematics programmes will be based around statistics (collecting and plotting data), number knowledge, measurement (length and area) and addition and subtraction. Algebra plays an integral part in all aspects of mathematics.

Teachers are currently confirming literacy and numeracy levels. Needs based groups will be introduced by week four.

From weeks three to eight inclusive, the physical education programme centres on water safety. Students will take part in a swimming programme at the Hilton Brown centre. A notice advising of group allocation and specific details will be sent home shortly. Students will also take part in six lessons of Kiwi-kick (soccer) and several physical activity sessions per week.

Students will participate in the specialist arts programme throughout the year on a roster system. Classes have been timetabled to take part in one arts discipline per term for one block every Tuesday or Wednesday. The following teachers are responsible for running these programmes: Mrs Swann: Visual Art in room 10, Mrs Couch: Music in room 11, Mrs Grayson: Dance in either room 12 or the hall, Mrs Douglas: Drama in room 12.

Members of quality learning communities draw strength from their ability to collaborate and support each other in a variety of contexts while developing and extending skills and key competencies. There will be opportunities for students to participate in and contribute to a range of extra curricula activities throughout the year such as sports teams, the choir, instrumental groups, dance groups and the gardening group and we encourage them to become involved in the wider school community.

Homework provides a valuable independent learning opportunity for students. The aim is for students to practise and consolidate skills utilised in the classroom programme with an emphasis on literacy, numeracy and thinking. The format of our homework aims to ensure that the individual needs of each student in the team are met effectively. Tasks have therefore been designed to cater for a range of ability levels. A high standard is encouraged in this aspect of independent learning and we thank you for the support you give to your child in this area.

Please expect homework from the beginning of week three. Homework requirements will be pasted into homework books. Basic fact practise sheets can either be completed online or printed from the syndicate website. Spelling words (Essential Lists and Commonly Mis-spelt Words) are also available online. Spelling is a written skill and must therefore be practised in written form. Spelling and basic fact consolidation is ongoing and testing will take place on the Friday of each week. Students will be expected to read on a daily basis. Integrated studies requirements may vary from class to class.

The value of the homework and the learning for the student comes from when he/she is actually engaged in the task. Immediate feedback and support from parents is important here, hence we ask that where appropriate (e.g. spelling, basic facts, handwriting, written work) you check the homework with your child. Teachers will monitor and acknowledge rather than correct the homework.

We appreciate that there will be times when your child is unable to complete the homework due to other commitments. Please remember that the children work hard at school and therefore need time to relax at home too.

As the weather can be very hot at the moment it is vital that the students wear sun-block and bring their named sunhats and water bottles every day.

School begins at 8.55am. Classrooms will be open to students **from 8.30am** each morning giving them plenty of time to organise themselves for the day. Students should not be in classrooms prior to 8.30am.

A reminder that students **are not** permitted to bring toys, mobile phones or electronic equipment to school please.

We maintain a commitment to reducing the amount of rubbish generated in the school environment on a daily basis and request that students continue to take home any food wrappings or leftovers.

Long Bay students are known for wearing their school uniform with pride. It is important that they continue to wear the correct items of clothing please, including appropriate footwear and head bands etc. Jewellery and additional accessories are not part of the uniform. We understand that there may be occasions when it is necessary for students to wear a non-regulation item. An explanatory note would be appreciated at these times please. To help us to reduce the amount of lost property we ask that clothing be named and encourage students to put anything they take off during the day into their school bag.

We currently have enrolled at our school a number of students who have **severe** allergies to peanuts, we therefore request that products containing peanuts **do not** come to school.

Please refer to school newsletters for details regarding whole school events such as assemblies. These are sent home with the children on Fridays.

Thank you for the generous offers to assist with various aspects of classroom programmes. Your support is very much appreciated. Teachers will be in touch as required.

It is important to keep the home/school partnership alive for the benefit of your child and their learning. We would like to compile current lists of class contact details and therefore request that the attached slip be completed and sent back to your child's teacher no later than Friday 10th February. Should you have any queries or concerns throughout the year, please contact the class teacher in the first instance. Our email addresses are listed below.

Term one events to look forward to are:

- School Council elections.
- Visits to the Life Education Caravan: weeks 3-4. Parent session Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February. (\$5 cost per student).
- Swimming lessons at Hilton Brown Swim School: Fridays from weeks 3-9 (refer to separate letter re dates and requirements).
- School swimming sports at the Northern Arena: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March: details to be confirmed.
- North Harbour 'Give It A Go' evening to be held at school: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 3.15pm – 6.30pm
- Parent/Teacher conferences: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March week five.

Kind regards

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) / Caregiver(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_