

Te Motu Term 2 Update 2021

From the Syndicate

Welcome to Term Two. It is going to be a hard act to follow after our awesome Term One and our fantastic Camps in the glorious South Island, but we do have plenty of cool and exciting things for students to get their teeth stuck into this term.

A reminder that Chromebooks are used as a tool in the classroom. It is very important that your child comes to school prepared with a fully charged device. Students are constantly reminded about our Digital Trust Policy and our Linewize Tool helps us to keep track of how students are using their devices. Any students who are found using their devices inappropriately will lose the privilege of using their device and parents will be informed.

Spotlight tool is used by our staff and students for reporting and recording the progress to students and caregivers. This can be accessed by you via a computer and a mobile app. Students are able to demonstrate their learning throughout the year rather than parents seeing a six monthly report. You will be able to log on and check your child's progress at any time. Students in Year 7 & 8 have been using this platform for a couple of years now and so are becoming more confident using it, although, there is still a lot for us to learn about using this tool to maximise its abilities. We are very enthusiastic about this current form of assessment and know it will be worthwhile. We encourage parents to make full use of it to keep track of how your child is progressing..

Please contact Vicki Wilson if you need help logging on. vwilson@pbs.school.nz

Dates for your Diary

Week 4

Fri 28 May - Teacher Only day

Week 5

Tues 1 June - Te Motu X Country Mazengarb Park 9-10.50am (PPD Wed 2nd June)

Week 6

Mon 7th June Queen's B'day

Wed 9th June Inter School X-Country (PPD Thurs 10 June).

No Technology for Te Motu this week

Week 7

Tuesday 15th June - Marcell Bernard 9.30am - Motivational Public Speaker

Wed 16 June - Kapiti College Open Day for Year 8s attending K C

Week 8

Fri 25 June - Te Motu attending Technology instead of Thursday

Week 9

Tues 29 June - Year 8s at Paraparaumu College Open Day

Week 10

Regional Cross Country 6 July (PPD 8 July).

Literacy Programme

All classes will run daily reading, spelling, grammar, creative and expressive writing, and oral language programmes, continuing to develop skills learnt in previous years but with the focus on developing student's independence in literacy. Students in Year 7 and 8 are no longer learning to read and write, they are reading and writing to learn. By developing independent study skills we are setting a strong foundation for all students to be confident lifelong learners.

All class' Literacy programmes will be supported with the help of Education Perfect, an online educational programme.

Maths

Through mathematical inquiry, students develop the ability to think creatively, critically, strategically and logically. They learn to structure and to organise, to carry out procedures flexibly and accurately, to process and communicate information, and to enjoy the intellectual challenge.

In Te Motu Syndicate, maths is taught in home rooms by the classroom teacher although, as our staff become more au fait with Spotlight, we will be offering a variety of workshops for students across the syndicate to opt into.

This term we will cover -

Number Knowledge and Strategies: Using a range of strategies when operating on whole numbers. Understanding addition and subtraction of fractions, decimals and integers.

Measurement: Converting between metric units, using whole numbers and commonly used decimals. Interpret and use scales, timetables and charts.

Inquiry - Term 2's school wide focus is Matariki

In Te Motu, we will be looking at how and why many things are celebrated/commemorated around the world, and now because New Zealand is making Matariki a day of significance, how we should celebrate Matariki as a country, what traditions and celebrations we should put in place.

Physical Education

Fitness programmes developed in Term 1 will continue throughout this term encouraging students to strive towards their own goals and targets and make adjustments to these targets and activities to ensure students are continuously improving their fitness. Training for our Cross Country will be a focus for the first half of the term.

This term we will be using typical winter sports such as hockey, netball, soccer and touch rugby etc to not only develop kicking, throwing, striking, defending and attacking skills, but also building team work, sportsmanship and inclusiveness.

The Arts and Languages

Te Reo - Turangawaewae Projects and the online Toku Reo and Education Perfect programmes will continue throughout the year with a big focus on using everyday phrases and instructions as much as possible.

Visual Art , Dance and Music - Will all be linked into our Inquiry.

Homework

The main component of homework in te Motu will be unfinished classwork. Work loads will vary at different times of the year eg practising speeches. We encourage independent, responsible learning from all students. Daily reading is encouraged and most students will have weekly spelling words to learn. Students may have some extra activities this term through their SWAT teacher.

SWAT - Study With Another Teacher

Classics with Mr Siversen. This is a course designed to give students a taste of what Classics is all about. We will look at ancient Greek literature, namely Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, the heroes, gods and mythological creatures involved in these epic poems, and how Classics echoes down through the ages into our modern daily lives.

Drama with Mrs Spencer. This will be an introduction to the concepts of drama and performance, and working as an ensemble. We will focus on movement and space, and we will incorporate some yoga stretches and mindfulness activities into our practice.

Edison Robots with Mrs Snowsill. We are learning to use a block coding programme to code the Edison Robots to do different activities.

Spanish with Mrs Franks : We will be learning some basic Spanish words, greetings, numbers, colours etc through games and activities. This will hopefully give students a taste of what it is like to learn another language and encourage them to consider learning a language at college. Students are encouraged to continue their learning of Spanish using Education Perfect at home.

Financial Literacy with Mrs Graham: During these sessions students will be learning that financial literacy is an essential life skill. They will develop positive attitudes and behavior towards money at the outset of their financial journey, reducing the need to remedy poor decision making later on. There will be some fun homework activities that the whole family can get involved in, too!

New Zealand Sign Language with Mrs McKenna: Students will express the cultural norms of the Deaf community while developing some basic NZSL skills. We will cover the alphabet, numbers, greetings and phrases which include friends and family. We will also learn to sign the New Zealand National Anthem.

Cross Country

Te Motu's Cross Country will be held at Mazengarb Park on Tuesday the 1st of June. We will leave school just after 9am and aim to start the first of the competitive Races at 9.30am. We will gather at the top car park area. Races will start by the pavilion and finish on the other side of the carpark. You are more than welcome to come down and cheer your favourite runners on. You should get a fairly good view of most of the track from the area where we will have our spectators. (at the other side of the Carpark.)

The races will be run in the following order – Year 7 girls, Year 7 boys, Year 8 girls, Year 8 boys. We will then have a Cross Country Relay Race for all other students. Every student will be put in a team and will complete a section of a lap of the field for their team. The purpose is to encourage participation and team spirit for all students. It will be the competitive runners' turn to cheer on their classmates.

Participation

There are plenty of opportunities for your child to get involved in things happening around the school this term. Please encourage them to get involved in and give things a go. We have Librarians, Peace Patrollers, Sports Ambassadors, Wearable Arts, Choir, Kapa Haka, Sports teams and Lunchtime sports, Yarn bombing and Enviro Group to name a few.
Let's get active! Let's get involved!

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any queries about your child or things that are happening around the school.

Nga mihi

Cath, Colin, Alice, Larisa, Caty and Gill.