

Te Motu Term 1 Update 2022

From the Syndicate

Welcome to all our new and returning students and families. We hope you have enjoyed your summer holidays and are ready for all the exciting things we have planned this year. Syndicate room and teacher details are as follows:

Room 7: Caty Spencer - cspencer@pbs.school.nz

Room 8: Larisa Mckenna - lmckenna@pbs.school.nz

Room 13: Alice Graham - agraham@pbs.school.nz

Room 14: Cath Franks - Syndicate Team Leader
-cfranks@pbs.school.nz

Room 15: Colin Siverson - csiverson@pbs.school.nz

Room 16: Teresa Robertson - trobertson@pbs.school.nz

During the first few weeks we will be establishing class routines and work habits. Each class will decide on class rules and these will be displayed in each classroom. The information for the units being taught for Term 1 can be found further on in this update. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher.

A reminder that the school has a policy that children need brimmed hats when outside in terms 1 and 4. Caps and stingy brimmed trilbies do not provide enough shade, and so will not be acceptable. There is a small amount of sunblock available but we recommend that you provide your child with some to use at school. Your help with this is appreciated.

A reminder of our cell phone policy - Phones and electronic devices (other than Chromebooks) will be held by the teacher during the day and returned to students at 3pm. If you need to contact your child during the day, or vice versa, this can be done through the school office. 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.

Year 4-8 will be using the Spotlight tool for reporting 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. PBS students from Year 4 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. If you need help with this please contact your child's teacher for help.

Please contact Venessa Brewer if you need help logging on. vbrewer@pbs.school.nz

It has been a really tricky start to the term in Red Level and having to wear masks indoors. The students have been very diligent though and are all wearing their masks and sanitising their hands regularly. Thanks goodness for our air conditioning units and let's hope this does not go on for too long. Please remember that students need to take their masks home to clean regularly and/or be provided with fresh new disposable

masks. It is advisable that they have 2 masks at school.

Dates for your Diary

Immunisation Chats from the Health Nurses were going to take place in Week 3 however, due to Level Red we can no longer run these. Instead, we will be showing students Ministry of Health videos that explain the process of immunisation as well as answering any common questions. Students will receive all the information they need and bring this home to you to fill in indicating whether you want your child immunised or not. This is for MMR and Tetanus for Year 7s and Gardasil for Year 8s.

Meet the Teacher - Once again, we are restricted by Level Red. You will receive an email from your child's teacher asking for any information that may help them understand your child's needs and learning. If more contact is needed, your child's teachers will follow this up with you personally.

Tues & Wed March 30 & 31 - School Photos Years 3-8 & current touch teams

Monday 14th March - Kapiti Island Trip

Tuesday 15th March - Kapiti Island Trip

Wednesday 16th March - Kapiti Island Trip

Two classes will go on each day. More information will be sent out in the next week or two.

Whole School Assembly and Tu meke Time - On one of the days of the last week of term if we are not in Red Level

Tuesday 12th April - Year 8 first Gardasil Immunisation

Last day of Term: Thursday 14th April followed by Good Friday EASTER - Fri 15 April

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 which is a NZ based online educational provider that Te Motu syndicate use throughout our 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 and we are no longer in Red Level, 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: Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, exponents and order of operations.

We will also have an ongoing focus on problem solving and numeracy skills.

Measurement: Converting metric measurement units, and using scales timetables and charts.

Physical Education

Team work, sportsmanship and fair play will all be the focus of our PE programmes. We will be using the classic summer sports to practice these while developing our throwing, catching and striking skills.

Fitness programmes will be developed and will continue throughout the year encouraging students to set their own goals and targets.

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 greetings and instructions as much as possible.

Visual Art - Our major Art focus this term will be inspired by our trips to Kapiti, using the flora and fauna and the impressive landscapes as our inspiration.

Dance and Music - This will be covered through students' involvement in our Music Challenge and our SWAT programme.

Growth Mindset

We will be focussing on ourselves as learners and looking at how we learn and think, and how to be an active learner.

Homework

The main component of homework in Te Motu will be unfinished classwork. Work loads will vary at different times of the year eg practicing speeches. We encourage independent, responsible learning from all students. Daily reading is encouraged and most students will have weekly spelling words to learn.

Inquiry

This term's school wide focus is about Social Responsibility. Students will look at how societies function independently and together, and develop an awareness of cultural identities, values and perspectives of others. Students will develop understandings, skills and attitudes to achieve positive interactions and relationships with others.

A very important part of understanding belonging to a community is knowing all about it, including how it started. So a big part of our syndicate's Inquiry will be looking at local history and environments. Students will be introduced to many local areas of historical significance and will make independent inquiries about areas of special interest to them. So that the students get to see as much of the picture as they can, we will be taking them on a day excursion out to Kapiti Island and next term we will go on a "Tiki Tour " around many of the local heritage sites . We will be needing a lot of parent help to make both of these adventures possible. Notices will come home in a week or so explaining how these trips will work and asking for help. We hope that you will be able to come and join us and join in on our learning journeys.



SWAT TIME

In Te Motu we will be running SWAT Time from week 5 of this term. This is where students will Study With Another Teacher! We operate on the college model, with classes moving from teacher to teacher to be introduced to and taught different subjects. This is an important introduction to what students will meet in college, and also allows the teachers in the syndicate to utilise their own individual strengths, resulting in intensive but very rewarding programmes. This term SWAT Time will involve PE - with the focus on throwing and catching skills, Financial Literacy, First Aid, Digital Citizenship, Drama, and Spanish.

Annual Te Motu Music Challenge!

Each year the classes are given a theme to choose a song from which they then have to work together to create their own "show" to perform to the other classes in the syndicate. The only rule being that everyone must be involved in some way. This year each class has to select a song from a named genre of music. You are more than welcome to come along and be wildly entertained! Performances will be held in the last weeks of term 1. We will inform you of the date and time of the performances as soon as this has been confirmed.

A Personal Message from Mrs Franks

For those of you who have not yet met me, my name is Cath Franks. I have lived on the Kapiti Coast for 30 or so years. I am happily married to Jeff and we have 4 "children" aged 20 –28 years old. I started teaching in 1986 (the class nearly fell off their seats when I told them that!) With the exception of time I took off when having a family I have been teaching ever since, predominantly in the Year 7/8 Level.

By now your child would have settled into the "back to school" routine and is hopefully feeling cool about coming to school. We have had a fantastic start to the year and I am confident that it is going to be a good one. However, if at any stage I feel that your child's behaviour or attitude does not meet my expectations and they are not responding to consequences, I will not hesitate to contact you. Likewise, if you feel that there is something that I should be aware of please do not hesitate to contact me.

I believe that Years 7/8 are the best years of primary school. It is when a child begins to mature and develop the personalities that they will have as adults. Our class motto is "Life is all about Choices ". If your child can take that on board and make the right choices s/he is well on the way to having a fantastic and successful year.

The Technology programme at the Raumati Technology Centre has begun. Our time is **Thursday 9am**. Students will need to be at school by 8.30 am every Thursday. Covered footwear and long hair tied back is essential. Our **Library** time is on **Tuesday**.

We are all looking forward to an exciting year with your tamariki which will hopefully return to some form of normality sooner rather than later.

Nga mihi

From the Te Motu Team - Cath, Colin, Teresa, Alice, Caty and Larisa.