

Te Motu Term 2 Update 2022

From the Syndicate

What a crazy start to the year with Covid once again causing disruption. Although we are not becoming complacent, things seem to have settled to a little bit more normality with the country being at Orange restrictions. Mask wearing at school is currently optional, with most students choosing not to wear masks. We are encouraging hand sanitising, super diligent hygiene practices from all students, and staying at home if you are unwell. Lets hope we are seeing the back of this pandemic and life can get back to normal.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 13th May - Music Challenge in the hall at 9.15am

Thursday 19th May - Camp 2023 Parents Meeting to establish Fundraising Committee

Friday 20th May - Pink Shirt Day

Tuesday 24 May - Student Council at National Young Leaders Seminar

Wednesday 24th May - Te Motu's Tiki Tour (pp Friday 27th May)

Tuesday 31st May - Te Motu's Cross Country at Mazengarb Park at 9.20am (pp Friday 3rd June)

Monday 6th June - Queen's Birthday

Tuesday 7th June - Teacher Only Day - School closed

Wednesday 8 June - Interschool Cross Country (pp Thursday 9th June)

Wednesday 22nd June - Matariki Celebration Day

Friday 24th June - Matariki Holiday

Tuesday 28th June - Paraparaumu College Orientation Day 9-12pm for Year 8s

Friday 8th July - End of Term 2

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. All class Literacy programmes will be supported by Education Perfect which is a NZ based online educational provider that Te Motu syndicate use throughout our programme.

Hopefully we will get to hear some of the local legends and have the opportunity to retell them in our own way. This will lead us into public speaking and speeches.

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.

This term we will cover -

Number Knowledge and Strategies: Find fractions, decimals, & percentages of amounts expressed as whole numbers, simple fractions, & decimals. Apply simple linear proportions, including ordering fractions. Know the equivalent decimal & percentage forms for everyday fractions.

Perimeter, Area and Volume: Use appropriate scales, devices & metric units for length, area, & volume. Use side or edge lengths to find the perimeters & areas of rectangles, parallelograms & triangles & the volumes of cuboids.

Problem Solving and Logic: Otago Problem Solving Challenges and other rich learning tasks

Physical Education

Our main focus this term is endurance with our eyes on Cross Country training. Students are encouraged to set their own goals and targets for this, aiming to achieve their personal best.

The actual syndicate cross country day will involve a competitive race for those who want to give themselves a challenge (This will also decide the students who will go through to represent the school at Interschool Cross Country.) The students who do not wish to compete, will participate in a "Cross Country Relay" course which should be a bit of fun.

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. Local place names, meanings and pronunciation will tie in nicely with our Social Responsibility focus.

Visual Art - Our major Art focus this term will be inspired by Matariki

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

Growth Mindset

This year we are encouraging our students to focus on how they are learning and to recognise when they are working in their comfort zone rather than pushing themselves into their performance zone by raising the bar of achievement. By doing this, they are being active learners.

Inquiry

This term's school wide focus continues to be Social Responsibility. In Te Motu we 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. Our day excursions out to Kapiti Island was a perfect way to start this and this 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 this adventure possible. 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 topics will be predominantly focused around ideas and findings from our Tiki Tour.

Annual Te Motu Music Challenge!

Hopefully you have been told about this! We have all been working very hard on our class renditions of our chosen song. This event was supposed to take place at the end of last term but due to disruptions throughout the term, we have carried it through to this term. This will now take place on Friday 13th. It will be in the school hall and will hopefully kick off around 9,15am. Come along if you want to be entertained. Please remember to wear a mask and sign in at the office.

Nga mihi

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