

Te Motu Term 1 Update 2023

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 Siversen - csiversen@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. Chromebooks are not to be used as a means of communication between you and your child. 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 few 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 Vicki Wilson if you need help logging on. vwilson@pbs.school.nz

Students who wish to, are welcome to wear masks and sanitising their hands regularly is encouraged

throughout the day. They do not have to wear masks on the bus to or at Technology, this is optional.

Dates for your Diary

Please note that I will be making myself available for 10 minute meetings with any of you who can make it and wish to have a chat about your child in the next week or so. I will send an email with booking times asap.

Friday 3rd March - Teacher Only Day - School closed for instruction

Sunday 12th - Thursday 16th March - Camp 1 to Bridge Valley, Nelson involving Rooms 7,8 and 15. The students and staff from this Camp do not have to attend school on Friday 17th March.

Sunday 19th - Thursday 23rd March - Camp 2 to Bridge Valley, Nelson involving Rooms 13, 14 and 16. The students and staff from this Camp do not have to attend school on Friday 24th March.

Thursday 23rd March - Interschool Swimming Festival.- students on camp will not be able to attend this.

Friday 31st March - School Fun Run organised by the PTA.

Wednesday 5th April - Te Motu's annual Music Challenge.

Last day of Term: Thursday 6th April followed by Good Friday EASTER - Fri 7th 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. Most 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 by 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, we will be offering a variety of workshops for students across the syndicate to opt into throughout the year.

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. Moving March will be in full flight throughout March, with many activities to get our kids moving. We also have some Cricket Instructors from Wgtn Cricket coming in to work with all classes during weeks 3,4 and 5. This will be followed closely with Tennis lessons provided by our local Tennis Club.

Fitness programmes will be developed and will continue throughout the year encouraging students to set their own goals and targets. This will tie in very well with our schoolwide Inquiry - Health and Wellbeing

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. Many traditional Māori games will be taught throughout the year encouraging team work, mental and physical challenges. This term we will be lucky to have some traditional Māori games taught by manuhiri to our school.

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

Dance and Music - In term 1, Te Motu holds our annual 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. You will be more than welcome to come along and be wildly entertained by our performances which will be held on Wednesday 5th April. We will inform you of the time of the performances as soon as this has been confirmed.

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. Te Motu students will be taught about different zones of learning and how they can become active and engaged learners working well above their comfort zone. Students will be encouraged to keep raising the bar.

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 Health and Wellbeing - Hauora, with the big question being - "How do I look after myself?" Our Camps will tie in very nicely with this inquiry.

Camps at Bridge Valley Adventure Centre - Nelson

We are all looking forward to our camps at Bridge Valley Adventure Centre in Nelson. Our main focus in classes through this term will be doing a lot of the work to ensure that we are well prepared and ready for action. Details about each camp will be sent home any day along with Gear Lists and Medical/Permission forms. Can you please fill these in and return them to school asap as we need this information for activity grouping and cabin groups.

Camps are an amazing experience and team building opportunity which we are fortunate to be doing at the beginning of the school year so we will be able to establish relationships that we can build on throughout the year.

Prior to camp we will be doing a variety of activities including water safety, sun smart awareness, some geography and history of the Nelson and Abel Tasman National Park areas, team building and problem solving activities and art and drama activities to name a few. At camp, we have 2 days which are spent in Camp doing things like rockwall climbing, abseiling, Luge rides, Laser Tag, Aqua Park games, Water slide and drift bikes. We spend one day at Kaiteriteri, the gateway to Abel Tasman National Park, where we experience SUP Boarding and sea kayaking, and catch a water taxi out to Split Apple Rock and the idyllic Anchorage. These are only a few of the experiences we will have. We will send home a Camp Programme as soon as it is finalised so you will be able to follow what we are doing each day. This will also include a final update of times and details you will need to know.

Just as a reminder, the camp dates are as follows :

Camp One: Sunday 12th – Thursday 16th March 2023 - Rms 7, 8 and 15 with Caty Spencer, Larisa Mckenna and Colin Siverson.

Camp Two: Sunday 19th – Thursday 23rd March 2023 - Rms 13, 14 and 16 with Alice Graham, Cath Franks and Teresa Robertson.

A Personal Message from Mrs Franks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your lovely supportive messages you sent after the passing of my dear mum. It has not been the start that I would have wished for the year but the students were well looked after by Gill Snowsill and have since settled back with me as though I have been here all along. For those of you who have not yet met me, my name is Cath Franks. I have lived on the Kapiti Coast for 35 or so years. I am happily married to Jeff and we have 4 "children" aged 21 –29 years old. It's an exciting year for us as our eldest is getting married in March (thankfully, not around our Camp time!) 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.

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.

We have had a fantastic year planned ahead 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. Open communication between school and home is essential for every child's success.

The Technology programme is held weekly at the Raumati Technology Centre. Please note that Room 14 students need to be at school by 8.30am on a Thursdays morning. The roll will be taken at 8.40am. If your child is late, they will spend the morning in a different class unless you are able to drop them at the Tech Centre in Raumati. Covered footwear and long hair tied back is essential for safety at technology.

Our **Library** time is on Wednesday.

We are all looking forward to an exciting year with your tamariki.

Ngā mihi

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