

SENIOR TEAM TALK

Term 1 2018

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Welcome to everyone involved with the 2018 Senior Team of R.2,3,4, 16 classes for what promises to be another busy, challenging and exciting year.

For the first few weeks we are concentrating on developing self-esteem and inter-personal relationships, as well as establishing class routines. This term, all Senior classes will be introduced to the **Cool Schools** programme, which teaches students to resolve conflict positively. A feature of this on-going programme involves all classes holding weekly class meetings, to provide students with opportunities to share concerns and/or give positive feedback to their peers. Other Yr5/6 students, trained as Peer Mediators, will visit younger classes and teach them how to hold their own, similar, class meetings.

For many years, the Yr 5/6 classes have taken an active role in celebrating Chinese New Year and, along with R.16, will do so again in Week 5, with a day of activities and a shared lunch on Friday 2 March. If any **experts** are known to you, we would welcome a visit to school to demonstrate aspects of Chinese culture to the Senior classes.

Student Council elections, based on the NZ electoral system, will be held in Weeks 3 and 4 with **all Yr 5/6 students** registering to vote, preparing candidate's speeches and promotional posters, and electing their favourites by secret ballot. The Yr 4 students will write and present a speech to their House group in class and will observe the process, but will not be eligible to vote.

Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT); Star and SSpA will take place in Weeks 5 and 6. These tests give an indication of progress made in the previous year and the current level of achievement in Listening, Reading, Spelling and Maths.

This year, Yr 3/4/5/6 students will take part in the PAT Listening Comprehension and Reading Comprehension tests, so it is important that your child attends school every day in those weeks.

Swimming is an important part of the curriculum in T.1 and T.4. All children are expected to participate unless they are **unwell or injured**. If this is the case, a note written by the child's parent or caregiver is required. The timetable for the Senior classes is:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
R.3 9.15	R.2 9.50	R.3 9.15	R.2 9.50	R.3 9.15
	R.4 9.50		R.4 11.55	R.2 9.15
R.16 9.50		R.16 9.50		R.4 9.50
				R.16 9.50

PLEASE NAME ALL CLOTHING ITEMS TO BE REMOVED - including undies!

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We hope to hold our annual Senior Beach Picnic at **Long Bay Beach** at the end of Week 7, as a welcome relief from two weeks of testing! We will be asking for help with transport and supervision on land and in the water.

An **ACTION LEARNING** sheet - with a number of activity choices - as well as Reading, Basic Facts and Mathletics will be issued for the term. The tasks will complement the Inquiry taking place in the classroom. Students are **expected to complete AT LEAST ONE** of the activities and bring it **to school, when completed**, for presentation and marking. As well, title pages and writing a speech for the Student Council election will fill any gaps.

Christian Religious Education will be available to those wishing to participate. A separate letter regarding this will be issued next week.

Yr 5/6 wishing to ride their bike to school will undertake a **Bike Licence** test later in the term. A police officer will check bikes, helmets and riders' road sense. As well, those wishing to **scooter** to school will have a similar check.

Our Library times are:

R.2	Monday	1.30pm - 2.40pm
R.3	Tuesday	9.20am - 10.25am
R.4	Tuesday	11.30am - 12.30pm
R.16	Monday	9.20am - 10.25am

NB: The Library is open on Wednesday afternoons from 3.15pm - 4.00pm.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT SUNHATS MUST BE WORN DURING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT TERM 1.

Senior students are **encouraged, and expected**, to take greater responsibility for themselves and their learning, as well as many other duties within the school. High standards of behaviour and cooperation are expected, so that teaching and learning take place in a positive environment.

They are also permitted to bring fruit, raw veges, nuts, plain popcorn to graze on during the day. This, along with drinking plain water, has been proven to maintain concentration and learning levels. Teachers are happy to discuss parental concerns, but prior commitments may mean an appointment is necessary. Come along to **Meet-the-Teachers** on Tuesday 13 February at 6.00pm and feel free to bring this notice with you to learn more about these and any other issues you may have.

Kind regards

Alison Matkin

Erin Tiplady

Maria Kim

Lillian Beattie

SENIOR CAMP

Every two years, the Yr5/6 students have the opportunity to attend a camp at **MERC, Long Bay**, where they experience many collaborative and confidence-building activities in a live-in situation. This will take place in the week of 3 - 7 December.