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Kia ora e te whānau,

Nau mai haere mai ki te kaupeka 4 - Welcome back to Term 4. It's already been a flying start, with swimming, tennis, and Taku Wairua in the first two weeks, and it will continue to be busy with lots of upcoming events this term.

PROGRAMME INFORMATION

AOTEAROA HISTORIES

As mentioned earlier, we are examining several key points in New Zealand History this term. The focus is on Māori and Pākehā responses to Treaty issues, including land loss and confiscation. This term we examine the Bastion Point occupation of the 1970s. Our 'Read-aloud' book is called Conrad Cooper's Last Stand, and this book touches on the topic in a humorous but sensitive manner. We are combining this with a research project that will help us to understand the issues involved in this occupation more fully. Once this is completed, we will look at the land march, led by Dame Whina Cooper, to present a petition protesting the loss of Māori land. We will undertake Dramatic Inquiry to complete this learning.

LITERACY

This term our writing focus is around developing ourselves as authors. We are aiming to use a range of sentence types in our writing, add details to describe so the reader 'sees' what is happening, and to be able to talk about the specific skills we've used in our writing.

Our reading focus switches from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn.' We are using our skills and strategies in our research around the occupation of Bastion Point. We are also working on developing our focus and stamina when reading independently.

MATHS

We continue to cross-group for maths with each class focussing on learning appropriate to the students in each class. Cross Grouping will cease at the beginning of Week 7 when it will take place in our homeroom classes.

SWIMMING

We swim on Mondays and Thursdays. Swimming is a compulsory part of our curriculum, and as such, it is important that you help your child remember their togs and towel.

The focus is on swim safety. This forms part of our pre-learning for our Education Outside the Classroom where we will visit the Raglan Surf Club. We celebrate the end of our swimming with a day at the University Pools.

EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM (EOTC) - Weeks 7 and 8

We have confirmed several of our activities during EOTC week. We have a marae visit; Beach Education (involving a trip to Raglan to visit the lifeguards and practise our surf safety); a day at Eastlink where we participate in various activities; our Senior Fun Day; and our visit to the University of Waikato pools.

AT THIS STAGE WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH PARENTAL HELP TO GO TO RAGLAN. WE NEED TO HAVE SIX ADULTS TO HELP OTHERWISE WE CAN NOT GO.

More information will follow closer to the time.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

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