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21 October 2019

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau,

Welcome back to the final term of 2019. We have lots happening this term with plenty to get excited about.

Samoan Siapo Designs Office Display: Our children's Samoan Siapo designs have been displayed in the staff room. Room 6 artwork was chosen for this honoured area of the school and the children are very proud of their efforts. You can see a colour photo on class dojo.



Te Reo Maaori and Tikanga: Children will be creating and presenting their pepeha. A pepeha is a way of introducing yourself using maaori tikanga (custom). The pepeha identifies and acknowledges important people and important places like mountains, rivers and birthplace. We will also be looking more closely at powhiri and what it means. A powhiri is a maaori way of welcoming visitors. We will participate in one of the powhiri held within our school grounds.

Backyard Birds: Learning about birds seen in our backyard will have a science and enviro focus. Children will be learning about bird habits, habitats and characteristics. We will be applying this knowledge to building bird houses and feeders. We will also be thinking about what we can do to help these birds not only survive but thrive.

Sunhats: The summer is on its way, Yay! This means that all children will be required to wear their Knighton sunhat this term when outside. Your child's hat was taken home by me at the end of Term 1. I have washed them, renamed them and given them out. Hats can be purchased at our online Kindo Shop www.kindo.co.nz or at the school office for \$5 if needed.

Tanya Batt: On Thursday 7 November a New Zealand storyteller called Tanya Batt will be visiting us. She is a dynamic and entertaining story teller who has worked in the field for over 20 years. We will be identifying the characteristics of a great story teller and applying these skills to developing and telling stories. Children will draw stories from family history, experiences and may devise their own creative stories as well.

Swimming: Swimming season in our slightly heated school swimming pool has officially begun. Our swimming days are Monday and Friday. Please send swimming togs and towel in a bag to school on these days. Please contact me via class dojo or with a note if your child cannot swim for any reason. As we are a country surrounded by water we believe all children should learn how to swim and be confident around water. Swimming is an essential part of our P.E. curriculum.

Thursday 5 December: This is the date for our Middle School athletics morning. Parents are welcome to come along. This will be the culmination of many weeks of hard work learning and improving a variety of athletic skills.

School ends on Wednesday 18 December at 1pm.

I look forward to a fun filled final term where we have an opportunity to celebrate all the wonderful things the children have achieved this year.

Yours truly
Pauline Gardener Ward
Year 3/4 Teacher - Room 6
Knighton Normal School