



# The Learning Link

Our Home-School Newsletter

Term 2 2011

with class learning focus points and ideas to support learning.

Welcome back to school for term 2. Our School Theme for the term is focused on the Civil Defence emergency management in schools program 'What's the plan stan?'. For this term we are focusing on what causes different hazards such as earthquakes, floods, storms, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, as well as non-natural hazards such as fires and pandemics. We will be learning how to safely respond to these hazards.

The *Learning Links* are home learning suggestions for how you can support your child's learning at home.

**Reading:** The children read every day at school. Children are encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes each day. The students have been given a book list with some suggested reading books. Each term they may like to partake in the class reading challenges, although this is optional. **Learning Link:** Remind the children to read every night for 15 (or more) minutes. Show an interest by asking them questions or talking to them about what they are reading. You could take them to the public library or read aloud to them. By reading the books your children are reading you will be able to have discussions with them. You could read novels from the suggested reading list to your child. A good website to practise developing children's vocabulary is [www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com), you may also want to check out the National Library website at: <http://schools.natlib.govt.nz/creating-readers/communities/reading-home> for some great suggestions on how to get your child to read at home.

**Writing:** This term in our writing we are looking at reports and explanations, explaining how natural hazards occur. **Learning Link:** Try to provide opportunities for writing letters/emails to family and friends in other parts of the country or overseas. Read a range of novels to your child to help them become familiar with the key elements.

**Spelling:** Your child will bring home spelling words each week. They will continue to practise grammar and spelling activities in class. **Learning Link:** Every week your child will bring home spelling words to learn. Get them to practise the words. In addition to this, test your child throughout the week and get them to learn any words they are unsure of. A website to try for spelling practice is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/dynamo/den/index.shtml>.

**Mathematics:** The children are learning about multiplication and division strategies. Later in the term the focus will be on measurement focusing on time. **Learning Link:** The children will have some maths to do at home each week. You can help them to learn their basic facts by encouraging them to study a particular times table or set of multiplication and division facts. Once they have studied these you could ask them questions while doing the dishes together or travelling in the car etc.

**Topic:** Our topic 'What's the Plan Stan?' looks to improve awareness and understanding of the hazards we face in New Zealand **Learning Link:** Talk to your children about your family's emergency plan such as where to shelter, how to evacuate and where to meet, survival items and how to contact each other in an emergency.

**Physical Education:** We are focusing on Winter Games. **Learning Link:** You could assist your child by playing winter games such as football, rugby and netball with them.

**Health:** Once again the Life Education Mobile Classroom is at school; we are looking at the social relationships modules

which focus on friendships, bullying and self-responsibility. Children look at concepts such as being friendly as opposed to being a friend, and they learn about managing conflict. **Learning Link:** Talk to your child about what a good friend is, different qualities they want in a friend and how to deal with conflict with friends when it arises.

**Te Kete Rourou and Kapa haka:** Whaea Lisa will again lead the Te Reo Maori programme, on a Tuesday afternoon. The class attends Kapa Haka weekly with the rest of the school. We encourage your child to join the Maori enrichment (Te Kete Rourou) sessions. **Learning Link:** Ask your child to retell what they have learnt about tikanga and Te Reo at school.

**The Arts:** Our focus for The Arts is exploring collage. On Friday mornings Jocelyn Oldcorn continues to take the class for a specialist music programme. **Learning Link:** At home encourage your children to further explore sounds with recycled or household junk/objects to create their own music. Draw, paint and make collage as often as possible.

**Thinking and Learning:** This year we are focussing on our jobs in the class room. Room 3 have identified my job as knowing what to teach and thinking of creative ideas for learning. The students have stated that their job is to choose to learn. You can support your child by asking them if they have been an active participant in their learning each day. **Learning Link:** At home encourage your children to further explore the way they learn by asking them questions. You may like to look at the website <http://www.funderstanding.com> for more information about these ideas.

#### Important Class dates:

Wheels Day	Every Wednesday
Life Education	2, 3 May
Enviro Day	20 May
Queen's Birthday	Monday 6 June
Last Day of Term 2	15 July

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries. To contact me please see me before school or make an appointment. Alternatively e-mail me at [therese@owhiro.school.nz](mailto:therese@owhiro.school.nz).

Thérèse Young