



The Learning Link

Room 3

Our Home-School Newsletter

Term 2 2010

with class learning focus points and ideas to support learning.

Welcome back to school for 2010. Our School Theme for this year is 'Who Am I?'. For this term we are focusing on how we have grown up so far, where our ancestors are from, and migration to New Zealand.

The *Learning Links* are homework/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 15 minutes each day. We would love it if anyone would like to join us on sunny days to independently silent read down at the stream. If you are interested just turn up to the class at 1.25pm with a book. It is so positive for children to see adults role modelling that they read too. To take advantage of the opportunity to read at the stream we need another adult to accompany us.

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 relevant discussions with them. A good website to practise developing children's vocabulary is www.freerice.com.

Oral Language: The children engage in a variety of co-operative activities that encourage listening and speaking skills. Each term children will be giving speeches to the class related to the school topic. As we ran out of time to give a one minute speech about themselves the children will be working towards this in the first three weeks of school. Later on in the term the children will be required to give a one minute speech about a person in their family.

Learning Link: Have regular discussions with your children (possibly over the dinner table) about what they have done at school, world events etc. You could support your child with preparations for their speech about themselves by discussing the important moments in their life to date, characteristics about themselves, and anything else that is special or unique to them.

Writing: This term in our writing we begin with working on narrative recounts. Later on in the term we will look at character descriptions.

Learning Link: Try to provide opportunities for writing letters/emails to family and friends in other parts of the country or overseas. Encourage your child to verbally describe features of advertisements they see.

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 addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. Later in the term the focus will be on measurement, including perimeter, area and volume.

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 "Who Am I?" looks at how migrant groups pass on and sustain their culture and heritage in New Zealand. We will be discussing why our ancestors came to New Zealand and what impact that has had on our lives. We will also look at our lives so far and how we have grown and changed.

Learning Link: Talk about your ancestry with your child and why your family migrated to New Zealand. Discuss what is unique and special to your family and your child. A very good website with information on New Zealand migration is www.teara.govt.nz.

Physical Education: We will be focussing on winter games skills and large ball skills.

Learning Link: You could assist your child with their ball skills and practice these at home.

Te Kete Rourou and Kapa haka: Whaea Lisa and Whaea Kahu 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: Send along the permission slip for your child to take part in Te Kete Rourou. Ask them 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 and paint as often as possible.

Thinking and Learning: This year we are going to focus on building our learning skills. We will be discussing people who are role models for our learning and how we can transfer what we learnt and how we learnt something from other areas of our lives. For example, What does the way we learnt a new football skill tell us about how we could learn maths?

Learning Link: At home encourage your children to further explore the way they learn by asking them questions such as Where else could you use that? What else might that be good for? What learning do you use in outside school that might be helpful at school? Can you imagine yourself using that at school?

Important Class dates:

Constable Duncan	Friday Assembly Week 1
Written Reports	30 May
Wheels Day	Every Thursday
ERO Visit	17 – 21 May
Orchestra and Te Papa Trip	23 May
Queen's Birthday	7 June
School Planting Day	11 June
Friends of the Owhiro Stream Planting Day	12 June

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.

Thérèse Young