



Room 7

Term 1 2011

# The Learning Link

Our Home-School Newsletter

with class learning focus points and ideas to support learning.

Welcome to Room 7/Karaka! I am looking forward to a positive year of quality learning. For the first few weeks of term, the students in Karaka will be exploring how to be a quality learner and how to make Karaka an effective, safe and positive learning environment. We will be establishing routines and class expectations. Our social science focus for 2011 is **Enterprise**. Owhiro Bay Students will explore what it means to be enterprising and how to be entrepreneurial. Below are the details of what the students will be learning in each curriculum area. The *Learning Links* are added to help reinforce classroom learning.

**Reading:** Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday your child will bring a book home to read. On Wednesday, the students go to the Library and will take a library book home. The students will also read a poem, which will go home in their poem book (to be returned on Thursday). Students are expected to read every night as part of their homework.

**Learning Link:** Encourage your child to read their reading book or poem each night. Please return their poem book or reading book to school the next day.

**Oral Language:** Students will practice their speaking and listening skills during oral language on Monday and Wednesday. They will share their news on Monday in groups, pairs or to the class. On Wednesday, students will practice their oral language skills by participating in various speaking and listening activities. We ask that toys and valuable items are not brought to school. This is to prevent them from getting lost or stolen.

**Learning Link:** Help your child prepare for news on Monday by talking to them about something that they did in the weekend or recently.

**Writing:** In term one, students will be writing recounts (stories about their personal experiences). The class will be focusing on different types of punctuation, how to use grammar correctly and to make the sounds of letters they hear when trying to spell a word.

**Learning Link:** Talk about personal experiences your child has had to help them with ideas when writing a recount.

**Spelling:** Every week, the students in Karaka will have a word, letter and a sound of the week. The students will participate in language activities to help them identify and write the letter, sound and word. Homework will reinforce what the students have learnt. Students will be given a sound, letter or word to practice at home, according to the individual learning need. Some students will also receive spelling words based on the sound of the week. These words will be part of a 'word family' to help your students learn the words.

**Learning Link:** Encourage your child to do their spelling homework as this will reinforce the learning done in the classroom.

**Mathematics and Statistics:** In mathematics and statistics, students will learn how to use and read bar graphs. In measurement, students will learn to measure volume, length and height using non-standard measurements. In numeracy, students will practice and learn addition and subtraction strategies.

**Learning Links:** Practice adding and subtracting numbers to ten or twenty. Encourage your child to use their hands, feet or cups to measure length, height or volume.

**Topic:** For the first few weeks, students will discuss how to be a quality learner and how to make Karaka an effective learning environment. Towards the end of term, students will begin to define what enterprising means and to identify these qualities in characters and themselves.

**Learning Link:** Discuss with your child how they can be quality learners at school and at home. Begin to talk about what it means to be enterprising.

**Health/PE/Fitness:** For P.E, students will be swimming and practicing running for the Fun Run. The swimming lessons begin on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. There will be 8 lessons, and these occur on a Monday and Wednesday. Students will go to Kilbirnie Pool by bus. The school Fun Run is on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. Students will also learn small ball skills. They will learn how to be an effective teammate by encouraging others while improving their small ball skills.

**Learning Link:** Remember to bring your swimming togs to school on Monday and Wednesdays from 14<sup>th</sup> February until 9<sup>th</sup> March. Practise throwing and catching small balls to each other at home.

**Te Kete Rourou and Kapa Haka:** Whaea Lisa will continue to teach Kapa Haka and Te Reo this year. Karaka will participate in Kapa Haka every Tuesday. We encourage all children to opt in to Te Kete Rourou (Maori language extension) on Tuesday afternoons. Please fill in the form if you wish your child to attend. The form was included in last week's newsletter and is available from Wendy in the Office.

**Learning Link:** Practice greeting each other using Te Reo.

**The Arts:** In visual art, students will begin the term by learning to draw and paint self portraits. Later in the term, students will use Colin McCahon's paintings to learn how to express their own identity using different artistic media. On the 17<sup>th</sup> February, children will learn to make Chinese Lanterns to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Jocelyn will take the Junior School for singing on Monday afternoon. Karaka will have a music lesson with Jocelyn every Friday. We will be attending two Arts Festival shows on the 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Learning Link:** Ask your child to teach you the songs and movements that Jocelyn has taught them in Junior Singing or Music.

## Some important dates for our class include:

Old fashioned School Picnic	25 Feb
Children's Day Event (at Parliament)	3 <sup>rd</sup> March
Fun Run	4 <sup>th</sup> March
Arts Festival shows	16 <sup>th</sup> March
3-way conferences	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> April
Wheels Days	each Wednesday
Term one ends	2pm 15 <sup>th</sup> April
Hangi	18 <sup>th</sup> March

I am looking forward to a fantastic term of positive and quality learning. If you have any queries or would like to discuss something, then please come and see me in the classroom or e-mail me at: [abby@owhiro.school.nz](mailto:abby@owhiro.school.nz)

Abby Radford