



ASHGROVE SCHOOL

48 Seddon Street
Rangiora 7400
Email: admin@ashgrove.school.nz
Website: www.ashgrove.school.nz

Phone: 03 313 8552
Fax: 03 313 4992

31 January 2017

MAHURI TEAM NEWSLETTER TERM 1

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to Ashgrove School. We hope the holidays have been a restful and enjoyable time for you and your family.

The Mahuri Team - 2017 presents as an exciting year in Mahuri as we start in our brand new learning spaces. We are very lucky to have such an up to date facility that is purpose built around our learners and programmes. The whole Mahuri team will be in the new building and will be working in two hubs, Kowhai and Rata. There are four ngāhere/homeroom's in each hub, with your child being part of one of these. Your child's ngāhere kaiako/teacher is primarily responsible for the pastoral care of your child. Students will spend the majority of their day working within their hub and a short amount of time in their ngāhere. As a group of 8 teachers, we meet frequently to collaboratively plan and work together to ensure consistency within the hubs and to care for the learning and pastoral needs for all our students.

The Mahuri team are as follows:

Hub Kowhai:

- Kowhai Tahi Ngāhere: Kaiako Mrs Andrea Woolford (Year 4)
- Kowhai Rua Ngāhere: Kaiako Miss Kristyn Ferry (Year 4/5)
- Kowhai Toru Ngāhere: Kaiako Mr Mat Jenkins (Year 5/6)
- Kowhai Wha Ngāhere: Kaiako Mrs Shallie Doney (Year 6) (Hub Kowhai Leader)

Hub Rata:

- Rata Tahi Ngāhere: Kaiako Mrs Sharon Heeman (Year 4)
- Rata Rua Ngāhere: Kaiako Miss Angelina Bourke (Year 4/5)

- Rata Toru Ngāhere: Kaiako Mrs Jo Keane (Year 5/6) (Mahuri Leader and Hub Rata Leader)
- Rata Wha Ngāhere: Kaiako Mrs Fiona Bester (Year 6)

Mahuri Parent Information Evening - We warmly invite all parents and caregivers to our Mahuri Information Evening on Monday 13 February from 7-7:30pm in Mahuri. Here you can meet all the Mahuri teachers, hear about what we will be up to this year and how learning will be structured and run and also ask any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you there.

Waipara Outdoor Adventure Centre Activity Days - Our first exciting Mahuri event for 2017 is an activity day to the Waipara Outdoor Adventure Centre. Your child will spend a day at the centre undertaking a variety of activities designed to entertain and challenge them. These include a mixture of activities according to year level from a water slide, to orienteering, to archery, abseiling and rafting. The cost will be advised as soon as it has been confirmed and will be able to be paid via Wrap It Up. More information will follow.

Each year level will go together at a time. We will travel by bus to Waipara in the morning and return the same day. Please note the Year 5 and 6's day will be longer than a normal school day to enable your child to participate in a variety of activities.

The dates and times are as follows:

- Year 4 - Wednesday 8 March (8:30am departure, 3:30pm return)
- Year 5 - Monday 6 March (7:30am departure, 5:30pm return)
- Year 6 - Tuesday 7 March (7:15am departure, 6:45pm return)

We do require parent help and an emergency vehicle to assist on the day. If you are interested, please complete the form on the bottom of this newsletter and return to your child's ngāhere kaiako.

Swimming - Swimming Sports this year is planned for Wednesday 22 February at the Dudley Pool complex and will include all of the children in our team. Students will choose what races they want to compete in. These will take place in both the large and small pools and include running races, float and tow, kickboard, freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke. We have practise sessions on Tuesday 7 February and Tuesday 14 February. We will require parent help walking to and from the pool on these days. If you can help, please complete the separate swimming notice that your child received this week.

Rata will complete swimming lessons at Dudley Pool in term 2, while Kowhai will have their lessons in term 3.

Home Learning - Home Learning in Mahuri will continue to complement the *Ashgrove STAR's*. In term 1, we will be focusing on Respect and Responsibility. Students have two tasks this term:

1. At the beginning of the term, students will receive a matrix of activities as ideas to complete around these values. The **first** task is to choose and complete 4 activities from the matrix (or their own ideas) that shows respect and responsibility.
2. At the beginning of the term, students will also receive a booklet to use as a diary. The **second** task is to complete one diary entry each week, from weeks 3 to 10, explaining how they have shown the values of respect and responsibility during that week. Emptying the rubbish, doing the dishes, packing their own lunches etc are ideas that can be done each week for their diary entry. Students can choose to write about the 4 activities from the matrix for 4 of their diary entries, if they would like to.

We will complete our first diary entry together in week 2 to ensure all students have an understanding before it is sent home. Students have the option to present their weekly entries in the booklet or in their own creative way.

The diary and activities are due by Friday 7 April (week 10). In doing so, students will work towards and receive an award for demonstrating these values.

Over the year, students will work towards a full Ashgrove STAR. This work is set up to be completed independently, but we do encourage you to take an interest and encourage and support your child to complete their tasks.

Please note, there will be **no** weekly Home Learning sheet that will go home. The Ashgrove STAR matrix will be the Home Learning for term one. We do however encourage daily reading and maths practise. Please support your child to complete this. Feel free to see your child's ngāhere kaiako for support and/or resources with this.

As your child progresses with their reading, we will not send set reading books home and the daily reading book will become the choice of your child. However, we may send books/material home that relates to work we are currently completing in class. If your child is not getting set

books sent home and you would like regular reading books, please discuss this with your child's reading kaiako.

Learning in Mahuri

Inquiry - Our focus for Inquiry is the Ashgrove STAR's - Service, Trust, Attitude, Respect and Responsibility. To start the year, we will be looking at Growth Mindset.

Mindset is a simple idea discovered by world-renowned Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck in decades of research on achievement and success—a simple idea that makes all the difference.

In a fixed mindset, people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. They also believe that talent alone creates success—without effort. They're wrong.

In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities.

Teaching a growth mindset creates motivation and productivity in the worlds of business, education, and sports. It enhances relationships. We will be looking at ways to approach learning with a growth mindset.

Literacy - Once we have settled into our new teams and learning spaces, we will come together to collaboratively teach literacy. Students will work across their own hub for reading and writing. Your child may have a different reading and writing teacher, according to their needs.

First up, our writing focus will be rooted in the students lives and experiences, writing about things that interest them and their world around them. Our main focus will be on settling students into a new year of writing and looking at and reinforcing the *basics* - surface features such as capital letters, punctuation, ideas, paragraphs, spelling, proofreading and editing. It is essential for students to be aware of these areas to be able to competently independently write in a variety of genre.

Following on from this, our writing will be based upon the novel *Wonder* by R.J Palacio. This storyline complements our Growth Mindset and Ashgrove STARs focus of Respect and Responsibility well. Students will have the opportunity to learn about and create writing based upon the storyline of the book.

Our reading will be based upon a variety of topics, including SHARPreading, a programme designed specifically to enhance comprehension. Your child will have specific learning goals according to their needs and level.

Mathematics - Students will continue to work across the hubs for Mathematics. Students will receive a *Knowledge Track* at the beginning of the year for the level they are currently working on for Numeracy. Teaching and learning will parallel this where students will engage in focused small group teaching and independent tasks to improve their mathematical understanding and move around the track. The *Knowledge Track* will be in your child's book and will clearly explain each piece of knowledge that students need to work at this level. If you have any questions regarding this, please see your child's mathematics kaiako.

Ako Journals - Students will continue to develop their skills at managing their own learning through their Ako/Learning Journals. This involves your child completing weekly tasks in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Students and teachers will work together to monitor effort and learning in all areas and track progress. At the end of each week, students will reflect on their learning and set goals for their week ahead.

The New Mahuri Building - We are extremely privileged to be working in the new Mahuri building. We hope you can spend some time before or after school looking around our new learning space. We would love you to see what we are up to and be a part of our Mahuri team. We do however ask that you please wait outside in the courtyard if you are meeting your child after school. We are still engaging in our learning and spending valuable time with our ngāhere and would love to remain focused until the last bell. We look forward to inviting you into our space to see what we get up to during our day later in the year.

You will also notice our new building has a fabulous kitchen. This is for use within school time to provide and enhance learning experiences. Students will not be able to use the kitchen to prepare or reheat their lunch.

Stationery - In our new collaborative Mahuri learning spaces, we will be using our stationery a little different than last year. We noticed that as students moved from learning spaces, they didn't always have the right stationery to complete their work (such as pens, coloured pencils, scissors, glue sticks etc). We found that a considerable amount of focused learning time was spent sourcing these resources.

This year students will be given their exercise books to store in their own named tub. All pens, pencils, coloured pencils, scissors, glue sticks etc will be pooled together to provide multiple stationery stations around the hubs. Thus, students have instant and continuous access to what they need when they need it in all spaces. We believe this will reduce time spent looking for/borrowing resources and ensure students get maximum learning time.

If students would like other resources not offered by the school (i.e. felts, gel pens etc) they may like to keep them in a small pencil case (we discourage the very large pencil cases as they do not fit well into their tubs and are troublesome when moving to and from learning spaces) in their tubs.

Students will be given their books within the first couple of days of the term. If you wish to cover the books, your child is welcome to take them home over the first week. Please ensure all books are ready for learning on Tuesday 7 February (week 2).

BYOD - Mahuri team are looking forward to engaging in BYOD again this year. Learning will incorporate the use of devices to enhance learning experiences where applicable. This will complement 'traditional' methods of learning. Please note, devices will not be charged at school, so please ensure your child takes care of this at home.

North Canterbury Sport Coaching - Mahuri team will take part in fortnightly sports sessions with the coaches from the North Canterbury Sports and Recreation Trust on a Thursday and Friday

If you would like to make contact with any of us, please feel free to come into class, email (teachers first and last name@ashgrove.school.nz e.g. jokeane@ashgrove.school.nz) or phone the school to make an appointment.

We look forward to a great year working with your child. If your family is new to the Mahuri Team, please come and introduce yourself to us, we would love to meet you.

Kind regards,

Jo Keane, Andrea Woolford, Kristyn Ferry, Mat Jenkins, Shallie Doney, Sharon Heeman, Angelina Bourke and Fiona Bester.

MAHURI ACTIVITY DAYS

I give permission for _____ to take part in the activity day at Waipara Outdoor Activity Centre.

I **am able** to help on:

- Year 4 - Wednesday 8 March
- Year 5 - Monday 6 March
- Year 6 - Tuesday 7 March
- I can be an emergency vehicle



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please return to your child's ngāhere Kaiako by Friday 17 February