

NIKAU RATA KOWHAI

WELCOME TO TERM 4

We are excited about a term full of activities and festivities! We officially welcome Sol to Nikau class bringing our roll to sixteen. We now have 16 in Nikau, 12 in Rata and 15 in Kowhai.

Key Dates for Term 4

- Week 1: Thursday 17th - Shake Out, the NZ nationwide earthquake and tsunami drill
- Week 2: Monday 21st - Parent Interviews (www.schoolinterviews.co.nz Enter the code z5dy7)
- Tuesday 22nd - Parent Interviews (or phone the office and speak with Kate ph 7826717)
- Week 3: Monday 28th - LABOUR DAY - no school
- *Bring small boxes, bottle lids, egg cartons, little bottles to school for Construction during the week for Friday Enrichment*
- Wednesday 30th - Athletics Day (details to go home in a notice in Week 2)
- Thursday 31st - Halloween (activities to be confirmed)
- Week 4: Tuesday 5th - Guy Fawkes
- Week 5: Wednesday 13th - West Coast Athletics Champs
- Week 6: Wednesday 20th - Awards Assembly at 7pm
- Friday 22nd - Karamea Art Exhibition
- Week 8: - DoC day trip (details to follow)
- Week 9: Wednesday 11th - PTA Disco (to be confirmed)
- Thursday 12th - Family Fun School Picnic Day barbecue
- Friday 13th - Last Day of School, **closing at 12:00 pm**

Reminders:

This term, we have the added benefit of warmer weather, more daylight hours and the opportunity to do more activities outside the classroom.



With the sunnier weather students do need to wear a school hat every day. Caps are unsuitable because they do not protect their ears or neck. The hats are provided by the school and are in their team colours. It is also the time of year to make sure they are applying sunblock, at home before school if you can and particularly if they are fair skinned.



Study Focus:

Our theme this term is "Celebrations". This will be integrated into many aspects of the curriculum.



Mathematics:

In all classes there will be a continued focus on Number strategies. Rata will begin with fractions this term and use food as a practical way of teaching and applying this. Nikau joined them on Tuesday using $\frac{1}{2}$ cup, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup and cutting food into thirds and matching fractions through hands on games.



Writing:

For the first part of the term we will focus on Recount Writing (recording events in sequence) and talking about when, who, where, what, why and how. Nikau will focus on recording personal experiences and using a range of different sentences starters, as well as writing longer stories. Rata will focus on developing a recount and elaborating on their ideas with compound sentences and begin to paragraph. Kowhai will focus on recounts through sorting and sequencing more complex ideas into paragraphs. In the last half of the school term, we will study poetry (eg Haiku) and have a go at composing our own Christmas poems.

Reading:

Classes will continue with their respective programmes that contain a mix of shared, guided, instructional and independent reading. Nikau will have a stronger focus on blends (2-3 letter ones) this term to help students decode words in their reading more effectively. Rata will focus on longer

texts and chapter books while Kowhai will focus on comprehension and eliciting information from a text to justify their opinions.

Inquiry:

Inquiry this term will focus on science and technology challenges. Technology is materials based and involves students being given a scenario with a problem. Students then plan and devise a solution for it. They discuss and collaborate to find an initial solution, then test their idea and refine it. Next they create the product, the packaging to market it and present it to an audience.

The aim of this style of learning is to allow student creativity to flow, for them to see there are multiple solutions to one problem, and that trial and error are important and acceptable ways of learning. It is very practical based although there is theory behind what they are making. Some of these challenges will be science based, while others will be food based. Maths and writing will be integrated into these through the packaging and advertising aspects.



This week Kowhai designed and tested rocket ship bottles and launched them on the football field.

Māori:

We want to increase the amount of Te Reo Māori the children have exposure to. This term Rata and Nikau will meet daily in the morning and do activities that involve them listening, speaking and engaging with the language in practical ways. The goal is to learn key words first and then apply them in phrases in fun, informal activities. Our goal is to be able to learn our numbers so when a number is named in English we can say what it is in Māori instantly up to 10, recognise the number pattern in larger numbers and be able to quickly solve equations to 12 in our head using Māori vocabulary. Eg How much is it? 5. *E hia te utu? E rima.* We will also learn our colours in the same way and be able to ask what the colour is. We will work on a range of greetings, both formal and informal. The Year 5-6 class are beyond this level of Māori and will have their own programme.

Sport:

We will be training for the Athletic Sports which will be held on Wednesday of Week 3. Weather permitting, we will aim to practise most afternoons, in the lead up to this. For Nikau many activities such as long jump will be new to them. They will be learning about the equipment, the technique to perform each one, the routines around safely exiting after each attempt and how to move between activities. On the day, the junior students will have a modified athletics program to the senior primary and will get to have a go at some of the traditional events as well as some fun informal competitions.

With the new pool fence in place, the children are already asking when they will start swimming. This is reliant on the completion of the changing room upgrade and the number of sunny days so this is "to be confirmed."

Art:

With the Karamea Art Exhibition coming up in November, students will be working on art pieces to display in this. Not wanting to give away what classes are doing you will have to wait and be surprised!

Enrichment:

Students really enjoyed enrichment on Friday afternoons in Term 3 so we will continue with this in Term 4 with a range of new themes. Kowhai, Rata and Nikau combine for this. Students have been able to choose the activities that interest them and that suit their learning style. It has also incorporated Tuakana Teina (older with younger teamwork).

Music:

Christmas is coming and so is the Awards Assembly. Our music and singing will be connected with this. Children will rehearse songs for the end of year performance. They are very excited and have helped choose some of their favourite ones.

We look forward to meeting and speaking with you at the parent interviews next Monday and Tuesday afternoon/evening.

Best wishes

Hannah (Nikau), Tina (Rata) and Pene (Kowhai)

Key Ideas/Themes:

- Wk 1** Shake Out Challenge
- Wk 2** Halloween Craft
- Wk 3** Construction – Recycled materials
- Wk 4** Rockets and Catapults
- Wk 5** Cooking and Crafting
- Wk 6** Karamea Art Exhibition
- Wk 7** Decorations
- Wk 8** Christmas Activities
- Wk 9** Class Pack Up



