



HONGOEKA SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER - TERM 1, 2022



11th February 2022

Kia ora e te whānau,

Welcome to Term 1. We hope you and your whānau had a great holiday break, and are looking forward to the term. A big welcome back to whānau who are familiar to us and a big haere mai to new Hongoeka whānau. Below is an outline of what we will be focusing on this term. We want you to be kept well informed about what is happening in your tamariki's (child's) class and Hongoeka syndicate for Term 1. Please don't hesitate to contact your tamariki's kaiako (teacher) at any stage to check what's happening.

Hongoeka kaiako for this year are:

Room 19 - Whaea Rebecca	rebeccac@plimmerton.school.nz
Room 21 - Whaea Dianne	diannek@plimmerton.school.nz
Room 22 - Ms B	melissab@plimmerton.school.nz
Room 23 - Mr Deluxe	steved@plimmerton.school.nz

Other kaiako that will be working in the Hongoeka syndicate are Adie Dott and Trish Kolston.

Hongoeka Learning:

Hongoeka syndicate encourages ākonga (students) to manage themselves and be responsible for aspects of their learning. Ākonga will be introduced to or continue to develop their understanding of inquiry learning, where ākongainvestigate a chosen topic by posing their own questions, undertaking research and investigations, and then sharing their findings.

Our Inquiry focus for this term is ***Our Place - Our Tūrangawaewae***. Hongoeka ākonga will explore the history of Aoteroa through learning about Māori migration, the history of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and the influences on the early settlement of Plimmerton and Porirua.

Our Writing, Reading (Pānui) and Maths (Pāngarau) will be integrated through the above topic. Here are some key focus areas:

- ❖ **Writing:** Writing a range of genres and purposes that are integrated through our inquiry unit. Tāmariki will be learning about sentence structure and different uses of punctuation..
- ❖ **Pāngarau (Maths):** Focusing on Place Value, addition and subtraction strategies moving into Fractions, Decimals & Percentages and Probability.
- ❖ **Pānui (Reading):** Exploring articles and stories about the early settlement of Aoteroa while learning how to summarise important information.
- ❖ **Hākinkina (Sport):** As part of our P.E program, Hongoeka will be learning and practising athletic skills. We will be having an athletics day later this term.
- ❖ **Te Toi (The Arts):** Through ***Our Tūrangawaewae*** inquiry, ākonga will be exploring model making.

Te reo Māori me ngā tikanga (Te reo Māori Language, Culture and Traditions)

Under the red light setting we are unable to do Kapa Haka as a large group. Hongoeka kaiako have decided to create some learning in Te reo and tikanga Māori.

Each class will have an opportunity to learn from some of the following activities: raku stick games, poi making, weaving, how to play ki o rahi as well as learning new Te Reo Māori phrases. If you know of anyone that would be interested or happy to help with flax weaving or learning how to play ki o rahi, please get in touch with your tamariki's kaiako.

How can you help?

This term, we would like tamariki to work collaboratively together to showcase what they have learnt about the settlement of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Plimmerton through model making. For us to be able to do this Hongoeka syndicate needs a good supply of newspaper, magazines, egg cartons, wool and cardboard rolls.(not toilet rolls)

Please send any of these materials along to school where they will be greatly appreciated.

Pātaka Trip:

Pātaka has a great educational program that supports learning about the settlement of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Plimmerton. Further information will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Class visits will take place on Monday 28th February or Wednesday 2nd March.

Kapiti Island:

This term Hongoeka syndicate will be visiting Kapiti Island in Week 8. This supports the learning about the settlement of Ngāti Toa Rangatira. This is a popular trip and whānau numbers will be limited and we do ask that parent helpers pay for this trip. Whānau will be chosen based on the needs of the class.

Further information will be provided later this term but classes will either visit the island on Wednesday 23rd of March or Thursday 24th March. A postponement date is on Friday 1st April.

For both trips, parents will need to have had 2 vaccinations and be able to present their vaccine pass. Masks will also have to be worn for all indoor settings.

Stationery:

You will have received the stationery requirements information by now. Tamariki ma's extra pens, pencils, glue sticks, refills and sharpies will be collected by the classroom kaiako and dispersed on a needs basis. This way the supply should last all year.

Please name all other stationery items (including pencils and pens) to help with returning lost items.

Whiteboards - Year 5 whānau, if your child brought their whiteboard home from kura last year, could they please return it to kura this year and these will be used. We have some Year 5 ākonga's whiteboards which have been passed on by last's kaiako. Year 6 whānau, these are part of your tamariki's stationery packs.

Headphones - All ākonga will need their own pair of headphones. These can be purchased as part of the stationery pack or please feel free to send along a pair from home. These should be named.

Digital Devices:

Hongoeka ākonga are allowed to bring a Chromebook that can be used to complete work online. Tamariki that do not own their own Chromebook will be issued with a Chromebook from kura to use while at kura.

It is important for ākonga to know and remember that devices are there to support learning and not for games or other non-educational use. Any ākonga found using their Chromebook for non-educational purposes may be asked to complete work without a device.

Kura issued Chromebooks must stay at school. Tamariki's own devices can either stay at school or go home with them each day. All devices are stored in a locked cupboard overnight.

Tamariki ma cannot charge devices in lesson time. Tamariki who take their own Chromebook home are expected to bring it back each day charged and ready to use. Devices left at school are charged in the locked cupboard.

Homework:

Ākonga have class reading, writing and math tasks that they are given adequate class time to complete. If they do not complete their work during this time, they may need to finish at home. There is also time to complete unfinished tasks during 'Finishing Off Friday'.

Tamariki ma are encouraged to read and complete some mathematics tasks. In Term 2, tamariki will also have some spelling words and activities to support our structured literacy learning.

Seesaw:

If you are not already joined to your tamariki's Seesaw account, your tamariki's kaiako will send an email with instructions showing how to sign up. If you have problems signing up, please let your tamariki's kaiako know. Other whānau members are welcome to join, too. You will then see all Seesaw posts relating to the tamariki you are linked to.

It means a great deal to us and to your tamariki when you use Seesaw to keep up to date with your tamariki's learning, and it's great for starting conversations with them about what they have been doing in school!

We also want you to be kept well informed about what is happening in your tamariki's class and the whole syndicate, and Seesaw is great for that, too.

Brain Break:

During block 1, ākonga have an opportunity to eat healthy 'brain break' kai (food). Brain break kai should be fruit, vegetables or nuts. Other kai should be kept for interval and lunch times.

Cell Phones/Smart Watches:

If ākonga bring a cell phone or smartwatch to kura these must be put away during school hours. Devices must be on silent in school hours. Ākonga may check their phones before kura begins at 8.55 and after kura finishes at 2.55.

If phones are seen or heard during school hours then they will be sent to the office where they can be collected by the ākonga at the end of the day.

We are unable to accept responsibility in case of damage or loss of these devices.

Communicating with Whānau:

We want you to be kept well informed about what is happening in your tamariki's class and the syndicate. Please don't hesitate to contact your tamariki's kaiako at any stage. Ms Brown, the Hongoeka syndicate leader, is also available to be contacted should you need to. Our emails are below:

melissab@plimmerton.school.nz

rebeccac@plimmerton.school.nz

diannek@plimmerton.school.nz

steved@plimmerton.school.nz

Once again, if you have any issues or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ngā mihi nui,
Hongoeka Teachers