

# HONGOEKA SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER - TERM 1, 2021

4th February 2021

Kia ora Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Hongoeka 2021. I hope you and your tamariki had a great break and are looking forward to the new school year. The purpose of this newsletter is to let you know about what will be happening in Hongoeka this term.

## Hongoeka Teachers

Room 19 - Whaea Rebecca	<a href="mailto:rebeccac@plimmerton.school.nz">rebeccac@plimmerton.school.nz</a>
Room 20 - Miss Cooney	<a href="mailto:larissac@plimmerton.school.nz">larissac@plimmerton.school.nz</a>
Room 21 - Whaea Dianne	<a href="mailto:diannek@plimmerton.school.nz">diannek@plimmerton.school.nz</a>
Room 22 - Ms B	<a href="mailto:melissab@plimmerton.school.nz">melissab@plimmerton.school.nz</a>
Room 23 - Mr Deluxe	<a href="mailto:steved@plimmerton.school.nz">steved@plimmerton.school.nz</a>

Other teachers that will be working in the Hongoeka syndicate are Lisa Cuttance and Miranda Mercer.

## Hongoeka Learning

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

Our Inquiry focus for this term is ***Ko Au - Me and My World***. Students will find out what makes them special, what makes their whanau special, and where they have come from. They will also learn about the lives and journeys of others.

Our Writing, Reading, Oral Language, Maths, Te Reo and Visual Art will be integrated through the above topic. Here are the key learning areas:

- ❖ **Reading:** summarising, skimming & scanning (camp stories and settlement stories)
- ❖ **Writing:** writing a range of genres and purpose, sentence structure and punctuation focus.
- ❖ **Maths:** place value; addition & subtraction; fractions, decimals & percentages and probability.
- ❖ **Te Reo Maori:** Your child will create their own pepeha.
- ❖ **Visual Art:** self portraits and visual pepeha.
- ❖ **PB4L** : creating a positive environment and resilience focus.

If you would like any further information about the learning this term or feel that you might be able to offer assistance in these areas, please let your child's classroom teacher know.

## Multiplication and Division Facts

In Hongoeka, some students still need to learn their multiplication and division facts. Students need a good knowledge of these basic facts, especially multiplication tables, in order to access other mathematical areas and feel confident when solving problems. As a syndicate, we will be focusing on strategies and activities that can help students to feel confident with their multiplication tables. We would ask that you also support your child at home and spend some time with them learning their multiplication and division facts.

This website is helpful: [www.timestables.co.nz](http://www.timestables.co.nz)

There are also plenty of helpful and enjoyable YouTube videos, such as [Mr DeMaio raps the times tables](#).

## Brain Break

During block 1, students have an opportunity to eat a healthy 'brain break' snack. Brain break food should be fruit, vegetables or nuts. Other food will be kept for break and lunch time.

### **Swimming**

Hongoeka will be swimming on the following weeks:

Weeks 2 & 3 (9th February - 19th February)

Week 6 & 7 (8th March - 19th March)

You will receive further information about individual class times and days later this week.

Hongoeka swimming sports day will take place on Thursday 15th April at Cannons Creek Pool. You will receive further information closer to the date.

### **Athletics**

As part of our P.E program, Hongoeka will be learning and practising athletic skills. The athletics day for Hongoeka will take place on Thursday 1st April with a postponement date of Wednesday 7th April.

Parumoana Athletics takes place in Term 4, but as Term 4 is very busy we have decided to hold our in-school athletics in Term 1. A small number of children from each year group will then be chosen to represent the school at Parumoana in Term 4.

### **Stationery**

You will have received the stationery requirements information by now. Glue sticks, erasers, highlighters, and whiteboard pens will be collected by the classroom teacher and dispersed on a needs basis. This way the supply should last all year. Please name all other stationery (including pencils and pens) to help with returning lost items.

### **Digital Devices**

Hongoeka students are allowed to bring to school a Chromebook that can be used to complete work online. Students that do not own their own Chromebook will be issued with a school Chromebook to use.

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

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

Students cannot charge devices in school time. Students 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 a locked cupboard overnight.

### **Homework**

Students 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'. Students are encouraged to read, do Mathematics and learn their spelling words at home.

### **Seesaw**

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

It means a great deal to us and to your child when you use Seesaw to keep up to date with your child'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 child's class and the whole syndicate, and Seesaw is great for that too.

**Camp**

Camp this year will be at Brookfield Camp in Wainuiomata. Students will stay for 2 nights/3 days and will take part in a range of fun confidence-building activities that promote teamwork and bonding with their classmates and others in the syndicate. Further information will be sent home over the next couple of weeks.

**Cell Phones/Smart Watches**

If pupils bring a cell phone or smartwatch to school these must be put away and be on silent in school hours. Students may check their phone or smartwatch after school 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 student at the end of the day.

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

**Communicating with Parents**

We want you to be kept well informed about what is happening in your child's class and in the Hongoeka syndicate. If you have questions or need to catch up for any reason, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher at any stage in person, by email, via Seesaw or by leaving a message at the school office. You can also contact Melissa Brown, the Hongoeka syndicate leader, direct should you need to.

If you have any issues or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us - communication is key.

Regards,  
Hongoeka Teachers