

Kahikatea Newsletter

Term Four, October 2017



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 4. We hope you all had a lovely holiday break and got to enjoy some valuable family time.

Term 3 Focus:

Visual Arts: Digital and Photography skills

Health: Camp preparation

P.E: Pathways and flight/Control with feet

Science: Material World

Social Science: Place and Environment

Te Reo: He Reo Tupu, He reo ora

Dance: Folk dancing

Camp:

Kahikatea Camp has come along so quickly! A reminder that as we are heading to Forest Lakes in Week 5, we require any outstanding camp payments to be made in full by November 3rd (end of Week 3). Please ensure that you and your child have a look through the gear list and check that they have everything that they need to bring along. Another copy of this list will be sent out with the next Parent Booklet closer to our camp date.

If you or your child have any questions, please speak to Alisa Schilder in Room 15 (alisas@westpark.school.nz) or your child's classroom teacher.

Sunhats:

This term it is compulsory for students to wear a wide-brimmed sunhat at break times as we head towards the warmer months. Could you please help us by reminding your child to bring their named hat to school every day? If they don't bring a wide-brimmed hat they will need to play in a shaded area.



Graduation:

Our awe-inspiring rainbow themed graduation will be held on Thursday December 14th from 6-8.30pm. The evening will include a dance and a ceremony. If you would like to help out, we will be setting up the venue from around 3.30-4.30pm and would love some help! We will send out more information regarding the event closer to the time.

Swimming:

Team Kahikatea's swimming programme is on from November 20th to December 1st. Thank you to everyone who has paid and returned their permission slips. Just a reminder that the final day of payment is Thursday **9th of November**.

We understand that it is not always possible to help out, but all 5 classes are low on offers of parent help to walk to and from the pool. If you are able to help, we would really appreciate it, as it means that our swimming programme can go ahead.



Physical Education:

We think it is important for our students to be involved in regular physical activity whilst they are at school. If for any reason your child is unable to join in on a particular day please provide a signed and dated note to the classroom teacher explaining the reason for non-participation.

Road Patrol

We are looking for any parents who are able to help out as a Road Patrol helper for 2018. If you are interested and would like more information please contact Cherie Geddes (cherieg@westpark.school.nz) or Alisa Schilder (alisas@westpark.school.nz).

Future Camp:

As we get closer to the end of 2017, we are very interested to hear your thoughts on whether you would like to see us taking our students to different camp venues in the future. We really enjoy our time at Forest Lakes each year, but are aware there are other fantastic venues around that may offer different experiences. With that in mind, we are looking to hold a meeting after our 2017 camp to show you some different options we have been investigating, and get your thoughts around our future school camps. We will send a notice out about this a little later on in the term, with information about when and where. Keep an eye out for it, as we would love to have a great turnout from our school community and really hear your thoughts.

West Park School gmail accounts

One of the challenges of using devices in our classrooms is how students use their West Park School gmail accounts. Appropriate ways include:

- Teachers sharing learning activities through google drive or email
- Students collaborating on an activity together or independently working on an activity

Inappropriate ways include:

- Using their emails to sign up to websites without their teacher's knowledge
- Subscribing to Youtube channels
- Having email conversations with others that are not related to their learning and without their teacher's knowledge

Over the last couple of months, Years 4-6 have been trialling a programme called Hapara. This online programme allows teachers to have an even greater insight into what their students are doing online and how they are working.

We encourage families to help support our journey by checking in with your child and making sure they are not using their West Park School accounts for anything but their learning.

We look forward to another fantastic and busy term working with you and your child. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have or if you would like to spend time with us during the day. All teachers are keen to have parents be more involved in the classroom to help out.

Warm Regards,

Team Kahikatea

Emily Osborn (Team Leader/R13), Alisa Schilder (R15), Logan Mead (R14), Cherie Geddes (R12), Tania Bailey (R11)