

Whole School

Professional Learning

We have had two professional learning workshops this term; the first one focussed on using the illustrations from the national standards to inform our overall teacher judgements and moderation of national standards. This was an important starting point for writing interim reports this term. Our second professional learning workshop was about embedding the Beachlands Learner into our classroom practice and revisiting the action plans from teacher only day. The Beachlands Learner has been recently revised with specific learning intentions that will be really useful for students.

Walk Through

The leadership team 'walked through' all classes last week with the purpose on identifying key areas of our school culture and how they are currently displayed or viewed from an outside perspective. There will be a whole staff walk through in week 5 which is highly regarded as valuable professional development; teachers appreciate the opportunity to see what others are doing and to get fresh ideas for their own classrooms.

The 'B' Club – extended.

Our very popular B club has been extended to new members this term and is likely to become even more so with the recent 'flash mob' that was conducted at morning tea time, much to the delight of all who watched. – Our thanks to Justine Jones for organising this for us.

Keeping Ourselves Safe

KOS is a school-wide health unit focussed on empowering students with the skills to keep themselves safe in a range of age-appropriate contexts. This unit will be running until week 5.

Kapa Haka

We now have two new Kapa Haka teachers, this means that we can also extend the Kapa Haka to include more children (we have had more than 80 children interested and unable to participate until now). Auditions have been held for those interested this week.

Sports

We have been very busy with netball and soccer fundays and rippa rugby. A coach from Manukau rugby has provided our years 4-8 students with rippa rugby training and also provided a staff training workshop after school to up-skill teachers in their own coaching skills – this has culminated in a staff vs pupil rippa rugby match on Wednesday – results not known at time of press!

We are also really enjoying coaching from Te Puru staff that are currently providing netball training skills for years 4-8.

Jump Rope for Heart

In addition to our sporting programme all classes have been practising skipping in preparation for the jump off day on the 10th June. Sponsorship notices have gone out with

students and any funds raised will be used to support the heart foundation and our P.E. programme.

Koru Team

We are really excited about the three new black-boards that have recently been installed into our play house. One consists of picture frames that children can draw in, another has an outer space theme, and the last one has an under the sea theme. Students will be able to use these on a rostered basis.

Teachers and children are enjoying learning play ball skills with the coaches from Te Puru.

Keeping Our Selves safe is going well and we are currently focussing on learning our names, addresses and phone numbers in case of emergency. When Keeping Ourselves Safe is finished we will be moving into our new learning pathway – ‘Our Many Cultures’

All Koru team classes have buddy classes with older students and children really enjoy getting together with their buddy class for a wide range of activities which at the moment include environmental projects, maths games, reading, sports and games.

In order to be successful at skipping our children first need to be able to jump with both feet off the ground and hop! So there has been lots of jumping and hopping around the school.

Year 3 and 4

Our writing focus has been narrative writing and we have had some exciting and creative stories.

In Reading we are continuing to focus on answering literal questions (finding the answers in the text) and have begun looking at answering inferential questions (trying to read between the lines). All year three and 4 students have sat the Star Reading Test. This will assist teachers with making an OTJ.

We have a lot of students on the parent support reading programme within our area. This is now taking place within the teacher’s room in the new block.

We have begun to cross group our students for numeracy this term. Mrs Jones has the stage 3 -4 students, Mrs Garvey and Mrs McLeod are teaching the stage 4, Miss Taylor the stage 5 and Miss Chesham the stage 5 and 6. We have been undertaking Numeracy PD to support us with this. Fantastic learning conversations are taking place between teachers and they are very enthusiastic about it.

Netball and skipping have been our PE focus. Students are really enjoying the teachers who come in to teach netball from the Te Puru. They are also enjoying skipping and working towards the Jump off in June.

Our learning pathways – has been KOS, which has been going well.

We have begun our arts rotation this term, with students rotating through music, weaving, dot painting, and tapa art and making pois over the term.

Year 5 and 6

We have really enjoyed all the sporting opportunities this term has offered (see above). For learning pathways we are finishing Keeping Ourselves Safe and are looking forward to starting to explore the question of why and how do people do things differently? We are exploring our own culture including the history of New Zealand and then inquiring about some of the other cultures that contribute to our society.

In week 8 all year 5 and 6 classrooms will be once again planting trees and Omana and Duder Regional Parks as part of our environmental sustainability education; we have been planting at Omana for at least the past ten years – a true record of sustainability. Let's hope for not too much mud!

Intermediate School

We have just had two very successful camps at Kokako Lodge. Rooms 24 and 25 went in the week before the holidays and basked in glorious sunshine all week. Despite very gloomy weather forecasts Rooms 18 and 25 had settled and sunny weather for most of the week.

All the students who went to camp had an amazing time, they were challenged to move outside their comfort zones in many of the activities that were offered. We had incredible support from our camp parents and the community with transporting.

The Intermediate Independent learning programme has just begun for the year. Students are involved in French, the School Newspaper, Careers Education, Science, Advanced Maths, Drama and Maori Culture. This term we also have a group of students who are working on individual projects- students are responsible for their time and are supported by a teacher- but mostly work independently on a project that they are passionate about. Students are expected to move from class to class, have the right books and adapt to a range of different teaching styles- all skills that are required for the transition to College.

We have had a number of students recently trial for ECCS Soccer and Rugby Representative Teams and have been successful in having many of these students participate in those teams.

Learning Support Programmes

We are extremely lucky to have such dedicated, committed and enthusiastic teacher aides that continue to provide a wide range of quality learning support to many of our students. We have recently implemented additional programmes for numeracy and literacy and are continually grateful for the high degree of professionalism shown by our support staff. Teachers regularly comment about how lucky we are and how lucky our students are. The staff appreciate the on-going commitment Beachlands School shows towards our students and thank the Board for their continued support.