



# Worser Bay School

## AUTAHI

### Parent Information Term 3, 2009

#### It's Term 3, 2009!

A school year can be viewed as slightly odd as it tends to be broken into chunks of stopping and starting, with things called holidays in between! Of course we need the holidays to refresh and recharge, but at Worser Bay we view learning as ongoing. Each term we build on the learning from the term before, rather than leaving it all behind and moving randomly onto something else!

This year our planning decisions right across the school aim to optimise learning opportunities for our students by supporting them to make connections with their prior learning and be motivated and engaged by seeing the relevance of what they are doing.

So what's in store?

#### Autahi

As you are aware our big focus for the year is 'Relationships – Cause and Effect'. This term we also continue our focus on student engagement and how we provide opportunities for our diverse learners.

Our big question for the term is "**How do we connect?**". Students and teachers will be working out *What makes an effective cooperative group?* During the course of the term we'll be asking ourselves questions such as:

- What are my roles and my responsibilities in different groups?
- How do I interact in different groups?
- How do I connect with others?
- How do I relate to others in class and in the playground?



Social Studies, Health, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will be the main learning areas for focus in our topic. In ICT students will work together to explore visual language and creating a short film. The students will be building on prior knowledge and skills developed during Terms 1 and 2 about how ideas connect, revisiting thinking and creating skills and how to process and organise information.

Student Led Conferences (SLCs) in Week 5 will give students the opportunity to lead the discussion about their individual learning goals. Progress with these will be reviewed and if appropriate new learning steps decided upon.

### **Key Competencies and Enterprising Attributes**

This term the primary focus is on 'Thinking' and 'Relating to Others'. However, all five key competencies along with the Enterprising Attributes work together to shape our interactions and the way we learn.

When students use creative ideas and processes they will be looking ahead to identify, solve and avoid problems. When working with others or in a team, they may find they have to negotiate or influence others before reaching an agreement. Through different learning activities students will realise that every decision they make will have an impact – so it is best to consider the needs of others and encourage and listen to all viewpoints.

For more information on the key competencies, visit:

<http://www.teamup.co.nz/AllAges/Curriculum/SchoolCurriculum.aspx>.

### **Mathematics**

This term we are continuing to learn strategies that help us solve Multiplication and Division problems. From Week 6 to Week 8, our maths focus will be a statistical investigation. For the last couple of weeks of the term we will be learning about Fractions (proportions and ratios). From the SLC's you will be aware of the stage that your child is at in numeracy. If you would like information on how to help your child develop the knowledge and strategies for their stage, please visit:

<http://www.nzmaths.co.nz/families/index.aspx>. At SLC's this term, students will be sharing their knowledge and progress they have made on their strategy understanding.

### **English**

The students remain in literacy groups for reading and writing based upon their learning needs.

We will be learning about narrative and fairy tales. The students will be learning about the features of a fairy tale. We will be analysing characters and their qualities. We will be making links in Literacy to our topic learning and film making by learning about sequencing and story boarding.

### **Writing**

For the first three weeks of this term we will be recount writing. This falls under the umbrella of Poetic Writing. We will be collecting a second writing sample so that we can compare this to your child's first writing sample collected in Term 1. We will be placing special emphasis on language features, sentence structures and spelling. We will be using the AsTTLe indicators for writing to determine your child's learning and progress. Your child will be sharing this information with you at their Student Led Conference in Week 5 of this term. This writing collection and analysis also forms part of our teacher professional learning this year. If you would like to know more about the AsTTLe tool, please go to: [http://www.tki.org.nz/r/asttle/index\\_e.php](http://www.tki.org.nz/r/asttle/index_e.php).

In the second part of the term we will be focusing on Transactional Writing. This includes writing procedures, instructions and script writing.

### **Reading**

The students will be strengthening comprehension reading strategies and processes through guided and shared reading. We will be looking at making and inferring meaning. We value the importance of being "read to" so this is also a regular part of our school week. Many of you already read to your child at home, if not, please try and find some time. We will also be analysing lots of different fairy tales. You may have some at home?

### **Oral Language**

Students will have a chance this term to explore plays, write scripts and present them in preparation for their film making. They will also be learning about how to share and express opinions and feelings during Circle Time.

To find out more about learning progressions in literacy you may want to visit:

<http://www.literacyprogressions.org.nz/>. The literacy learning progressions provide teachers with a professional tool that shows what knowledge and skills their students need in order to engage with text and meet the reading and writing demands of the New Zealand Curriculum.

## **PE and Health**

In Health, 'Circle Time' provides a useful forum for the class to share ideas and feelings that may arise from working together cooperatively. Discussions will help each child build on having a positive attitude and showing responsible behaviour towards others. We will be focused on two strands of the Health Curriculum this Term - *Relationships with Other People* and *Movement Concepts and Motor Skills*. Learning objectives include identifying and demonstrating ways of maintaining and enhancing relationships between individuals and within groups and the practice of movement skills to experience the pleasure of physical activity and understand how they move about and care for themselves, manage competition, and make informed choices about play, recreation and work.

Remember, too, that you will have an opportunity to provide input into the priorities for the school's Health Programme at the Parent Evening on Thursday 23 July.

## **Topic**

The students will be learning about roles and responsibilities when working in groups. They will be exploring how effective groups work together and they will learn to listen, compromise, negotiate and 'bounce back'. These skills also fit nicely with the Key Competency of Participating and Contributing.

Students will be learning about different camera shots and the processes involved in making a short film. Students will be working in mixed groups of 5 across different areas with which they will have to create a short piece of film focused on a traditional fairytale. Each group from Yr 4-6 will be focusing on a different film genre and groups from Yr 1-3 will focus on creating a new ending for a traditional fairytale.

All students will have the chance to embrace leadership roles in lots of different group situations and work with different people.

## **The Arts:**

### **Music**

The term's focus is 'communicating through music'. Nicole will continue to work with students, building on the skills they have begun to develop with playing instruments. The focus for the term is the traditional tale "Peter and the Wolf".

### **Drama**

Much of this term's Drama will be incorporated into our Topic and Literacy Learning.

### **Visual Art**

Following on from Visual Art in Term 2, students will design covers for their movies and represent characters through abstract art and different colours and techniques that show various moods. We will also be exploring the works of Wassily Kandinsky who showed relationships between music and art.

## **Student Led Conferences**

This special time has come around again. Your child will be sharing their learning and progress with you so make sure to book in a time and keep talking to them about their goals and learning.

## **Dates to Diary**

Artsplash	Week 10 -14 August
SLC	Week 17 - 21 August
Eastern Zones	Soccer - Wednesday 5 August (postponement date 12 August)
	Hockey - Wednesday 26 August (postponement date 2 September).

## **Would you like to help us out?**

Thank you to all those parents who helped us in many different ways last term.

This term we need parents who could help by:

- Putting away Readers and Journals in our Autahi cupboard.
- Reading with individual children or small groups.

If you have any expertise or skills in the filming industry we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for your continuing support.

*Suzanne and Hamish*

