

Māori & ESOL

CURRICULUM UPDATE

December 2017

Māori Language Week

In Term 3 Week 8 (11-15 September) we celebrated Māori Language week as a minor focus. Buddy classes got together and shared Māori games and activities. The emphasis on using correct Māori pronunciation and introducing common Māori phrases in the classroom was encouraged. The focus for the week was having Te Reo spoken as a natural part of our everyday programme and as often as possible. With this in place the intention is to increase the frequency of using Māori commands and questions in all classrooms throughout the year.

Parent Hui

We held our annual hui in Term 1, which was a great chance for us to connect with our Māori families, to discuss what the school is currently doing well to support the teaching and learning of Māori students and what we can do to improve. We also had a Pasifika family evening in Term 3 and as a result, we have some of our parents starting up a Pasifika dance group. Please keep an eye out for the dates for these events in 2018, as we would love to get more families involved.



Kapa Haka Groups

The Seniors have 35 children in the Kapa Haka Tuakana group this year and are supported by Jennie Stewart and Laura Bateman. They have been working hard and were involved in a very successful performance at the annual Onepoto Festival. The children have also been performing the haka and the introduction during the National Anthem at regular school assemblies this year and assisting with singing songs at our school pōwhiris to welcome new visitors to our school.

The Middles Kapa Haka Teina have 30 members and are led by Barbara Sheppard and Catherine Sands. They have enjoyed learning new songs, dances and poi skills, and have performed successfully at assemblies. A special thank you to Kelly-Marie Watts for helping at our practices this year and Kim Pharo for organising the children's performing costumes.



Some pictures



Māori Teaching & Learning

Junior Syndicate

The Juniors have explored many different topics in Te Reo this year including Calendar information (days of the week and numbers), greeting people (introducing themselves and their family, sharing how they are feeling), as well as learning the names for body parts, actions, shapes, animals and food. They start every day with a karakia and waiata which helps to bring Māori culture into the centre of our learning. The children have engaged in fun games, videos, and music to support their learning, and completed a range of different follow-up activities to celebrate their progress.



Middle Syndicate

The Middles have focused on including Māori a lot more as part of their everyday language in the classroom, using simple commands, numbers, days of the week and months of the year. In connection with their classroom topics, they have also learned about their bodies, the weather, food, location of places in New Zealand, and how to form and use simple questions and sentences. They created Māori creatures in art, looking at different Māori designs and patterns and their meanings, as well as looking at different Māori myths and legends



Senior Syndicate

As part of our unit 'Te Marae', the students in the Senior Syndicate were fortunate to visit the Awataha Marae in Term 4. They had an opportunity to participate in lots of different activities such as a welcoming powhiri ceremony, haka, weaving harakeke, tī rākau, saying their pepeha and tasting traditional Māori bread. Lots of fun was had by all. We have also explored units around Kai (linked to the food festival) and Māori cloaks/poetry (linked with an art unit). Basic commands, the date and greetings are also incorporated into our daily classroom life.

The ESOL Programme



The ESOL programme includes 91 English Language Learners (ELLs) and 2 International students (Chinese). There are 5 reception level groups and 7 topic based groups.

The **Reception groups** participate in fun activities to learn about phonics, handwriting and English grammar. The **topic group** lessons are linked to the specific topics that their classes are learning about. This extra class helps them to keep up with the related vocabulary and concepts so that they can participate effectively in classroom lessons.



It has been wonderful to see parent assistance this term with L1 translation for the "How We Use The Sea" Middles topic. We now have the topic words in Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Kurdish, Cambodian, Japanese and Tongan.

The Ministry of Education conducted a verification visit in Term 4, and commented on the excellent first language support provided to the students. We were proud to show them the bilingual writing in many students' books.



School Pōwhiri

We have special pōwhiri to welcome visitors to our school. Different members of staff take on various roles. The Kapa Haka group perform a waiata and the whole school sings a song. Visitors have a chance to introduce themselves by saying their pepeha and then they have a hongi with the members of staff at the front. We are enjoying learning more about the Māori protocols.

International Language weeks

We have celebrated several of the international language weeks in our classes by using basic phrases and encouraging children to be the 'experts'. Some children dressed up in their traditional costumes for Tongan and Chinese Language weeks.



The ESOL Programme Continued ...

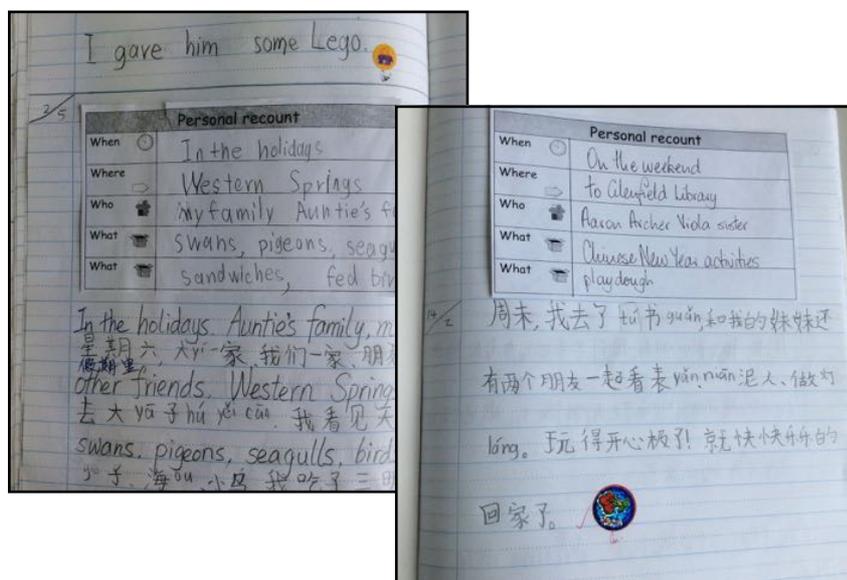
Emphasis is still on oral language in 2017. The importance of this cannot be stressed enough, for oral language competence is a prerequisite for classroom learning. We use ethnic buddies to help our ELLs with little English (someone who is able to communicate with them in their first language and help them to understand basic English). Maintaining first language and talking to their child about their learning is a good start for every parent of our ELLs. The Ministry of Education has just released a parent booklet.



For the ELLs with very little English, their parents have been encouraged to email a photo from a weekend activity that we can use to provide vocabulary for a recount. This enables the student to share their news, even if they do not have the words in English, and stimulates

lots of oral language. It has worked very well with Reception level ELLS.

A final note is to mention the ESOL blog on the school website. Student work is shared here, and it would be very rewarding for the students to have a comment left on their post. It is possible to translate the blog into many languages, so overseas family members can also view it and make comments.



International Food Festival

This year our food festival was bigger than ever. With a last minute change of date due to rain, the sun did end up shining in Term 1, Week 7 and we had an amazing evening. There was a huge variety of food, fantastic fundraising events and performances by the children. It is always a great way to spend a Friday evening with family and friends and support our school fundraising efforts. We really do value all the school community help we receive that makes this event so successful. It is also a great way to acknowledge the diversity of cultures within our school community. This event will be happening again in March 2018, so please let us know if you are able to assist in any way.

