**Pohutukawa News Term 3 2023**



Kia ora and welcome to Term 3!

It was great to have the opportunity to meet with you last term to share and discuss your child’s learning. As always, it was wonderful to see the children share their work with their families, confidently explaining what they had learnt and what their next learning steps are. We look forward to sharing more examples of their learning with you this term.

We have started this term with a continuation of our focus on creating bulletin boards linked to our inquiry learning about the Ngā Ūranga ki Pito-One cycleway. The children are busy publishing and completing their boards ready to put on display in their classrooms. They have impressed us with the depth of their thinking around this topic and the challenge to think from the perspective of one of the groups involved in this project.

**Curriculum**

We continue to explore the universal concept of ‘Power’ through the big ideas of:

* Power can be positive or negative
* Power comes in many forms
* Power is the ability to influence
* Power can be seen and unseen

Our inquiry focus for this term will see the children enjoy hands-on experiments related to understanding forces and energy. They will practise the scientific skills of critiquing evidence,

to evaluate the trustworthiness of data, making observations, collecting data, and drawing conclusions based on the results of their experiments. Alongside this, the children will be encouraged to think and act like a scientist by being curious and asking questions.

This will be linked to our literacy programme where the children will be learning how to find, evaluate and use information from texts and scientific experiments to help them communicate in writing their growing knowledge about forces and energy.

For Religious Education our focus will be on the Communion of Saints, learning about how Mary was a model of faith and the first disciple of Jesus. They will also be learning to identify the qualities and values that helped make Mary and the other Saints become holy people, of mana, and recognise how we can develop and live these qualities and values.

Our Arts programme for this term will be concentrated on exploring our universal concept of ‘power’ through visual art. The children will have the opportunity to develop their practical knowledge of the effective use of contrast. They will experiment with colour, shape, and texture, developing a portfolio of work for sharing with their families.

Digital technology this term sees the children continuing to work through their lessons on coding using the Code Avengers platform. Later in the term, they will put their coding skills into practice by programming simple instructions for a robot to follow.

We have begun our Physical Education programme with an emphasis on games that involve striking and fielding. Students will have the opportunity to develop the range and quality of their skills while learning how to play different roles within a game. Later in the term we will be building the children’s athletic skills to help prepare them for our school athletics in Term 4.

**Reminders**

Children who bring a mobile phone or other items for safe keeping to school are required to put them in the minding box as soon as they arrive at school. This box is located in Room 14.

Children in our area take part in a daily physical activity programme, so your child will need to bring to school the correct school sports uniform including appropriate footwear every day.

The partnership between home and school is critical to the success of our learning community and the quality of learning experiences. If you need to communicate with your child’s classroom teacher, please contact the School Office.

Ngā mihi,

Sinéad Senek, Hugh Watson, Sarah Gilmour, Janine O’Styke

**Pohutukawa Area Teachers**