

CENTRAL NORMAL SCHOOL

TE KURA TUATAHI O PAPAIOEA

Term 1 Week 4

Whaia Kia Tutuki ~ Strive to your Potential

27 February 2020

Tēnā Koutou katoa, Ni Hao, Bula Vinaka

We love celebrating the success of our students. This week we learned that three of our students made the Manawatū Reps for softball! Congratulations to Hinematariki (Ako. 15) and Te Maiaorere (Ako. 16) for making the Under 11 Reps and to Tayte (Ako. 4) for making the Under 13 Reps. Also, congratulations to Tayte for being awarded Best and Fairest Player - tumeke!

Changing our thinking about Mathematics/Pāngarau

Mathematics/Pāngarau is one of our teachers key areas of professional learning and development this year. We are again working with renowned facilitator, Dinah Harvey, who is incredibly skilled and knowledgeable about the best evidence and research of how to teach mathematics.

For many of us, when we went to school, the best mathematician was the person who was the fastest to get the right answer. This led to many of us feeling unsuccessful in maths because we were not as fast as our peers.

What we now know is that speed recall of basic facts, while still important, is only a small part of the richness of maths. Professor of Mathematics Education, Jo Boaler, from Stanford Graduate School of Education states that, *"Maths facts by themselves are a small part of mathematics, and they are best learned through the use of numbers in different ways and situations. Unfortunately, many classrooms focus on math facts in isolation, giving students the impression that math facts are the essence of mathematics, or even worse, that mastering the fast recall of math facts is what it means to be a mathematics student. Both of these ideas are wrong."*

Instead, and what we are focusing on, is the shift towards **understanding** the properties of numbers, being able to think **flexibly** and apply **strategies** to solve problems. For example, knowing $6 \times 7 = 42$ quickly is next to useless, if I can't **see** what 42 looks like - that I can't picture an **image** of 42 in my head. If I can't make a picture of 42, then I won't be able to see 42 as double 21 or half of 84 or that 42 is 6 weeks. While we do still need to know basic facts and be able to recall them, we also need to understand the **why** and **how** of what they mean.

Another important thing for us to remember is that 'basic facts' is not just division and multiplication facts. 'Basic facts' include reading and writing numbers, doubles and halves, patterns to five and ten, just to name a few!

Basic facts is an essential **part** of our maths programmes, alongside rich, deep application and problem solving situations.

Community Picnic

A reminder that we will host our annual Community Picnic on Tuesday 3 March from 5.30pm - 7.00pm. The pool will be open (for CNS children) and a sausage sizzle will be available - \$2 each. There will also be games/activities on the field. Come along to school with some kai and enjoy the evening with other whānau and our staff.

Book Sale

Next Wednesday and Thursday we will be having a Book Sale of our deleted library books. The Book Sale will operate from the School Office before and after school. Fill a bag with books for \$2 or fill a box with books for \$5. All proceeds will go directly to purchasing new books for our library.

www.centralnormal.school.nz



Olivia (Ako.5) with the fish aquarium she made for her class.

Community Picnic - Tuesday 3 March 5.30pm

Permission Forms

We are nearly there! We almost have every child with their permissions completed. Every year, we seek your permission for a number of aspects, which either support your child's learning, or will allow us to make decisions in the best interests and safety of your child. By completing the form, you are providing consent for your child with the described indicators.

This year, we have made the process of completing the permissions form much easier! Rather than sending back paper forms, you can now complete the form digitally either on your phone, tablet or computer. You can either scan the QR code (to the right) or go to this address: <https://tinyurl.com/trmug2g>



If you have any questions about this form, or need support to complete it, please do not hesitate to contact either Matua Regan, Whaea Elly, Miss Brett or Mrs Howard. **Please Note:** A separate form will need to be completed for each child in your whānau.

Vandalism

Over the weekend we were targeted by a couple of groups who vandalised our school, which is incredibly disheartening and frustrating. We know we have amazing community and whanau support and ask for your awhi. If you are ever going past in the weekend or week night and you see something that isn't right, please call the police. Your support is much appreciated.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees held their first meeting for the year on Tuesday night. The first meeting of the year always begins with the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair. Your Board of Trustees are: Blair Petersen (Chairperson), Felicity Robinson (Deputy Chairperson), David Tomlinson, Belinda Southcombe, Cara Takitimu, Rachael Timutimu, Mikala Crawford (Staff Trustee) and Regan Orr (Principal).

Swimming

It has been terrific to have the pool open during these hot days. A reminder - children are to only wear **togs** in the pool. We are noticing many students wearing heavy material shorts or cotton shorts, where the lint clogs the pool filters and the material is not helpful for their swimming. Please ensure your child has appropriate swimwear - thank you.

Triathlon

Next Thursday 5 March, we will be holding our school triathlon. Times for the races are: Year 5/6: 9.10am, Year 3/4: 9.50am, Year 1/2: 10.30am. On the day, it would be easier if children came dressed with their togs underneath their clothes and PLEASE apply sunblock to your child before school.

This will be the last newsletter to be printed and sent home. From next week, the newsletter will be available in three places: our school website, our Facebook page and Seesaw.

www.centralnormal.school.nz



Top: Ko Wai Au? Pepeha
Akomanga 16

Bottom: Maths Numbers - more than
just basic facts
Akomanga 8

