

MRS WHITE:

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SETTING NEW EXPECTATIONS:

Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents with high expectations.

The holidays are fast approaching and another term is ending. All of the students have worked very hard this term and are slowly beginning to realise that it won't be long before they will no longer be Year 3 students.

At the beginning of the year I discussed with the class the reality that in a school year they really only get three terms at a year level because in the fourth term the teacher will be preparing them for the next year level they will be moving to.

So in term four, the level and standard of work expected of the students in Kahikatea will be that of beginning year 4 students. This is to prepare these students for what they will be faced with at the beginning of next year. These students need to have some understanding of what is ahead of them when they return to school after the big holiday at the Christmas break. Otherwise it is a huge shock to students when they suddenly are faced with huge expectations at the next year level and are not prepared for it.

In order for all students to make the most of their learning in term four we will be working on ways to encourage a Growth Mindset in all students.

Ways to encourage a Growth Mindset are::

Embrace challenge. Whenever a student faces a challenge or gets stuck, frame it as an opportunity for learning.

Ensure an appropriate level of difficulty because making learning too easy leads to a false sense of mastery.

Invite confusion when introducing new ideas and strategies. Be confident that everyone can master new ideas and strategies with effort and support.

Value mistakes. Normalise mistakes as a part of learning and emphasise that everyone makes them. I will continue to make my own mistakes visible to the students.

Let students struggle! Praise the struggle, perhaps by saying "Your brain is learning right now, can you feel it?" Allow them to develop resilience and problem-solving skills.

Expect and value effort. Praise them when they persevere, work hard, try different strategies and challenge themselves. Value practice, not perfection.

Encourage students to diversify their strategies when they get stuck. Coach students on the need to change strategies or ask for advice from others to improve strategies for learning when existing strategies have not been successful.

Emphasise reflection as a key part of the process of learning from mistakes. Help students to identify and focus on areas for improvement.

Praise processes, such as challenge-seeking, focus, strategy use, hard work and persistence.

Value 'having-a-go'. Make opportunities for students to try new things in a fun, low-stress way, and highlight the progress made through effort and practice.

People with Growth mindsets

- promote academic resilience
- increase students' willingness to take on challenges
- maintain student motivation and increase persistence
- promote problem-solving and self-regulation of learning
- counteract the negative effects of stereotypes (for example, that girls are poor at science)

CALENDAR ART:

A huge THANK YOU to those families that sent their order forms in on time for you to purchase calendars, diaries, cards, sketch pads or mouse pads. The students worked hard on their Whio pictures during our Squawk Squad journey and these will look fabulous on the items that you have purchased. All orders have now been sent away and can take up to five weeks before we receive the products.

AGRICULTURAL DAY:

The first Saturday back in term four is Agricultural Day (19th October). If your child is growing a garden for a Rural Assignment their garden should be planted by now and their diary should be well on it's way with pictures and graphs, information about companion plants, watering, common and botanical names of the plants and how the planting was done. Lambs, goats and calves should be well practised in leading but if not the holidays are a great time to spend extra time with your animal to do more training. Remember that Rural Assignments are due in on Friday the 18th by 9.00am with the diary.

HOME LEARNING:

In the first week of term 4 the students will only have spelling for their home learning as they will be preparing for Ag Day at the end of the first week back at school. After that the home learning for term 4 will continue as it has been for term 3.

HOLIDAYS:

There is often lots of pressure on parents during the holidays to constantly go places and do things with their children that cost a lot of money. As we (hopefully) move from the winter and into spring it would be nice to be able to spend the holidays with your children without having to spend money every day. Here is a list of some fun activities that won't cost a lot but the children can still have fun.

HOLIDAY FUN ACTIVITIES:

1. **DIY slip 'n' slide**
2. **Hold your own Lego building competition**
3. **DIY Science experiments**
4. **Organise a bug hunt in the backyard**
5. **Enjoy a movie marathon (for wet days)**
6. **Turn the dining table into a cubby house**
7. **Make kites**
8. **Play board games**
9. **Go for a picnic in a park**
10. **Go to the Botanical Gardens**
11. **Have a craft day**
12. **Go fishing off a wharf**
13. **Create a show and perform it when mum/dad gets home**
14. **Set up camp in the backyard - go camping**
15. **Make handmade cards for birthdays or special occasions**
16. **Make potato stamps**



Enjoy your holidays!