



It's incredible to think that we are halfway through the first term of the year. I hope we are all settled into the new school year and back into the familiar routine. As I walk around our school it is amazing to see our school as a hive of activity with so many cool learning experiences being undertaken.

Our 'Special Places' focus is progressing really well in all our classes. Our children are making connections with their learning through inquiring into what makes places dear to us so special and what it is about our own school that is so special. We have some amazing trips to a range of special places coming up so be sure to look out for more information in the coming weeks. This week we have also begun again our kapa haka journey from last year with weekly Thursday whole school practices to further offer incredible learning experiences for our tamariki. And we are really excited that today was our first Whaanau Friday session with a whole new selection of activities that our children have chosen from. Whaanau Friday is a really great opportunity for our community to come to our school and be part of the learning in a really fun way. If you are free from 1:30pm on a Friday pop over to school to find out more.

A big thank you from the school to all who attended the PTA meeting this week. It was so awesome to see so many new people come along to get involved with our fantastic PTA this year. We have already had great fundraising opportunities this term with our Splash Mania and Swimming Sports and we are really looking forward to more. Please be sure to check out the coming events section at the back of this newsletter and also our website for the amazing trips and events we have coming up. Great mahi tahi everyone!

CELEBRATING SUCCESS:



Well done to our Wk6 **Reach for the Stars** achievers

Enya - Perseverance
Cooper - Attitude
Regan - Attitude, Kindness & Empathy
Amber - Kindness, Empathy and Contributing
Aaisha - Connecting and Confidence
Indy - Principals award for Confidence

FROM THE CLASSES:

THE LIGHT HOUSE Room 4: Kia Ora.

Congratulations to the students in the Lighthouse who participated in the Districts swimming sports on Wednesday. Throughout the week we have continued to focus on the "quota" of work that needs to be completed. It is great to see some focused students completing their work before 9am and wanting to be successful. As a class we are working on our Te Reo which we are enjoying as we become more confident. Most students are learning their pepeha

DISTRICT SWIMMING RESULTS

Molly Daines – 1st

Girls 11+over 100m Free

Girls 11yrs 66m Back

Molly Daines – 2nd

Girls 8+over 133m IM

Girls 11+over 100m Back

Girls 11+over 33m Butterfly

Girls 11yrs 66m Free

Molly Daines – 3rd

Girls 11+over 100m Breast

Girls 11yrs 66m Breast

Breanna Darby – 1st

Girls 8-9 33m Breast

Girls 8-9 33m Free

Breanna Darby – 3rd

Girls 8-9 33m Back

Charley Robertson – 2nd

Girls 8-9 66m Free

Charley Robertson – 3rd

Girls 8-9 33m Back

Kacey Collins – 2nd

Girls 11yrs 33m Back

Girls 11yrs 66m Breast

Jenna Leggett – 2nd

Girls 11yrs 33m Breast

Lucy Spice – 3rd

Girls 12+over 33m Breast

Daniel Watkins – 1st

Boys 12+over 33m Breast

CONGRATULATIONS

Ben Morris – 2nd

Boys 11yrs 66m Breast

Emma Richards – 2nd

Girls 10yrs 66m Back

Charley Wahanui – 2nd

Boys 11yrs 66m Free

Ashton Carter – 3rd Boys 12+over 66m Free

Children that placed first or second in their event will be invited to represent Te Aroha at the Thames Valley Swimming Champs in Thames on **18th March.**



and completing art work to go beside this. Another good week from the "Lighthouse". We look forward to further learning in Week 7.

NGĀ KEA, Room 5: Kia ora, This week was an exciting week with district swimming and planning the next steps to our Ngā kea gardens, we discussed and decided to make a model sized mount Te Aroha to fit with our special places theme and have been trying to decide what we should put in the garden to grow. We made a brain storm and are researching all the ideas that our whole class thought of, we can't wait to get started! We strolled over to STEAM on Tuesday and learnt some more about what a computer is and how it works. We are all trying to remember our shoes - Tuesday is shoes day! -by Cooper Bell, Breanna, and Rafferty

THE WORKSHOP Room 3: Kia ora whanau! My gosh it has been a hectic week for everyone in The Workshop. Our routines and expectations are now in place and becoming well embedded in our workshop culture. The beautiful pepeha artwork is up on the wall and looks lovely - thank you Mrs Wood! Our special places learning is coming along nicely, and next week we will begin relating it to our pepeha and link it in with the uses and history of the Waihou River. I can't wait! Our basic facts knowledge is speed is improving rapidly. Some of the children are working hard to develop their counting on and back strategies, while others are trying to cement the more advanced multiplication and division knowledge. I hope you all have a mihaioa weekend and GO CHIEFS!

THE GLOW WORM CAVE, ROOM 6: Whew! It took us a very long time, but the Glowworms have almost finished making our 'glowworm cave' (which is our special, creative classroom rules chart)! It was great to see everybody making their own unique glowworm, and working as a team to come up with our classroom rules and decorate our 'cave' with stalactites and stalagmites. It will be up on our classroom wall next week, so please feel free to pay us a visit and take a look at our awesome work. (Great mahi tahi, Glowworms!) We have been learning a bit more about the amazing rocks (stalactites and stalagmites) that grow in caves and did a fun science experiment to grow our own stalactites and stalagmites using salt and water. Then we wrote our 'predictions' on what is going to happen. We'll have to wait for a bit longer for our stalactites and stalagmites to grow, but we are all very excited to find out what is really going to happen!

STEAM HQ: Mrs Simmonds and I had the pleasure of taking Lucy, Zeke, Amber, Daniel and Vanessa to the Waikato Literacy Association's STEAM workshop last Friday. We participated in some great hands-on activities and learnt how lucky we are to have a whole room dedicated to STEAM! Most schools are just beginning to create STEAM spaces in their library corners. This week students continued to ASK and GET CURIOUS as they took apart laptops, created photo Venn diagrams and pieced together the history of computers. Next week, we will finish off our ASK phase, before moving into EXPLORE- exploring the key thinking and mathematics skills of coding: decomposition, sequencing, pattern recognition, problem-solving

WELCOME:

This week we welcome Alex and his mum Bobby to our school. We know you will enjoy your learning journey with us.

THANK YOU:

We have been very fortunate this week. Firstly, thank you to Georgia Bell for donating her dolly furniture to our school, we know the children in Room 1 will really enjoy playing with it.

Secondly **A HUGE THANK YOU** to Matt Harris from Cullen Engineering for making us a fantastic mobile tennis net. Your generosity is very much appreciated by everyone. Thank you again you are a STAR!



NOTICES:

CARPARK: A reminder that our top priority is to keep children safe. Parents are asked to park in the carpark by the courts or across the road at the Elstow hall and to collect your child from the bus shelter gate. As we have a great many young children we ask the parents of older children not to come till 3:10-3:15 to help ease congestion. Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY: There is a large white cupboard on the Deck outside The Lighthouse, Room 4. Please feel free to check it anytime. There is quite a lot in there!!

PTA UNIFORM: The PTA are no longer running the Uniform Shop so will be closing their Uniform Account. If you have 031573-0009517-01 saved please delete it. All money for uniforms is to be paid to the school account 031573-0013372-00. Thank you.

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Te Aroha Junior Rugby: Ages 6yrs & above. Registration and first training starts on Tues 12th @ Boyd Park 3.30-4.30. Fees \$60. Existing players check your emails for your 2019 registration form, new players please follow this link. <https://www.sporty.co.nz/tearohajuniorrugby>. Season starts on 6th Apr, last game 6th July. Please ph: Andrew Gemmell 0274866233.

	DATES TO REMEMBER
18th	Thames Valley Swimming
20th	Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30 in the Endeavour All Welcome
22nd	Grandparents Morning 10:30-12:30 Trithalon 1:30-3:00
Apr 2nd&3rd	Parent teacher Interviews
Regards	Sandy, Wendy, Lydia, Darren, Ara, Rachel B, Laura, Lynda, Sarah, Hayley, Rachel S, Gordon, Aroha and Jocelyn