

# Welcome to the Senior Syndicate – Term 1, 2013!

We are very pleased to welcome you to 2013 with the senior syndicate. We hope you all had a relaxing, enjoyable holiday and are ready for an exciting year of challenges and learning.

We aim to shoot for the stars! ☆

## Senior Syndicate 2013:

### Year 6

Nikki Maclarn - M/T/W/Th R 9  
(Senior Syndicate Leader)

Lee Bartlett - Fri R 9

### Year 5 & 6

Heather Walsh – M/T/W/F R 13

Jenny Ellis – Thurs R 13

### Year 5 & 6

Graham Cox R 17

### Year 4 & 5

Claire Cheeseman R 10

### Year 4 & 5

Jonathan Davidson R 12

## Inquiry:

This term we are starting the year with a 6 week block aimed at getting to know our students well. This will include all the usual start-of-year routines and expectations as well as some testing to enable us to group children and teach to their needs. It will also include a unit of study on 'Community', aiming to ensure that children understand what a community is, that they belong to several and that they have influence within them.

For the remainder of the year Inquiry will run from half way through one term until half way through the next term. The aim of this is to be able to successfully run 'pure' Inquiries, whereby the children lead their own learning and follow their areas of interest. The holiday block half way through will enable teachers to effectively plan and resource the varied interests and pathways the children will be following. As a result, child engagement and learning will be optimal – listen out for some excited discussions with your child as they talk about the learning they are undertaking!

## Numeracy:

This term the senior teachers will not be cross grouping for math, but will be teaching their own class. We are having a math review across the school and have some fabulous Professional Development opportunities with the help of a Numeracy Project specialist who will be working with the teachers in the school every Tuesday.

## Writing:

In writing this term the children will be writing Persuasive Arguments. This learning can be reinforced at home by asking your child to talk about the types of language features and vocabulary associated with Persuasive writing and by



encouraging them to 'persuade' you when they wish to make special requests etc.

## Home Learning:

Home Learning during 2012 was deemed to be a great success from parents, teachers and children alike! We will continue using this motivational style of learning which encourages the development of a variety of different skills. This term we have a fun-filled activity sheet based around our 'Community' unit and our first Inquiry coming up in week 7 – 'Feed the World'.

## Fitness and PE:

Fitness this term is Cross Country training and this takes place first thing each morning except Friday – please ensure your child is punctual to avoid missing this important daily activity and remembers to wear appropriate clothing.

PE is swimming and children are expected to bring their togs on their swim days, or a note of explanation if not swimming. Senior Syndicate sport is on Friday afternoons and includes a rotation of summer sports.

## General Reminders:

The School Library is open and ready for business, please help to ensure your child remembers to return their books on their scheduled library day.

During Term 1 children are required to wear hats in the playground. Plenty of water needs to be drunk in order for children to learn optimally, so remember drink bottles and don't forget about those litter-less lunches too.

## Questions & Queries:

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your child's teacher first. Email is a great way to do this - we can answer questions and set up appointment times. If you remain concerned after you have spoken to the teacher, you may request to see Nikki. Email addresses are provided below.

We have an open door policy and encourage parents to participate in their child's education.

*We look forward to working with you ☺*

[nikkim@laingholm.school.nz](mailto:nikkim@laingholm.school.nz)

[clairec@laingholm.school.nz](mailto:clairec@laingholm.school.nz)

[jonathand@laingholm.school.nz](mailto:jonathand@laingholm.school.nz)

[heatherw@laingholm.school.nz](mailto:heatherw@laingholm.school.nz)

[grahamc@laingholm.school.nz](mailto:grahamc@laingholm.school.nz)