



PARNELL
DISTRICT SCHOOL

Newsletter 5, 5th May

Kia Ora Whanau,

As we begin term two, we welcome our new Deputy Principal, Kathryn Whelan. Kathryn has been busy in her first week getting to know lots of students and teachers and has loved getting to meet many of you on the crossing. Kathryn assumes the role of Deputy Principal Student Support, so she will continue the work Felicity Gamby has been doing in supporting all our learners for success.

There has been a lot of information in the media recently around the achievement of New Zealand children in Math as it compares to our counterparts around the world. The information in the media suggests that we have a nationwide problem in our children's achievement in Math, leading to our slipping placement. I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know about Math at Parnell District School and share key information about how math is taught in our classes, how we assess our children's ability in math, and what the results we achieve tell us about our children's progress. Key take-outs for all parents are

- Our programme is individualized to children's needs, based on the highly structured Learning Progression Framework and PaCT tool
- Formal testing and ongoing assessment collection ensure we know how children achieve and progress over time
- Our children are achieving highly compared to age expectations and New Zealand standardized achievement expectations
- Our children are predominantly progressing at faster than expected rates through the deliberate teaching by our staff

How is Math taught?

We hear a lot from parents that the style of math teaching we use today is different from the experiences they've had when learning math themselves. Certainly this can be the case, but when we look at how we teach math, but the key mathematical skills remain the same. The overarching guide for what children need to learn in math comes from the New Zealand Curriculum, which lets us know what skills and knowledge children should be learning as they progress through school. Our school uses another tool developed by the Ministry of Education called the Learning Progression Framework to understand at a more granular level how our children's thinking progresses over time and ensure the entire breadth of the curriculum is taught at all levels. In class, teachers work to help children learn the facts they need, along with developing a deep conceptual understanding of how they can work with numbers to solve problems. This teaching may include group work, whole classwork, and independent activities. This also means you can find examples of our children's mathematical thinking in the conversations they have with their classmates, in their math books, and in the online tools we use at math time.

How do we assess children's ability in Math

Truly understanding a child's ability in math is a complex process. While tests give us a snapshot of what a child can do, they do not give us a good understanding of how they understand the rich, complex concepts that underpin math or the ability to apply mathematical skills across the curriculum. We use two key methods to understand our children's abilities, the first being standardized New Zealand wide testing and the other being the ongoing collection of data against the Learning Progression Framework. We feel both are important. We must know that our children can present their learning in a test situation, as this will be required of them throughout their schooling.

PAT tests give us standardized information gathered through tests conducted twice a year. The information we gather indicates student's current level of achievement. This achievement data lets us know how individuals achieve as it relates to New Zealand expectations for each year level. PAT tests start from year three.

We use **the Learning Progression Framework (LPF)** to give more detailed information about every child's individual achievement and progress. This tool synthesizes the data teachers collect over six months of observing children, gathering evidence from work samples, teacher workshops, and the evidence of using math across the curriculum. It is this information that means we know exactly what your child can do in math across the whole breadth of the math curriculum and what they need to learn next.

What does assessment tell us about our students' achievement?

The senior leadership team and the Board of Trustees regularly review the school-wide achievement data to understand the impact our programme has on all learners. We look at both rates of achievement, where they are today, and rates of progress, how fast are they moving through the curriculum.

Current achievement data collected through formal PAT testing tells us

- On average, 88% of all children are achieving at or above expected levels in math
- 13% of children are achieving significantly above the expected level
- In year 8, 15% of students are achieving in the top band of achievement, while the national expectation is 4%

Current progress data collected through the ongoing formative assessment against the Learning Progression Framework tells us

- 55% of all students made accelerated progress (progress of 18 months or more over the 2020 academic year)
- 98% of children achieving below expectation made expected progress or better over the 2020 academic year, with 75% of these children achieving accelerated progress (progress of 18 months or more over the 2020 academic year)

If you want to know more about your child's progress in Math, we have progress and achievement reports coming home in week 8 for children in year 4-8 (and some year 0-3 students) and parent conferences in week nine where you will hear more. If you'd like to know more about our reporting and how to understand what they tell you about your child's progress, look out for information about our upcoming parent sessions in week 7.

Community Support!

If you or your friends are passing by Rosies, you'll notice the amazing Jam's and Chutney's made by one of our parents to support the work of our PTA. Support our PTA and get some delicious treats!

Important Dates: Term Two

03/05	Term 2- Inquiry, Earth Systems Week1
07/05	Assembly Room 26
10/05	Week 2
14/05	Assembly Room 16
17/05	Week 3
18/05	PTA Meeting
21/05	Assembly Room 6
24/05	Week 4
27/05	Mufti Day and Sausage Sizzle
28/05	Assembly Room 14
31/05	Week 5- Te Ao Maori "Storytelling"
02/06	New Entrant Transition
04/06	Whanau Day
07/06	Queen's Birthday Observed
08/06	Teacher Only Day
09/06	Week 6- New Entrant Mid-term Start
11/06	Assembly Room 28
14/06	Week 7
15/06	PTA Meeting.
16/06	New Parent Breakfast, 'understanding your report' sessions (10:00 am, 5:30 pm)
18/06	Assembly Room 1
21/06	Week 8
23/06	Tainui Bakesale
25/06	Reports out. Assembly Enviro
28/06	Week 9
29/06	Conferences
30/06	Conferences, New Entrant Transition Day
02/07	Assembly ESOL, DISCO
05/07	Week 10
09/07	Assembly Tainui

The Girl on the Bridge - Charity Fundraiser for 'Voices of Hope'



Wednesday 12 May, 6:30pm
Silky Otter Cinemas, Orakei Bay Village
Tickets \$30, includes popcorn (concessions available)
RP16 - Content not suitable for children

To raise awareness of the mental health crisis facing NZ and raise much needed money for the Voices of Hope charity, which campaigns for better services for all New Zealanders, and supports those suffering from mental health issues and their families.

For more information and tickets go to <https://sites.google.com/view/girlonthebridge>
 Any enquiries, email Helen (Mum to Joah & Lucy), helen.bernasconi@gmail.com



A Community of Coaching, Creativity & Care



Hello everyone!

Hope you all had a good break over the school holidays. C4 ran a fun filled holiday programme and kids that attended had a wonderful time! Several of the days were over subscribed so please remember to always book in advance to avoid missing out.

We are still finishing off term one after school classes and you've all been notified when your child's class will end.

The new block of classes will begin on Monday 17th May – week 3.

The schedule is the same as term 1:

Monday – art and yoga

Tuesday – Shine and Brain Play

Wednesday – chess

Friday – Wynrs (soccer)

Please sign up as soon as possible as we need a minimum amount of enrolments for the classes to proceed. The classes held on a Monday & Tuesday will only run for 7 weeks due to Queens Birthday and the Teacher Only Day.

Please get in touch if you have any questions!

Kind regards

Claire

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