

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

As you are all aware, tomorrow, Monday 24 April is a Teacher Only Day (all Franklin primary teachers will be attending the Franklin launch of the refreshed curriculum at the Pukekohe racecourse). With ANZAC day falling on Tuesday that means that the first day back for Term 2 is Wednesday 26 April which is also a Tech Day. **Please ensure students are at school before 8.45 to catch the bus!**

Other notes for Term 2

Wonder Project: Rocket Challenge.

We have been fortunate to be accepted for this STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) programme.

"The Wonder Project is a series of hands-on programmes that seamlessly knit into the New Zealand school curriculum. They're designed to spark wonder and awe in young Kiwis from Year 5–13 and get them excited about a future STEM career."

We have been paired with a STEM professional Andrew Gaul who is a structural engineer. He will be supporting us with this project which we will run at school on 'non-tech' Wednesdays. Please save any 1.5 litre plastic bottles (from carbonated drinks) if you have any as they will form the 'body' of our rockets.

Social Studies: NZ Histories focus for Term 2

This term our focus will be the Culture and Identity aspect - war and responses to war.

We will begin by learning about ANZAC day. As part of this we would love for students to share their family stories. They will be doing a piece of writing (in Week 2) based on the prompt below so **anything you can share with them would be fantastic** (stories and copies of photos or memorabilia etc). We want to have a strong focus on ALL responses so if no-one in your family has ever served that is quite fine. My own children have two great grandfathers who served in North Africa in World War 2 and two great grandfathers that were conscientious objectors in New Zealand and spent the war years 'in camp'. I will be sharing those stories with the class.

Writing Prompt: What does Anzac Day mean to you? Do you have a personal connection with someone who was involved in World War I (a grandparent or great grandparent)? Or know someone or of someone who was involved in another war? Is there someone you know who is in the defence forces now? Have you heard stories about the mateship and bravery of our soldiers? Or do you have another perspective? Write a paragraph (or more) that explains how you feel about Anzac Day and what it means to you and why it is an important day for Australians and New Zealanders.

South Africa also had conscription for a number of years (as some countries still do) so we will also touch on that later in the term.

Some other key dates and events

Tuesday 2 May - Franklin Zone Orienteering (permission form attached for those students who have been selected to represent us - **Max, Oli, Matthew, Luca, Liam, Connor, Flynn, Kaylee, Dana, Delphi, Indy, Sophie, Kiani**) Thursday 11 May - Young Leaders Day - Year 8s (permission form will be coming home for this - no payment required but we will need some parents to help with transport and supervision).

Saturday 13 May - Franklin Multicultural Festival - selected students

Tuesday 16 May - Auckland Writers Festival - selected students (permission form will be coming home for this - no payment required but we will need one parent to help with transport and supervision).

Thursday 18 May - Year 7 & 8 Football

Friday 19 May - Pink Shirt Day

Tuesday 6 June and Thursday 8 June - 3 way conferences

Class speeches will also be this week. (Week 7 - the week after King's Birthday Weekend)

These are just some of the key dates coming up - for a full list please consult the newsletter as usual.

Looking forward to seeing your children on Wednesday!

Kind regards

Lisa Goldsack