



What a whirlwind start we had in term two.

Our worries about children forgetting that we were to begin our intrepid journey to camp on the first day of term were unfounded. By 8:30am we were packed and ready to board Robbie's double decker bus. Robbie (our regular camp bus driver) was in usual good form and welcomed us onto the bus.

As we waved goodbye to civilisation the realisation that there were no phones, iPads, X boxes or computers hit home. Off we went to the country where the air smells clean (well there was a slight fragrance of manure) and the fog rolls in, in the mornings.

Arriving at Totara Springs Camp we were all suitably impressed with the living facilities. Team lists were revealed and students quickly worked together, allocating jobs and supporting each other. There was no time to dawdle as we leapt into the first round of activities.

Education outside the classroom is designed "to enhance self-concept and improve social interaction"* There is no doubt that this was achieved as our confident, adaptable and supportive team members challenged themselves in social and physical activities. They never failed to amaze us with how far they would get out of their comfort zone to achieve.

Even the most experienced of adventurers found opportunities to try something new. The record for the Crate Climb was 21 crates high! This involved a student in a safety harness stacking milk crates on top of each other until the wobbles set in, resulting in the tower crashing to the floor leaving the stacker high and dry, dangling from the ceiling. I was desperate to have a go, but quietly comfortable that there was no time for me!

Climbing, abseiling, sliding (the hydroslide allegedly the longest hot water slide in the southern hemisphere), shooting and team building were just some of the challenges our students faced.

Remember to check our Intermediate website regularly for your child's home learning, news and photos.

<https://sites.google.com/a/kts.school.nz/kts78/>

Totara Springs Camp continued

Arriving home on Friday we were all exhausted and ready for a home cooked meal and some relaxation.

Special thanks to the parents who volunteered their time to support the teachers and students: Jo Wallis, Reis Langlely, Myles Chandler, Ed Overy, Philip Beckmann, Geraldine Austin, Jackie Ng, Julene Overy, Carmel Kolovos and Yogesh Natali. This was an amazing team and their combined talents and nurturing was invaluable.

*Ministry of Education guidelines



Empowering Our Learners

Part of our children's education is learning how to learn. We have been using different strategies to help our children to identify what they already know and what their next learning steps are. Currently every student has a Maths Learning Journey Booklet outlining the stages necessary to be proficient in mathematical knowledge and strategies for their year level. These booklets help teachers and students to plan and assess learning. Next term we will introduce something similar for Reading. Part of your child's learning journey is whanau involvement and every successful learner needs support.

When you are talking to your child about their learning avoid yes and no questions. Use open-ended questions that encourage your child to discuss or explain their work. Listen closely to what they say. Ask them questions like :“Tell me about...”

[illegible]

Science Fair

In science we have been learning about correct scientific procedure and protocol including: conducting a fair test; using evidence to prove hypotheses; and communicating using scientific writing.

Students are now working in class, in science and at home on individual scientific investigations.

The term will conclude with our own science fair in which each student will have designed, conducted and written up independent experiments to answer scientifically, a question of their choosing.

Our students have come up with some intriguing ideas and we look forward to sharing them with our community at the end of the term. A panel of judges, will select students to compete in the 'NIWA Auckland City Technology and Science Fair' in August.

In the past we have had some of our K.T.S students receive placings in this competition and from the calibre of work that we are seeing so far we are anticipating success for Pohutukawa.

Meet our Grad Students

This term we have been hosting two Grad Students in Pohutukawa. Jarna Fiu and Clare Smith are studying teaching at Auckland University and as part of their requirements are spending time in our classrooms. We always enjoy the new ideas and experiences Grad Students bring to our teaching and we know that they will leave with many new experiences that they have gathered from teachers and students.

Winter Chills

Winter is upon us and we are battling the coughs and colds that come with the colder weather. Thank you to those families that have sent boxes of tissues to school. These are used up rapidly at this time of year.

When sweatshirts are found around the school it makes it much easier to find the owner when they are named.

Coming up...

6 July 2- 3:30pm: Pohutukawa Science Fair

8 July: Last day of term

Camp pics

