



Light the Mind, Fire the Heart, Engage the Whānau

Newsletter 2nd December 2022

Tena Koutou Katoa,

It is amazing to be in December. We are all looking forward to a break over Christmas. It has been a year of many changes and challenges. Covid isn't over yet, as some of our families have it for a second time. What is over, is the disruption to our learning. We have had happy days back at school and learning and it is so good to have continuity.

Teachers and students have been busy assessing their goals. Teachers then write a final summary of learning for the year. We are completing this on the goal sheet that we have used as a running record of the learning throughout the year. We have popped the reading/writing/maths graph onto the goal sheet so you can share in the progress your child has made. We will send it to you electronically and print it out and send it home.

Just a word of caution, remember although the graph shows a typical pathway of progress as being uniform over the years at primary school, actual learning rarely works out like that. Sometimes children take a bit longer to master certain levels of the curriculum and sometimes, they rush on ahead and then seem to slow down again. Rest assured that all students are learning. They have worked extremely hard, challenging themselves to learn new things. They constantly show resilience. It has been a really challenging two years of disrupted learning, with either lock downs, or families or teachers in isolation. Oh, and if you need help to understand the graph please pop in and ask, we are only an email away.

We are looking forward to two of our Passion Project groups sharing their learning with us today. The cooking group is making soup for the whole school and the production group is putting on a play called "Birds of a Feather". What a treat. I hope you enjoy it.

Please take the time to read this newsletter, especially the dates for the end of year events. I really hope you will come to our school picnic, where you will meet your child/ren's 2023 whānau teacher. They would love to meet you.

Tara O'Neill

Featured in this newsletter:

- What's Happening Around School - photos and news from the past two weeks.
- Reflections from our tuakana learners. Examples of writing and artwork.
- What's Coming Up - Important dates for your diaries
- Notices

What's Happening Around School

Orange Parade 2023

Thank you to all the students who help with road patrol. We are so grateful for your hard work.



The mayor speaking to the children and saying thank you.



Bee Club

A huge thank you to Sarah and Dave Begg for providing us with four new bee suits and gloves. Their business sponsored the suits - www.pureservices.nz.

The children are so grateful.

Junior Athletics

After a postponement due to the weather, our teina managed to go to athletics in Palmerston this week.



Birds of a Feather Dress Rehearsal

The team has been working so hard on the costumes, props, as well as learning lines and dance moves.



Examples of Reflections by our Tuakana Learners

Waitati learners reflect on their progress regularly. They each have their own goals to focus on. Thanks to Tuakana ākonga for sharing your goals and reflection

Self-Management Reflections on Learning Goals and your

Novel Study

Goal Reflection

Reading Goal: I want to look up synonyms and antonyms to expand my vocabulary.

Reflection - I think I have been using thesauruses and dictionaries and I have been expanding my vocabulary a lot.

Writing Goal: I want to stay focused for the full writing time so I can write more.

Reflection - Now I am always focused on my writing and I always get writing tasks done in our time frame

Math Goal: Recalling my timetables at speed, especially my 9 times tables.

Reflection - I have not been able to practice this goal very much because there has not been very much time to practice but I am getting better at 9 timetables

Self-Management Reflections on Learning Goals and your

Novel Study

Goal Reflection

Reading Goal: Read different kinds of book other than fantasy.

Reflection - I read a book called My family and other animals it is a fiction story about a boy who goes to Corfu to escape the England weather.

Writing Goal: BE more neat with my writing. So people can actually read it.

Reflection - I have been getting better with my neatness but it still has a long way to go.

Math Goal: Learn division and how to read it.

Reflection - I did not look at myself and can already do it. But I did get way better so it worked out in the end

The Quest Tuakana Writing Example

By Robert Lloyd Year 8

Everealm, once a place of paradise, peace and wealth, but now under the control of Verlox The Darkness and the sunsphere which he has in his possession, Everealm is falling fast. The only way to vanquish the sunsphere is to burn it with magma. This will also destroy the previous user. The Fates are hoping that their plan to summon 12 outsiders (The Paladins) to go on a quest to get the sunsphere and throw it into the magma of Mount Doom will save the twelve kingdoms. The one and only volcano on Everealm. The only problem was that the journey was treacherous.. The only place to land a boat is on the complete opposite side of where Verlox and the volcano isadins The Palidans will need to cross 1600 km of rough terrain.

'Land Ho' cried Jack

'We've made it'

'Woo hoo' came from below.

Tim, Edward, Jack, Leo and eight others were on their way via ship to a continent called Everealm. The Fates (some old geezers, they thought) had summoned them to save their continent that was under siege by some non-human guy. This was all gibberish to them and they were coming so they could just get out of high school.

'We're nearing the Rocks of Torture. Keep a look out for them!' cried Captain Seadog. (The only person who would take the 12 kids to the tortuous continent.) But he needn't say it because he cleared them with ease and was tied up at the harbor in under half an hour. It wasn't really a harbor because there was only one docking point and we could go a ground if we stayed there for too long.

Captain Seadog dumped them on the wharf and said 'Light a fire on that point there at 7 o'clock at night when you want to be picked up again and I'll pick you up the following morning'.

Tim, Edward, Jack, Leo and the others sat dumbfounded on the wharf as they watched Seadog sail out of the harbor.

'Well we better find the Fates and find out what we're doing then' said Leo.

Twenty minutes later the 12 paladins (as The Fates called them) were sitting around the ancient table with the low ceiling, this was the smokey hut of the Fates, drinking some apple cider and eating stale bread. They were finally hearing why they were there and it wasn't at all what they thought! The paladins had thought that they would come here for a few weeks and have a good time eating food, playing in the water and doing lots more fun things. What they had to do was quite the opposite, as you well know! Throwing sunspheres into boiling hot, rolling magma was not their idea of a fun holiday. Their spirits were not running high but they thought 'We can't really go back on our word'. The plan was to leave the following day at dawn.

When dawn broke it was a beautiful day and all the 12 paladins were on the march. In one day they should be able to be a third of the way to their first real challenge, The Poison Orchard! They were covering ground fast! By 12 o'clock they were already where they were supposed to be stopping for the night. The views were also spectacular with the mountains covered with snow and the field covered in lush grass that wild cows were eating. This lifted their spirits hugely and Jimmy one of the Jonathan triplets even said 'This is awesome we could do this in half the time and still have lots of fun at the end'.

Two days on they were not feeling as hearty as before. Once they had got to the Poison Orchard they had the feeling that they might not have packed enough food. The 12 paladins had already chomped through $\frac{1}{4}$ of their scarce food. Leo fortunately was very handy with a bow, and Tim's dad owned a wood workshop so together they had made a bow and some arrows. They weren't state of the art but the bow was the only way to get food so it must do. They were in the Poison Orchard now and the fruit hanging from the trees was almost unbearable - damn! It was poisonous though!

Suddenly they saw a deer, it was an enormous 1500 pounds at the least! Everyone stopped dead in their tracks. Leo slowly moved forward; he was 75 yards, 70, 65, 60, 55, 50, 45, 40, 35, 30 yards until he was close enough to take a shot. Leo strung the bow, pulled the string back and was about to take a shot when the bow exploded, shards of wood going everywhere including all over his face, legs and arms! Fortunately nothing went in his eyes, if they did he would never see again. 'Leo' shouted everyone. 'Are you ok?' they shouted, rushing up to Leo.

One hour later after some severe plastering up, Leo was ok. He thought to himself, I got a much too strong a piece of wood and when I pulled back the string it was just too much for the wood. On third thoughts, Leo thought that he should use willow or some other soft wood.

Tim thought that this was enough for one day and started to put up the 3 medium sized tents they had in their possession. That night they had their boring old meals. They dreamed of the delicious venison that could have been theirs if their bow had worked. Tim started to look for some willow or soft wood with some flex in it to make a new and improved bow. Twenty minutes later, Tim had found some beautiful young willow that would just do nicely for a bow. I will work on it tonight, Tim thought to himself as he walked back to the camp.

The next morning it was an overcast day and it just felt gloomy. They had slept in so they set off late at 9 o'clock. Jack said 'Ah well we are ahead of where we thought we would be so we are still on track'. Even though they were ahead they felt a sort of urgency to keep going at a steady trot. The 12 were going through lots of farmland now and they could finally see why they had come. What once had been a lush green plain with lots of farm animals was now nothing more than a waste land. They were getting a bit worried about water because they hadn't seen any for the whole day!

Three or four hours later they came upon the one and only farmhouse remaining in the abandoned land. The 12 paladins decided to see if they could find someone to give them some water. There were a few old pieces of machinery, a tattered old dog, 3 wooden barns, a small farm house, and finally they found what they were looking for a middle aged man wearing tattered clothes, massive boots that were obviously severely too big and his hair looked like it had been burnt off. As they ran up to him he turned around startled and then calmed down when he saw it was the paladins.

Ten minutes later they were in the farmer's small kitchen. After a little talk and eating they were ready to continue their journey. They had learnt that Verlox had come through this area about 3 weeks earlier and had destroyed all of the farmland. Most people had fled to the Elven kingdom where Verlox and the sunspheres powers were weak. This farmer was just about to go as well but had to finish putting everything away safely because he wanted to come back next year to figure out if anybody could live there again. He had happily given them all the water and even food they could possibly want.

One day later they came to another challenge, The Canyon of Doom. You couldn't get around it because there was The Marshes of The Dead. There was a meter wide bridge to get across but if you fall of you are dead!

"I'll go first" said Edward bravely. He was the heaviest so this was very brave of him because they didn't know how strong the bridge was. Slowly Edward moved forward. The canyon was 30 meters across, he was 10 meters across 15, 20, 25. It happened very suddenly one second Edward was on the bridge one second he was not. The 11 paladins stood there shocked. They could hear Edward screaming as he fell down down and down. The canyon must have been really really deep because they could hear the screams for about 3

minutes before they eventually died out. Finally they decided to continue but this time they tied strong alpine rope to the crosser. 30 minutes later they had made it to the other side. Leo had found out why Edward had fallen. There was a loose plank of wood that tips if you step on it.

That night they were very goomy and all they wanted to do was get this thing done. They were planning to stop at the Elven kingdom but had decided not to because they had plenty of food and they wanted to go as fast as they could.

Five days later they were at a big intersection. They could either go on a longer trip around the mountain range or go over the mountain pass that is known as the torture range. Only one person has survived this pass and that was BC. The 11 paladins decided to go the long way because they could see a storm coming. Three hours later the storm had hit. It was a horrible storm. Ramping and raging around them like when a dragon has lost its egg or as if a giant had lifted up the world and was spitting on it and throwing it around like a ball. There were trees ripping out of the ground and there were rocks rolling down the mountain side. Jack being an expert on shelter found them a small cave for them to bunker down in.

The storm raged on for 6 more days and destroyed basically everything in its path. It didn't seem like it was a normal storm though because it has suddenly started then suddenly stopped again and it had gone on for so long non stop!

"I reckon that it was Verlox that made that storm because we are getting closer to his kingdom and he has some who found out were here." Said Tim. The other agreed and decided to watch out for intruders. Jimmy exclaimed "It's a good thing that we didn't go over the pass because we would literally been washed off the mountain side."

They set off again at about 12 o'clock and it was amazing how much damage had been done. Fifteen minutes later they were walking along a river bead when they came across a young 200 pound deer hind. Leo got out the bow and snuck towards the hind, when he was 15 yards away, Leo stood up pulled back the string and fired! It went straight into the neck of the deer, but the hind just stood there then charged at the group of paladins! 5 seconds later the hind was lying on top of Jack dead. The 10 others stood there and laughed really hard. 20 minutes later they had cut up the deer and were on the move again in high spirits.

Five days later they had completed the journey around the mountain range. They were now in Verlox's side of the continent. The 11 paladins could really see the difference now. All the paddocks were bair and the only moving thing was the river that they were following.

"We should be able to see the volcano soon because it's the only high thing there is on this side of the continent" said Colen, who was the map reader of the group. Twenty five minutes later they were cut off from the river and were moving over farmland. It was funny that there weren't any people around because over the other side there were some people left and that was far smaller than this side of the mountain range.

"There it is, the mountain!" cried out Jamie (One of the Jonathen triplets). "Wow" came from the rest of the group as they saw it too.

"It's massive" said Jack in awe. The next challenge was also coming into view. The forest of terror...it named on the map. They had decided to go over to one side of the forest to try to escape the terror in the middle of the forest. Colen was consulting the map and decided that it would take one and a half days to get to the edge of the forest. The closer they got, the more confused they were. There was some forest right in the middle of the island but there was nothing on the edges.

The edges had tons and tons of creatures that looked like servants, chopping down the forest. The Paladins had been told that there were creatures that Verlox had under his control, but they didn't know that there were so many or that they were chopping down the forests. This wasn't even their biggest concern because the things were cutting the trees so quickly, as if they were matchsticks. If the paladins didn't get through the trees in time they would be found and captured!

"RUN" yelled Leo as he rushed off towards the forest. In a record 24 minutes they were under cover and still running hard. The magical mist that was supposed to be in the forest must have fled because there wasn't a thing left in there! The forest was 3 km long so it was nightfall before they got out. They could hear the Goblin creatures getting closer. (They had decided that was what weird things were).

"There's the end of the forest!" cried out Leo. "Keep going. The goblins are getting closer!"

They 11 paladins finally came out of the forest, just in time because 5 minutes later the goblins were finished with the trees. It was a good thing that it was a dark night because they would definitely have been found. They were only 500 meters away!

They were now bordering Verlox's Kingdom and were planning on how to get through the Black gates that surrounded Verlox's fortress.

"I think we should set an explosion near the gates with the gunpowder we have." said Jimmy, the explosive expert in the group. "I don't think that's a very good idea," said Jack. "I think that we should find a weak point that we can crawl under."

That won the vote, so the 11 paladins set off to find a weak point. It had seemed wierd that Velox hadn't come to pay them a visit. It was wierder still when 10 minutes later they found that a gate lay wide open. "Maybe Verlox isn't home." said Jamie. They walked through the gate and into a large courtyard. It was completely covered in big slabs of rocks. There wasn't anything else in the court yard except a small rock door at the southern corner.

"Will we go through or find another way in?" said Tim. "Why don't we split up to have two chances to find the sunsphere." said Jimmy "That's a good idea" said Jamie. In the end they decided that Tim, Jamie, Leo and Jack would go in this way and Jimmy and the others were to find another way in. "We will meet back here in 20 hours. If one group isn't here within 1 hour, leave without them."

"Let's go" said Tim and they disappeared into the small door. Inside was the weirdest place they had ever seen. There were pickled human heads lining all the corridors and the only color they could see was gray. After some discussion they decided to go to the top of the weird place because that was the most likely place to hide something Tim decided. After a painful 20 minutes of trekking up, they finally came to the top room and right in the middle of the room was what looked like the sunsphere. "Is that it?" said Leo in a surprised voice.

"Seems like it." said Tim "Let's take the thing and go" said Jamie already grabbing the rock and heading for the door.

"This seems strange" said Leo "It's just too easy and we haven't seen anybody" fifteen minutes later they were back where they had started. It had only taken them about one and a half hours. "Let's wait here for the others and then finish this wretched thing" sighed Tim.

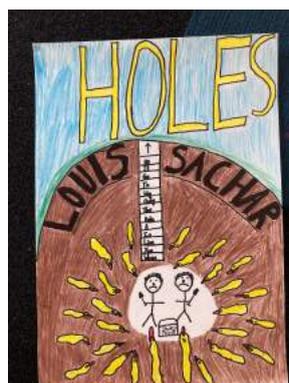
Twenty four hours later and they still hadn't met up with the other group yet. "Let's go," said Jamie and get this thing finished, if we leave a note here, they will be able to go and find us any way." The other's agreed and they set off.

Five hours later they had made it to the bottom of the volcano. There was a small path leading up to the top of the volcano. They turned onto the path and continued up to the top of the volcano. Leo started to run and the others followed suit. They all had an urge to get this quest done. In a record 10 minutes they were at the entrance of the volcano. "Who wants to do the task?" asked Tim. "I will," said Jamie, the daredevil of the group. Tim handed him the sunsphere and Jamie took it, walked to the edge and chucked in into the larva. The reaction was terrific. The volcano started to spew up lava as if it was going to erupt.

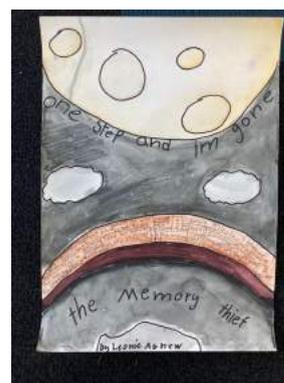
"Run" yelled Leo "Jump onto one those boulders there"

They all rushed over to the boulders and started to get onto the top of them. The volcano made a loud, terrific noise and exploded, showering Jack and Jamie with lava killing them instantly. Tim and Leo just stood there and didn't make a sound too shocked to say anything.. they had done it, survived this horrible quest!

Tuakana Novel Study Static Images



Robert



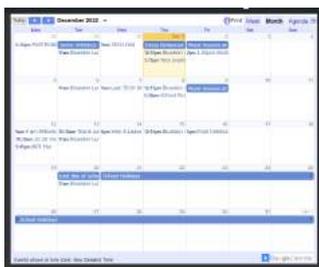
Neave



Elayna

WHAT'S COMING UP

Term 4 2022 - Term 1 2023



Did you know that we have an online calendar which you can print and also download to your own calendar? [Click here for the online calendar](#)

Week 8

Tuesday 6th Dec - **Blueskin Nurseries & Cafe lunch orders due in by midday**

Wednesday 7th Dec - **last DNI for the year**

Thursday 8th Dec - **last school lunch delivery for the year**

***NEW DATE Thursday 8th Dec - Picnic at school - bring a picnic and catch up with the teachers about the classes for 2023. Plus poroporoaki for our teachers Elizabeth and Chris.(5.30 - 8.30 pm at School)**

Friday 9th Dec - **Music classes (last piano lessons of the year)**

Week 9

Monday 12th Dec - **Mihi for new families who have started this term.**

(9 am at school)

Tuesday 13th Dec - **A thank you morning tea for our helpers and volunteers who support the school.**

(10.30 - 11.30 at school)

Wednesday 14th Dec - **Year 8 leaver's dinner at school from 6 pm. All year 8 leavers and parents (up to 4 adults)**

(6 pm - 8 pm at School)

Friday 16th Dec - **Final Celebration Hui. End of year hui with prizegiving and a selection of speeches - all welcome**

(6-7 pm at the Waitati Hall)

Friday 16th Dec - Ukulele and guitar lessons

Week 10

*Tuesday 20th Dec - **Last day of the year. School closes at 1 pm**

Week 1 2023

*Tuesday 31st Jan 2023 - **Back to School**

NOTICES

FOOTBALL & SOUTH

SOUTHERN UNITED SKILL SCHOOL
Xmas Camp

DECEMBER 15th + 16th
DECEMBER 19th, 20th + 21st
HALF DAY: 9AM - 12:30PM
FULL DAY: 9AM - 3PM

REGISTER NOW

For more information contact
Alex@footballsouth.co.nz

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER AVAILABLE

CITY OF READERS CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING PROGRAMME
1 DEC 2022 - 31 JAN 2023

Register online or at your local library. Complete your reading goal to enter the grand draw for some very cool prizes.

VISIT City of Readers' Children's Summer Reading Programme page, or call into your local library for more information.

www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz

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