

Rāpare tekau mā whitu o Here-turi-kōkā: Thursday 17 August 2017

<http://www.levinnorth.school.nz>

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## Why do our junior classes (in particular) have such a focus on **learning through play**?

When parents and whanau visit our school, one of the first comments they make is that the classrooms are not like they remember them being when they were at school. The main reason for this is that (not only has the curriculum and expectations of quality practice changed) but at North **we have a huge focus on trying to make learning fun** to ensure that the **natural curiosity** kids have about the world around them is continued! It is how many people think about learning that is the problem.

*Learning shouldn't be a tedious means to an end but a fun activity, in fact learning through play in its widest context is appropriate for people at any age!*

Many researchers talk about the desire to play being an inbuilt part of being human and play in an educational context meets many developmental needs.

To use 'research speak' play offers children the opportunity to:

- Be an **autonomous** learner – children learn best when they are motivated and 'in control' of their learning.
- Be a **creative** learner – allow them to undertake possibility thinking
- Be an **investigator** – children can be mini scientists
- Be a **problem solver** – children develop their understanding of risk
- Be a **reflective learner** – an opportunity for a child to sit and think on their own
- Be a **social learner** – working with others helps children to develop their knowledge, language and social skills

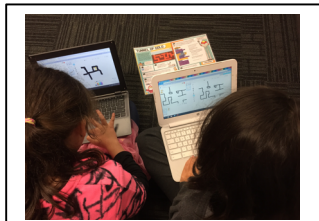
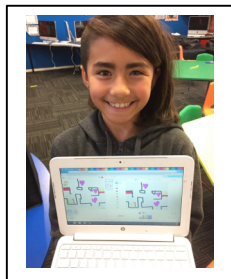
The challenge for teachers is to sit back and watch what children are learning so that they can help in some spaces and provide support in others.

**Next time your children are 'playing' at home, have a think about what they are learning rather than how much mess or noise they are making!**

*Briggs, M and Hansen, A (2012). Play based Learning in the Primary School. London: SAGE publications*

## Talking about learning being fun... (Room 12)

Our revised Levin North curriculum document includes a section on teaching coding (digital curriculum – we are a little ahead of the government) and teachers are teaching the basics of this. Look out Bill Gates here we come!



"I learnt how to make a car and next I'm going to create the programme to make it move" - Kyle

"I'm becoming an expert and helping many classmates get excited and understand scratch too" - Ryan

"It helps me learn coding and I'm learning how to make a maze and make objects move" - Acacia

"We are learning about coding because it could help us have a really good future and create a company that makes games people want to play" - Christian

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### And even more learning fun (Room 11)

Room 11 have been learning through technology (food technology) and have probably driven many of the people in the office area mad with cooking smells!!



### Updating Contacts PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE

We have had a few problems recently trying to contact parents and whanau when there has been an emergency. The contacts and phone numbers we have for some tamariki are NOT current!

*Can you please check that the contacts we have are the ones we should have!!!*

Just ring, text, drop in or complete the piece of paper which your child will bring home.

*We need to know this – it's VERY important!*

### 'THANK YOU' FUNDFINDERS

Next time you come to one of our assemblies you will notice FLASH new chairs. Fundfinders purchased these so that the wooden bench seats (which I am reliably told have been here for many many years) could be replaced. The new seats are much easier to move around for little people, much more comfortable and apparently don't cause 'ladders' in tights (those of you who wear tights will be pleased to know this!). Many of the wooden benches have been donated to community groups so they have found a new home😊

### Disco Next Week (Help Fundfinders with their next project!)

We are having a disco NEXT Friday 25 August. It will be a 'Mellow Yellow' theme to coincide with **Daffodil Day**. Children can dress in anything yellow (if they want to dress up!) and we will even accept Hurricanes / Phoenix jerseys!

This time though we are going to try something different with timing. **The discos will be open to EVERYONE from 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm.** This is to help those families who have children in the junior school and senior school. Parents and whanau are welcome to come and 'boogie' with the children and if you have little people they don't have to either arrive at 5.30 pm and stay till 7.00 pm – it will be glide time – you can choose how long your child stays!

As usual we will have pizza, drinks and glow things for purchase. Entry fee \$2.00.

### Economers Beach Clean Up

Our Economers (and hopefully some of our families) are organising a beach clean-up at Waitarere Beach on Saturday 16 September. This is a combined community and school event and is being organised by Megan McKenzie and Kathryn Deroles.

This is an early 'warning' but if you would like to be involved or know more, please contact one of them. I'm sure they will love to hear from you.

### Lastly - another car parking grizzle!

Apparently some people are not being very considerate when parking their cars in Dudley Street. We had yet another complaint from a person who lives there to say that someone had parked OVER her driveway and she couldn't get her car out to go to work. I know this isn't strictly a school thing but it gives our parent community a bad name! Please be considerate of our neighbours as many of them help to keep an eye on our school and your children!

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## Gymnastics

For the next few weeks in the school hall Bruce Clark is taking Gymnastics on **Monday (Years 3 – 4) and Wednesday (Years 5 – 6) during lunchtimes at 12.30** and on a **Thursday from 2.15 – 3.00 pm for all year groups**. He needs parent help to support the children and to teach the skills safely. If you are able to come along and help that would be great – you don't need to be a gymnast! Just let us know when you would be able to come along. Thank you.

## SENSATIONAL SPORTS WORD

### Term 3, Week 4

#### BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Last Thursday, the Interschool Basketball tournament was held down at the Event's Centre. It was an all-day event involving many schools from our community. North entered two teams: North Mixed and North Boys. Despite coming up against some fierce competition and five games each, our two teams ended the day with their highest final scores. A huge thank you to the team members, but also to Shaylee, Malachi, Kiri, Meredith and Danny. A special 'shout out' to Stephen Knight and Isaac Morrison for their great coaching during the season. We couldn't do this without your wonderful support!

#### TACKLE RUGBY COMPETITION

An Interschool Year 5-6 tackle rugby competition began this week, however Mother Nature is not playing in our favour so the first game for us has been postponed until Friday. The competition runs every Wednesday lunchtime and is played either 'home' at North School or 'away' at other hosting schools. If you are interested in coming along to support, you are more than welcome. The school office will have the game locations.

#### WINTER HOCKEY AND NETBALL

These two sports are still on; their season hasn't finished yet. Please ensure your child gives you the weekly draw, or that you are keeping up to date with game times from the draws you have already been given.

#### *And finally...*

**SCHOOL APP** Remember to download the school app if you want to get more information about sports or school activities. See instructions below or contact the office if you want to know more!

**SCHOOL SPORTS UNIFORMS** The basketball season is over so please can all members of these teams bring back their sports uniform washed clean and dry. If you were a team manager, please return your first aid kit and team basketball. Thank you for all your amazing support!

***"The only person you should try to be better than is the person you were yesterday."***

Ngā mihi nui, Anna Cooper (Sports Co-ordinator) [anna@levinnorth.school.nz](mailto:anna@levinnorth.school.nz)

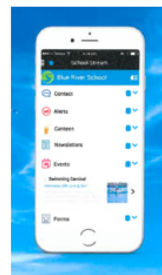
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