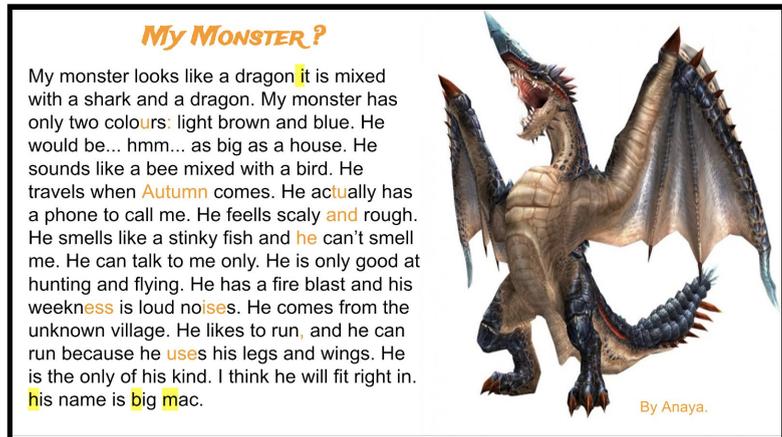


Ko Rāpare,rua tekau ma iwa o Paenga-whāwhā: Thursday 29 April 2020

SOMETHING OTHER THAN COVID!!

I thought this week I might include something NORMAL in our newsletter and no it is not McDonalds vouchers (which our 5 bubble kids asked for yesterday!) but an explanation of what a Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) does.



Earlier this year the Horowhenua area appointed 9 Learning Support Coordinators. In non education terms, these people were employed to work across our area to help families (and schools) find support for children. In the education review feedback from families of special needs kids, this was a HUGE area of need. They found it really hard, almost impossible, to access help and many were quite desperate.

We have Celeste Littek as our main LSC and she works with us in all sorts of ways. She is an amazing addition to our team and some of you and your families will already have met her.

Over the past few weeks (before Lockdown) she was going through a process of 'screening' some of our learners for possible dyslexia. It is generally accepted that about 10% of our population could be given this 'label' and it has been seen over the years by many in education as a problem. We are not convinced that the 'label' is helpful, but the process of having a close look at how a child is processing things has to be good!

It is our view that '**Dyslexia**' is not a problem but a different way of seeing the world (The Gift of Dyslexia is a good read).... the problem is that we haven't known how to change what we do to meet the needs of these learners. There is a HUGE knowledge gap in teachers about what to do for these kid, hence our leadership team decided that it would be a good thing to do to get Celeste to have a look at what was happening for some of our kids who seemed to struggle year in year out, no matter how hard we tried.

The screening is not yet complete but the results are interesting. We have probably identified several children whom we thought might be 'Dyslexic' and others who also have different ways of processing (though not necessarily dyslexic).

The next phase is to run professional learning sessions for teachers to make sure that rather than dyslexia being a hindrance to a child's learning, it is just part of who they are. That is we make the curriculum fit the child, NOT to other way around!

Manaakitanga We value ourselves, others and the environment,

Kotahitanga, We own what we do, we have a sense of being together, we belong, **Manawanuitanga**:Determination to do our best and never give up

Now to COVID....

As I said in my flyer earlier this week, **thanks to everyone who has worked with us in the Level 3 phase.** All teachers have made contact with all families over the past few days and we know that some of you are **LOVING** this and some are **DESPERATE** for school to go back to 'normal'; to those that are desperate, an even **BIGGER** thank you!

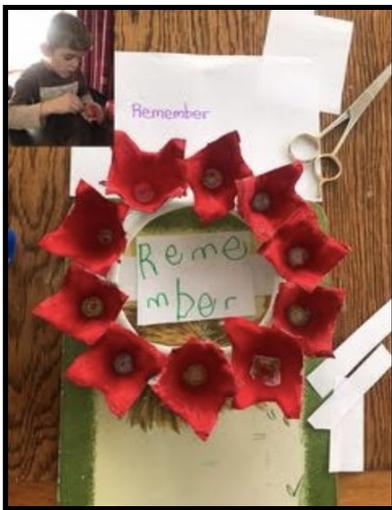
The stories we have heard about what families have been doing....the wonderful seesaw videos, the zoom chats, the flip grid videos, the pictures of kids doing stuff with their families,... **WOW.** Here is a still from a seesaw video of Josh creating a sentence. It is an absolutely delightful video of him being a bit 'tricky' and his little sister copying his every word (almost) as he points to the written words. One of the wonderful stories about families that we have heard is the opportunity for mums and/or dads (who usually have to go to work) having the time to be with their little people. Go Josh!!!!



But wait there's more.... Anzac themed ideas...

We have:

Izrael with the soldier... Josh's egg tray Anzac wreath... Maddys Cloud dough!



Lastly - Help is Available

In **Horowhenua**, a **group of agencies** have banded together to ensure that help is getting to the families who need it. As a school we are part of their hui and can tap in to get help for families. This help is very varied and not necessarily government organisation related. **PLEASE if you know of a family that is struggling (as many will be) let us know; we will act with complete confidentiality and see if we can access someone who can help. Email me....**

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moira@levinnorth.school.nz if you are concerned about anyone you know... confidentiality is a priority!

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