

## Te Kura o Taitoko ki Te Tokerau

Ko Rāpare, wha o Poutu te rangi : Thursday 19 May 2022

<https://www.facebook.com/levin.northschool> <http://www.levinnorth.school.nz>.

Talofa, Kia ora, Welkom, Huānyíng, Yōkoso, Bienvenida, Sata srī akāla, fáilte, croeso, بك أهال, 欢迎, ようこ

### Curriculum News..

#### Literacy: BSLA

Yesterday our junior team (Megan, Sarah-Jane and Jen) took our staff meeting. They have been part of the **Best Start Literacy Approach (BSLA)** professional learning this term. Celeste (our Learning Support Coordinator) has led this work, which has been developed by Canterbury University for us and Levin School teachers.

The approach is quite amazing and it almost harks back to how things were done many years ago by giving kids the tools to decipher words. For those of you who like 'terminology', it is a much more **phonetic approach**. The books reflect Aotearoa New Zealand and all of our kids can see themselves in them. For whanau, the difference will be that you may well see the same book coming home all week... this is not because the teacher is lazy, it is part of the strategy!

This change in practice really does have the potential to transform the outcomes for ALL our little people in terms of being able to read and write much better at much earlier ages. Now that life is moving to a new normal, we are looking at having an afternoon/evening to share this new approach.

#### Mathematics... Rolling out Banquer at Levin North...

**Banquer** is a 'hands on' financial education programme for primary, intermediate and secondary students. It helps them to understand how money works in the 'real world' and as financial literacy it is one of the skills that is 'future focussed'. It has been around since about 2015 and this year our Year 5 and 6 students are learning through this approach.

The website <https://banquer.co.nz/> provides heaps more detail, but basically it teaches young people how to manage their money. Children are 'paid' a base level income and have to manage their money; they can earn extra for extra roles and decide what they need/ want to purchase and - like in the real world - they have to pay bills. They have to work with their peers and negotiate many things - they can save or spend, but with each of these approaches there are consequences!

The entire programme is **designed as much as possible to closely mimic real life, therefore the skills learned are HUGE and broad**. We have just started this programme so are in the early stages but many schools around Aotearoa New Zealand have been doing it for at least seven years!!!!

Last week was **sign language week**... here are some of our little people learning NZ sign. Many of our learners have this opportunity as we have a number of very competent staff (don't we Mrs Cook!). Did you know that it is one of three official languages in our country!



The theme for the week last week was NZ sign is essential and interestingly kids LOVE it - helps those who struggle with learning to read and write through 'normal' means!



So what do our kids say... this is what Priya from Room 5 had to say...

*The seniors have been using Banger this term.*

*Banger helps you learn about real life money and bank accounts.*

*On Banger you can get a job that gives virtual money which you have to spend on things in the class like chromebook chargers, chrome books and wifi.*

*On Banger when you do road patrol and other jobs and earn virtual money as well.*

*You also can do quizzes to earn virtual money.*

*We are also learning how to make a shopping list for a family of 4.*

*Our class decided that we weren't going to pay for the tables this week so we have to sit on the floor.*

*I like doing Banger but it's sometimes hard because i don't get the quizzes*

## Reporting...

Reporting progress last term was a bit of a nightmare I am told (as I was away)!!! During the term, at times, at least half of the school were away and this was not the same half at any one time! Teachers and support staff were also away either caring for family or themselves, and I would like to acknowledge this, therefore 'normal' teaching struggled to take place. Having said all of this THE ENTIRE NORTH TEAM WAS AMAZING. This term things are much more stable and we are back in full swing.

We are also back to our normal reporting, so this term you can expect (through HERO) to hear about how your child is going in two posts. You are also very welcome if you would like to catch up with your child's teacher to make an appointment and come and have a chat.

At the beginning of next term, when we have had a normal term of teaching and learning (fingers crossed), we will have our Student-Led Learning Conversations.

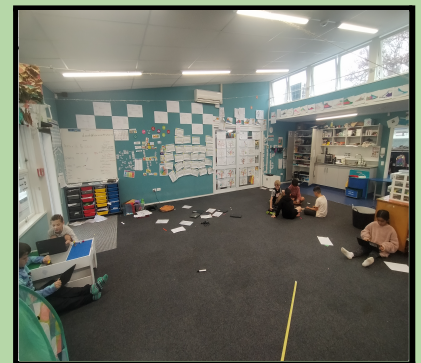
If your email address has changed **PLEASE LET US KNOW** as this is how we are communicating - via our HERO app - these days!



Pink or any bright shirt day this Friday - no money required - we are just going to take a HUGE group photo to show our support for this kaupapa!

## Athletics Postponements!

Unfortunately the weather has not played ball at all this week so we are going to try again for athletics in Week 5 - (week of Monday 30 May).



Room 5 without the desks... I wonder how this will go (lol)

**Remember  
Teacher Only  
Day Friday 3  
June. There is  
no school on  
this day at  
Levin North**



<sup>1</sup>Lego masters from Room 6.... a BIG future!

**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