

Pipi Community  
2016 is now...

# Pohutukawa Kids

Where Knowledge Grows and Learning Blooms



## WELCOME TO 2016!

We wish to extend a warm welcome to our 2016 community. The students and teachers have settled in to their routines and are enjoying opportunities to learn more about each other. After much planning, discussing and collaborating, we have named our community for 2016. We will be known as Pohutukawa Kids!

### Our Community

This year our team is made up of four classes:

Room 1: Year 5/6 Mrs Emma Thompson

Room 2: Year 2 Mr Michael Barry

Room 3: Year 3/4 Mrs Sarah Burnett (team leader)

Room 20: Year 3/4 Mrs Laurie Cadag

Our team name and logo, Pohutukawa Kids, was created by Ruby (R1) Brooke (R4) Sachiel (R2) and Chloe (R3)

### Meet the 'Pohutukawa Kids' Teachers:

#### Emma Thompson: Room 1

My name is Emma Thompson and I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you a little bit about myself. I live in Stanmore Bay with my husband Dave and our 3 and a half year old son Calin. I am passionate about teaching, as I believe that it is important to help each child realise their potential. I am an experienced teacher who loves teaching in the senior area of the school previously having taught Year 5 – 8 students at Gulf Harbour School before joining the staff here at UHPS in 2015. I love teaching at this level as I am constantly surprised and challenged. I enjoy working alongside students to explore, discover and learn. I'm so excited to be working in Room 1 again, in the Pipi block with a wonderful class of year 5/6 students. I look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the coming year and I am confident that together we can provide the support and encouragement needed to help your child excel.

#### Michael Barry: Room 2

My name is Michael Barry and I am the teacher in Room 2 this year. I have spent the last 3 years completing a Bachelor of Education at the University of Auckland and am very excited to put this learning into action. I live in Takapuna with my partner Miranda and our extremely cheeky dog, Otis. I am very passionate about teaching and feel honoured to begin my career at Upper Harbour Primary School with a wonderful class of year 5/6 students. I believe understanding the learner is vital to effective

teaching and learning. Teaching should be targeted to the individual needs of each learner, building on their strengths, interests and passions. My own strengths are in reading, maths, physical education and the visual arts. I enjoy being creative, thinking outside the box, and working collaboratively. Outside of school I enjoy exploring the Waitakere Ranges, mountain biking in Rotorua and restoring old furniture.

#### Sarah Burnett: Room 3

I'm looking forward to a fabulous year of learning in Room 3! I love providing opportunities to connect and collaborate with other classes around NZ and the rest of the world. I'm especially interested in all things digital and finding new and engaging ways to teach. I live locally with my husband Paul and our three children; Paige (11) Ruby (6) and Beau (3). We also have two cats, Gio and Rocket, and this year we are building a new house in Kaukapapa. 2016 is going to be amazing and the Pohutukawa Kids are going to have a year filled with fun, laughter and brain-stretching challenges!

#### Laurie Cadag: Room 4

I began my Upper Harbour journey in 2009 and it has been a privilege to be a part of an extremely supportive learning community. This year, I am delighted to be working with our Year 3/4 learners in Room 4. I have a four year old daughter Alicia who believes she is already a 'big kid'! We enjoy spending time at our local beach down at Castor Bay on a nice sunny day. I am very excited and look forward to a positive year ahead in the Pohutukawa Kids Community

PK Teachers



## Pohutukawa Kids Trip Term 1, 2016



### **TERM ONE: at a glance....**

#### **INQUIRY: Turangawaewae**



This term our inquiry concept across the school is Turangawaewae. Turangawaewae are places where we feel especially empowered and connected. They are our foundation, our place in the world, our home. The Pohutukawa Kids started their inquiry into this concept by visiting special places around the school and writing and drawing about the memories that each place is associated with. We then went out in to the wider community by visiting places around Auckland. We are working towards creating special gifts for the school to celebrate it's 10th anniversary and to leave our mark.

#### **LITERACY:**

This term our focus for written language and reading is analysing and writing personal experiences and poetry. We will also be starting the term with some shared reading experiences. Students are encouraged to bring in reading books from home to read after lunch. Each class will have weekly visits to the library and students are encouraged to be reading at home every night.

#### **NUMERACY:**

This term our numeracy programme will focus on teaching 'Number Knowledge'. It is important that your child practices their basic facts for homework, with speed and accuracy to support this programme at school. This term we will also be investigating position and direction in our geometry unit.

#### **P.E.**

This term our topic is Striking and Fielding. The unit focus is on fundamental

ball skill development in a progressive, fun and participative environment. As well as class PE lessons, our community will be doing a sports rotation every Thursday morning. We will all participate in Fitness on Monday mornings and Room 1 and Room 2 have a daily fitness programme in place.

#### **THE ARTS:**

The visual art focus for the term will be inspired by our inquiry focus around Turangawaewae, as well as art pieces that express our identity. Room 1 and 2 have been working on self-portrait collages and Room 3 and 4 have created some colourful personality swirls.

#### **COLLABORATION:**

As well as sport on a Thursday, our community will be participating in different 'connection' activities. This is an opportunity to bond and connect as a community. You will also find Room 1 and 2 working together on various tasks and Room 3 and 4 meet regularly to learn together. If you would like to find out more about how classes are run, please talk to your child's teacher.

Thank you, in advance for your support with our community this term. We are all looking forward to a happy and productive term and to getting to know you all.  
Yours sincerely,

Pohutukawa Kids Community Teachers  
Emma Thompson, Michael Barry, Sarah



#### **Notices and Communication**

Here is a list of the events and dates for this term for your reference. Please note that you are also most welcome to attend school (alternate Fridays at 2.00pm).

- 1 March - Senior Swimming Sports
  - 11 March - No Assembly
  - 17 March - Interschool Swimming Sports
  - 25 March - Good Friday (No School)
  - 28 March - Easter Monday (No School)
  - 29 March - Easter Tuesday (No School)
  - 3 April - Weetbix Tryathlon
  - 4 - 8 April - Book Week
  - 8 April - Whole School Assembly
  - 14 April - UHPS 10th Birthday Celebration
  - 15 April - Last Day of Term 1
  - 2 May - First Day of Term 2
- Please check the website calendar for additional events.*

#### **OUR BLOGS**

- ROOM 1 - [uhsroom12016.blogspot.com](http://uhsroom12016.blogspot.com)
- ROOM 2 - [uhsroom22016.blogspot.com](http://uhsroom22016.blogspot.com)
- ROOM 3 - [uhsroom32016.blogspot.com](http://uhsroom32016.blogspot.com)
- ROOM 4 - [uhsroom2016.blogspot.com](http://uhsroom2016.blogspot.com)

#### **REQUESTS:**

*If you have any of the following items at home that are no longer in use – please send them to school – we will be appreciative of any items for the classroom and to brighten up the classroom and awahina space.*

- Sets of playing cards
- Pre-used board games
- Cushions or bean bags
- Newspaper
- Plastic containers