



## INVESTIGATING HOUSEHOLD pH

Students in Years 5 and 6 conducted a hands-on science experiment to test the pH levels of various liquids and common household products. Using a natural indicator made from red cabbage alongside a pH colour chart, students categorised each item as an acid, a neutral substance or an alkali (base). Through their findings, students gained a practical understanding of product safety, chemical strength and how pH relates everyday personal care, household cleaning and food items.

## FLOATING AND SINKING

Our Year 5 students conducted an exciting experiment to investigate why some objects sink or float in different liquids and to develop their understanding of density and buoyancy. To begin their investigation, the students made predictions by asking “Will it float or sink?” They tested a range of everyday objects including eggs, raisins, marbles, apples, oranges, lemons, ping pong balls and cherry tomatoes. Each object was carefully placed in both tap and salt water and the students observed and recorded their findings. The students discovered that eggs, raisins, marbles and cherry tomatoes sank in tap water. However, when the eggs, and cherry tomatoes were placed in salt water, they floated. Apples, oranges, ping pong balls and lemons floated in both tap and salt water. Through these hands-on investigations, the students began to unravel the concepts of density and buoyancy. They discovered that adding salt to water increases its buoyancy making it easier for some objects to float. The experiment also helped them make connections between their scientific learning and real world. The students discussed why it can feel easier to float while swimming in the ocean compared with a freshwater pool. They explored the high salinity of the Dead Sea and how its very salty water makes it much easier for people to float. It was a wonderful opportunity for Explorer students to predict, observe, record, discuss and explain their scientific discoveries while making connections to everyday experiences.

## LIBRARY BOOKS FIND NEW HOMES

With lots of exciting new books arriving in our library, we needed to make some room on our shelves! Rather than letting our older, much-loved books go unused, we invited families to come along and choose some to take home. It was wonderful to see so many books find new homes and new readers. Thank you to all our students and families who came along and helped give these books a second life!



## CHEESY MOUSE’S MONSTER MASH UP SHOW

On Friday 23 July, our Year 6 students visited TAPAC (The Auckland Performing Arts Centre) to watch a live theatre performance of Cheesy Mouse's Monster Mash-Up.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the show, especially the opportunities to sing along and interact with the actors on stage. It was a worthwhile trip that gave them a practical look at the Performing Arts, building on the drama skills TAPAC taught our Year 6 classes last term. A big thank you to TAPAC for funding this trip and giving our students such a fantastic opportunity!

## ROYAL NZ BALLET

The Royal New Zealand Ballet is working with our Year 7 and 8 students to deliver an incredible programme called "Dance with Me." The project is an opportunity for a group of students to work with Jordana Arnold, a Dance Educator, over six weekly sessions to create a short choreographed dance. This will then be performed to an audience of other schools and whānau at the Dew Drop Events Centre at the end of the term. Our school is extremely grateful to be part of this incredible opportunity.

***An enormous thank you to the Royal NZ Ballet.***

## SWIMMING LESSONS

As part of our Health and Physical Education programme, our Term 3 swimming lessons are off to a fantastic start for all Year 3 to 6 classes at the Papatoetoe Swimming Pool. The students were excited to jump back into the pool and enjoyed the chance to splash, swim and learn new skills. The lessons are delivered in half-hour sessions over eight weeks and are taught by three qualified swimming instructors from Swimgym. A huge thank you to the John Walker “Find Your Field of Dreams Foundation” for their generous support and to the parents who have committed their time to help us with supervision.

|                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>13 August 2026</b>                                                           |
| Monster’s Mash Up Show                                                          |
| Netball Tournament                                                              |
| Swimming Lessons                                                                |
| Royal NZ Ballet                                                                 |
| Library Books                                                                   |
| New seating in Amphitheatre                                                     |
| Science Experiments                                                             |
| <b>Whats Next?</b>                                                              |
| 19 August Portrait Photos                                                       |
| 28 August Curriculum Day for Teachers Only<br>School will be closed on this day |
| 3 September Arts & Crafts Exhibition                                            |

**When home is feeling a bit louder and more reactive**

Mid-winter can be a tricky time. Tamariki are tired, we're stretched, and small things can start feeling big.

**1 Everyone may be running low**  
Tamariki can be tired, hungry, overloaded or holding in big feelings. Adults can be carrying work, routines, worries and the end-of-day rush.

**2 Nothing has gone wrong**  
More tears, arguing, refusal or after-school wobbles do not always mean a bigger problem. Often, they are a sign that everyone's capacity is lower than usual.

**3 What helps**

- Food before questions
- Fewer words
- One clear instruction
- A softer voice
- Step outside or change the scene
- Repair after a hard moment

**Ask: What would make the next ten minutes a little easier?**  
You do not need a perfect response. Sometimes the next small, steady thing is enough.

**real parents**  
Practical support for everyday parenting  
realparents.org.nz



## SEATING FOR AMPHITHEATRE

Our long awaited tiered seating has now been completed and we look forward to being able to use the outdoor Amphitheatre for many classroom and curriculum activities. All students have been practicing the safe use of this area.

REDOUBT NORTH WESLEYAN CHURCH

## HOMEWORK Club



**Wednesday  
3:30 - 4:30 pm**

Weeks for Club - Term 3

Free homework centre with internet access, learning games a quiet place to work and someone to listen to you read!

Look for the sign on Wednesdays in school term time!

Wk 5 - Wed 19th August  
Wk 6 - Wed 26th August  
Wk 7 - Wed 2nd September  
Wk 8 - Wed 9th September  
Wk 9 - Wed 16th September

## HELPING YOUR CHILD ARRIVE ON TIME FOR SCHOOL

**Class time begins at 9am each day.**

- At home, you can:
  - Talk about why school is important – ask children what do they want to be in the future.
  - Be positive about school and set good habits from day one.
  - Prepare your children the night before school – encourage them to pack their bag.
  - Set a good morning routine to get them to school on time and relaxed with everything they need.
  - Ask what they did at school and praise them for their efforts.
  - Talk about 'being on time, better attendance, brighter futures'.



## NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Last Friday our Year 7 & 8 Girls and Boys Netball teams competed in the South Eastern Zone Tournament at Auckland Netball Centre. As you can see from these photos, our teams showed off their skills and played with great sportsmanship and pride, well done everyone!

