



**Room 5 Parents
Welcome to Term 4 2006**

This is news for parents in Room 5.

Our **Year 8** children are heading off to high school!

During term 4 we will complete an 'independent inquiry' as our final major opportunity to support this group of children's ability to locate understand and use information. Key skills in the high school environment!

It will work like this:

Year 8 children will decide on a study question.

This is a bigish question and to help them answer it, it is likely that there will be several smaller '*subsidiary*' questions.

It sounds easy to come up with a question, but it can be difficult. Every 'question' has to be approved by the teacher! Often success can be linked back to good searching questions which are of real interest to the learner and have answers that are of *further* use.

Here is a bit of a timeline for us all.

13 th of October.	The big topic is clear in children's mind!
20 th of October.	Resources are organised, ordered collected, gathered!
27 th of October.	Specific questions are clear and recorded.
24 th of November.	Formal presentation of information on boards can begin.
8 th of December	Oral presentations to audience begins.

How Will it be presented?

The children will give an **oral report** of their learning. The emphasis will be on the content rather than the technical delivery. The talk will be about three minutes. We believe that the children have been well supported to report orally and believe that this oral ability is *the* fundamental skill.

The oral report will be worth **half the total marks**.

The second half of their assessment will be the resource they create to support their talk. This is likely to be presented on a 'methanex' board. It is the background information and thinking which forms the basis of the talk. **It will be marked separately.**

Here is the marking schedule.

Our overall marking criteria is:

Not Yet!	Associated mark out of 100 is	0 to 30
Developing		31 to 49
Managing		50 to 68
Competent		69 to 84
Outstanding		85 to 100

I hope all our learners will be competent or better! The oral and written feedback from teachers is more valuable than this mark. However, it is this marking criteria that the children are moving into at High school.

We will record the prepared talks and make them available as a podcast!

(<http://tokotalk.podomatic.com>) Check out some good content already podcast!)

Parents are welcome to attend the oral presentations and a timetable will be available!

The majority of this work will be at school with assistance and guidance from staff. However, some homework will be required.

Toko School
Quality Learning for all in a Caring Community

All the above applies to Year 7's as well except the unit topic will be the same for all, not individually different topics. They will use their theme books not Methanex boards.

Key Events.....

Calf and Lamb Day Saturday the 14th of October. Starts 10am!

Children will need the "contents" for their aqua jars which will be made at school on Friday at approximately 11.30am

Teacher Only Day

A reminder that Teacher Only day is the 24th of October, the day after Labour Day. Teachers will be looking at the new draft curriculum put out by the Ministry of Education and the impact that will have on us at Toko School.

There are two quiz teams attending the 'Newspapers in Education' a quiz night on the 18th of October

The teams two are:

David Donald Ayden and Summa/Emily

And

Makayla, Tyler, Nicholas, Madison

Parent transport will be needed. Can I please leave this with the children and parents involved?

Debating

This has had to be rescheduled for later in the term and at this stage it is after school camps. Both schools wanted to move it to allow proper preparation and other events earlier in the term. We thought we would hold it in the evening at the TET or something to really celebrate the children's achievement getting to the final versus Ngaere School.

Toko Lions Speech Contest!

Children that are debaters as well as children with larger roles in the end of year production will be starting term 4 writing and presenting a speech! This should have started last term but didn't. The event is scheduled for the evening of **October 25th**.

Preparations will be an emphasis during Week 1 and 2.

Play Preparation

All children have lines!

Getting the children to know their lines confidently as soon as possible is a priority! It is not until they are confident with their lines that we can begin acting! So PLEASE assist/check/encourage your son or daughter to be on to their **own preparation**. This is clearly homework and cannot occur at school. I will be going through the play one hour a day with groups of children from the beginning of week 2. Dates for the production are likely to be 13th, 14th and 15th of December. The successes of the past are our benchmark!

Camp.

We go on camp on Monday the 30th of October. To be honest we tend to follow up camp more than do pre camp activities. Too many kids get too excited so there will be a low key build up to this exciting event! Information about what to take etc will follow, but it is very simple, just like going away for a week!

No phones..... I've tried it and it doesn't work!

Athletics and Swimming

We will be having two afternoon sessions a week preparing for athletics on Monday the 20th of November. Children will need their togs on Monday's. I think the dates were in the "Courier"!

This is far from all, but hopefully this will give you an outline of some key events throughout term 4!