

A warm welcome back to our second term at South Featherston School. The senior students have eagerly started the term exploring the many wonders of water and how it influences our world. For the first week, we began with a whole school science and inquiry activation day. This was a chance for the students to experiment and investigate water in its different states and look at how it affects our environment.

Teacher experience - Throughout the first 6 weeks of this term we have had our very own student teacher Mr Styles (Ed) in the senior room. This is Ed's second school experience and a chance for him to be part of a year 5-8 classroom. He has been spending the last few weeks observing our classroom, developing connections with the students and has had some opportunities to teach small groups. Over his last 3 weeks, Mr Styles will begin to take on more teaching responsibilities and have chances to teach the whole class across the curriculum.

Science & Inquiry - Throughout this term the students will explore how water influences our world. They will look at water through a social, political, environmental, scientific and technological lens and research the importance of water in our lives. We will use our Inquiry process to generate ideas, research and develop these ideas, organise and build prototypes, create and present the final product and reflect on the entire process. I am looking forward to seeing what our students can achieve over the next 7 weeks.

Literacy - Just like last term, there will be daily opportunities for reading and writing that will deliberately focus around our science and inquiry project of water, news and current affairs, focussed learning areas and our class novel. We will explore informational writing techniques which will look at how to write to inform and explain. This learning will help to develop student independence when working on research and synthesis within their inquiry project. We will have several class novels over the term and have begun with the classic C.S. Lewis novel, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Please ask your children about the texts they are reading in class and the class novels as they will be able to share their knowledge of these stories confidently.

Maths - As well as continuing with number knowledge and strategy, we are spending this term exploring the measurement strand. We will be using the metric system to explore length, area, volume and capacity, weight (mass), angle, temperature, and time. The students will have the chance to delve deeper into these strands through a variety of rich learning tasks that help to reinforce their understanding. There will be a range of collaborative activities and independently focused learning opportunities.

Finally, please don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns, queries or ideas. You can contact me by email, [ned@sfs.school.nz](mailto:ned@sfs.school.nz). I will access these emails during school hours. If you would like to meet with me, please drop into class before or after school, email or call the office to arrange a time.

I look forward to another great term and seeing you all soon.

Ngā mihi,

Ned Worboys