



Kōwhai Newsletter

Tēnā koutou Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 3! We are set to have another busy one, with a range of cultural, sporting, artistic and academic events and activities.

We are continuing to work on our overall school values of resilience and respect for each other. Students are encouraged to:

- Take responsibility for their own actions
- Treat others how they would expect to be treated themselves
- Have a positive can-do attitude
- Give everything 100% effort

Mathematics

We are working on decimals, fractions, measurement, and proportions and ratios. We have completed four Otago Problem Solving tests so far this year, with a pleasing overall improvement in results. Please encourage your children to continue to revise their basic facts for addition and subtraction and their times tables in order to maintain or increase speed and accuracy.

English

In reading we are focusing on novel studies and 'Destination Zoo' (this follows on from Destination World) allowing students to develop the analytical skills they will use in secondary school. The children will also be using a wide range of reading, research and writing skills in our Social Studies unit. In writing we are allowing students to develop their individual narrative voice across a wide range of texts and genres and working on a 'Fantasy Writing' unit, that encourages students to imagine and create a fantasy world.

Social Studies/Science

We are currently working on an integrated unit called "Environmental Change". In this unit we will look at the various factors that contribute to the environmental change in the past and also challenge the students to find solutions.

Congratulations on all the hard work put into the Science Fair projects during last term and over the holidays. They looked great set up in the hall and our scientists enjoyed sharing their work with each other and with other classes. The five judges were impressed by the overall standard of the exhibits. 20 projects will be going on to the NIWA Science Fair at Victoria University on Thursday 29th August

PE

In PE we are concentrating on winter sports such as netball, basketball, hockey, rugby and soccer. There are a number of tournaments and fixtures throughout the term which the children are preparing for.

Art

In Art we are applying sketching, pastel and acrylic skills

to various contexts. This will link with our writing unit.

Homework

Spelling, Mathematics and Action English are all due on Fridays. All homework should be completed regularly for students to stay on top of it; this should be 20-30 minutes four times a week.

ICT

It is great to see students bringing in their own device. This means more computers are available to students. Emails and the internet are only used for school purposes. All the students' emails and browser histories are regularly checked by teachers. All students are working towards being responsible digital citizens. We are encouraging students to use the devices for specific purposes and failure to stick to the rules will mean a loss of privileges. We have five new IPADs that are available for the Year 7 and 8 students.

Arrivals at School

We expect the students to arrive at school between 8.30am to 8.45am.

Technology

Unfortunately, due to building work at Karori West Normal School, we are only going to have one technology session for the rest of the year. This will occur on Tuesday 27th August

Things to be aware of...

Foreign language lessons (Chinese). Each class will have 45 minutes every second week on a Friday with Karen Hu.

We will be staging a Year 7/8 production at the start of term 4. Please be prepared for requests for help with costumes, etc.



Life Education

Each class will have life education lessons timetabled in the last three weeks of the term.

Communication

All emails that arrive in the teachers' mailboxes are read every day and we endeavour to reply as promptly as practical. Please note that emails will not be responded to during class time as all teaching staff are engaged with classroom teaching and learning activities. Lunchtime duties and after school staff meetings may preclude staff from attending to emails received on that day. Staff receiving evening emails will attend to these the following day or days, again as soon as is practical.

Please note that phone messages to the office recorded after 2:30 pm cannot be guaranteed to be actioned before 3.00 pm.

Can you also remind students that, in school time, unless permission is specifically given by the teacher, phones are to be kept inside their bags.

Regards

Kōwhai Team

Nick Julian, Nicki Greer, Catherine Kirkpatrick, James Shelton

Costs for Term 3

School Swimming Sports - \$5.50

Bus for School Athletics - \$4.50

Wellington College Cultural Festival - \$5.00

Science Roadshow - \$12.00

Life-Education \$5

Total = \$32

