



Wadestown School
Kōwhai Team
Newsletter
Term 2 2021



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

It is nice to be back after the term one break and to see the relaxed smiling faces that have returned with our students. We have been incredibly impressed with the children's attitudes and the way in which they have re-engaged with their new learning activities and their willingness to take on new challenges.

Undoubtedly the highlight of Term One was the camp at Green Pastures. A sincere thank you to all of the parent leaders and helpers at the camp. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa. Many thanks to you all. We had a very positive, pro-active team of parents, who contributed a great deal to the fun, learning and team spirit of the camp. The children were exceptionally well behaved, focused and gave everything a go. We were very fortunate with the glorious weather that enabled them to have experiences that will remain with them for years to come. Included at the end of this newsletter is a selection of camp photos to give a small insight into our camping adventures.

Term two brings another busy timetable with a wide range of activities and events planned. The students are now familiar with classroom routines and expectations, along with their personal learning goals. We are reinforcing the management of independent work habits, working effectively as a group member and the acknowledgement that with mistakes comes learning. Following is a brief outline of the curriculum planning for Term Two.

Writing

Information report writing is the key instructional genre for the beginning of the term. This will lead to the students working towards their entries for the 'Intermediate Writer's Award' competition. The content we will explore centered around communication and the mass media. The essay question that has been chosen is, 'You, Me and the Media'.

Reading

The reading programme will centre around our 'New Zealand Time History Adventure'. This resource provides a motivating way for students to explore New Zealand's history through recent Level Four School Journals. A time travel scenario is used to engage the students, where they earn mosaic tiles that help them 'get back to the present day'. Small group guided reading sessions will operate alongside the Time Travel activities.

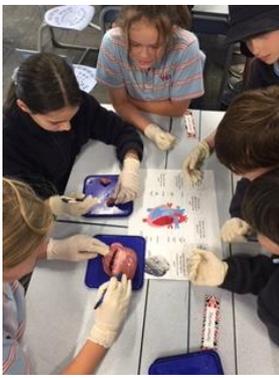


Mathematics

The mathematics interchange continues this term on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday, the students remain in their home rooms for mixed group problem solving scenarios. The year group classes will combine for cross grouping activities every second Wednesday.

The term one focus on 'Number' has reinforced and extended the students' knowledge of numbers and the associated operations. Mathematical discussions and insightful student questions have generated many interesting classroom conversations.

- Fractions and proportions will be a key focus and later in the term, we will begin to explore algebraic equations and patterns.
- Otago Problem Challenge - there will be two further sets of questions this term. All students have the opportunity to participate in this competition.
- Please encourage your child to complete the weekly Mathletics activities that are set to support classroom learning.
- Additional homework time will be beneficial for those students who are not yet familiar with their basic facts. The mastery of times tables is a key component for progress in mathematics.
- Encourage your child to articulate their mathematical learning and strategies with you at home, as this helps to reinforce their understanding of new concepts.



Science

This term we build towards the Year 7 and 8 Science Fair and following on from this, the NIWA Science and Technology Fair. Both events are scheduled for the beginning of term 3. The students have been given guidelines to help them prepare for the Science Fair. Information has been shared through their Google Classroom accounts. Classroom lessons will take place to demonstrate the scientific processes required for their investigations.

At present they should be thinking about what is of interest to them and be close to selecting a topic. They will then need to begin researching that topic to build knowledge, investigate their question further and conduct tests. To date, information has not yet been released as to whether the final presentations will be in a digital or board format.

Social Studies/Inquiry

'Challenges and Triumphs' is our overriding focus this term. To date the students have been investigating and comparing world-wide living conditions and exploring the issues and opportunities that arise from each setting.

Leadership

The Year 8s have now been appointed to their roles as our school leaders and have already shown great motivation and initiative. Formal communication, organising meetings, setting up events and planning for the year to come are skills the students have been developing as part of the 'STEP UP' component of the Leadership programme.

The Year 7s have been focused on the Buddy Programme where they have been planning and delivering STEM lessons with the Rata Team students. Buddy reading sessions with the Pohutukawa team have been well received and will continue this term.

Term 2 looks at the 'SPEAK UP' component of the Leadership programme, where all students will have opportunities to develop their debating skills, impromptu speaking and formal presentations. They will also take part in drama workshops where they will learn to capture an audience, whilst exploring values and issues, expressing emotions, thinking creatively and developing their critical thinking skills.

Te Reo Māori.

The focus for study this term is Kai (food), where the students will be looking at nouns, adjectives, possession and sentence structures. Weekly kapa haka lessons continue with Hemi Prime on Thursday mornings.

Visual Arts

We will continue to explore New Zealand contemporary artists, including Caz Novak, Reina Cottier and Ernest Mervyn Taylor. We examine the styles and features of the artists and then apply the learning to create our own unique art pieces.



Technology

A second, seven-week cycle of Technology lessons continue at Karori West Normal School this term. The children will need to arrive at school by **8:30 am** to have the roll taken. Buses leave school at 8.40 am. Students are required to have long hair tied up and all footwear needs to be closed in. Please ensure your child brings a raincoat to school on Technology days as there is uncovered distance between the two venues and bus stops.

Physical Education

The curriculum objective that is at the forefront of the P.E. programme this term, is to 'demonstrate an increasing sense of responsibility for incorporating regular physical activity into their personal lifestyles'. The upcoming cross country is a platform for the students to take on personal challenges and set their own goals. Impressive attitudes have been brought to our morning fitness sessions where our runners tackle the challenging course with great determination. We are seeing the children taking on board our messages, that through effort comes achievement. Later in the term the students will be taking part in a Sports Education Programme (SEP) where the goal is to educate students to be players in the fullest sense. They learn diverse roles - the performer, referee, the coach and scorekeeper roles for a variety of winter sports.





Health

We have a booking for the Life Education Caravan. Each class will have lessons timetabled in the last three weeks of the term. We utilise a shared planning approach to create individualised lessons that link to the needs of our students. The theme is yet to be finalised.

Homework

The homework activities continue as in Term 1. Tasks will be set on a Monday and are due on Friday. A brief outline of the weekly activities is sent through the students' Google Classroom accounts, along with a copy via the parent emails held by the school.

Students will receive Mathletics activities and Action English tasks each week. Additionally, a significant portion of time is expected to be spent reading. Regular reading for enjoyment supports children's language development, especially vocabulary acquisition. Please help your children grow their reading mileage. Talk to them about what they are reading as this helps develop comprehension strategies, including them asking insightful questions related to the content.

The students are making the most of the homework flexibility and are developing their self-management skills that take in after school commitments and their individual passions.

Useful Reminders

● Mobile Phones

A reminder that mobile phones are students' responsibility and should remain in their school bag unless specific permission has been given by a teacher. Students caught using their mobile phones during school time, without permission, will have their phone confiscated, handed into the office and their parents will need to come in to have it returned.

● Uniforms

As winter approaches students may choose to wear a navy long sleeved polypropylene under their polo shirts. Socks should be either white, black or navy. Students are encouraged to have a clearly named jacket or additional layer they can wear when outside the classroom.

Could you please check that all pieces of uniform are named and the hoodie or fleece your child is wearing to school is the school one.

● Morning arrival times

Children should not be at school before 8:30 am. The morning session is valuable uninterrupted teacher preparation time. Arrival time between 8:30 am and 8:45 am, ensures they have enough time to organise their belongings and be ready for the 8:55 am bell. Students who arrive later than this bell must sign in at the office.

● Student messages

To ensure an urgent message gets to your child please do this through the school office, not the class teacher's email, as there is very little opportunity to clear emails during the school day.

Communication with Teachers

If you have any concerns you would like to raise, please make contact with the classroom teacher in the first instance. This is best done through a brief email to initiate further discussion either through a telephone call or interview. We are very appreciative of your ongoing support and value the time and energy that is being given to the children. Please feel free to visit the Kōwhai classrooms, we enjoy having visitors to share our learning with.

Kind regards

Cathrine Wilkinson (Team Leader), Amber Pullin, James Shelton and Tim Whimster

Kōwhai Activity Fees Charged to Student Statement	100.00
Less	
Activity Fees Term 1	56.90
Activity Fees Term 2	
NZ Playhouse Performance	5.00
Bus to Wadestown School Swimming Sports	6.00
Life Education Caravan Visit	<u>7.00</u>
Total Activity Fee Spent	\$25.10

