



Wadestown School

# Kōwhai Team

Newsletter

Term 3 2021



**Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,**

Welcome to the second half of the year. We hope you were able to spend some valuable family time together without the pressure of bells and alarms.

We valued the time spent with parents and students at our end of Term 2 conferences and look forward to the term ahead where the students can work towards their personal goals. As we have said to the children, Term 3 is the consolidation term for academic learning, leadership responsibilities, independent work habits and social responsibilities and growth.

## Literacy

**Writing** - Descriptive Writing is the key instructional genre for this term. Students will have opportunities to write using a variety of prompts, contexts and media tools. Being able to self-assess their writing and give constructive, reflective feedback will be integral components of the writing process this term.

Writing is not a stand-alone subject; it is used across the curriculum and is an integral part of demonstrating their understanding and sharing of ideas.

Last term the focus on explanation and report writing was a precursor to the 'Intermediate Writer's Award' competition. This will be an optional task for those students who are interested in pursuing the topic for this year; 'You, Me and the Media'.

**Reading** - This term we are delving into novel studies using 'Book Clubs', an approach that has many benefits for the children including teaching them the art of conversation. They are a student-centred activity that involves small groups of children reading the same novel and participating in weekly meetings with allocated roles that structure discussions. Each student has been assigned a novel and grouped according to their book choice. The key requirements for our Book Clubs include completing the weekly set pages and preparing for their weekly meeting tasks. It is important students do not read beyond the assigned chapter as they devalue the authenticity of the book club discussions as they have information the other students do not. With this in mind, students will not be bringing their novels home to read unless they require additional reading time.

**Spelling** - there will be a new list of words each week for all students that focus on spelling patterns and sounds. Activities to promote the understanding and learning of these words will take place in the classroom. In addition, there are three extension words included each week to explore and promote the use of new vocabulary.

## Mathematics

The weekly timetable begins with Year Group classes combined to work through 'Activity Based Challenges'. The Year 8 students will continue to work on their 'GeoCities' while the Year 7 students begin their 'Taco Truck' challenge. Geometry concepts will be explored through these activities.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday cross-grouped classes take place. Friday sees the students remain in their home rooms for mixed group problem solving investigations.

The Term 1 and 2 focus on Number Operations and Proportions has reinforced and extended the students' knowledge of numbers and the associated operations. These concepts will continue to be reviewed. Algebra and the related concepts (equations and expressions, patterns and relationships and linear equations) are the key focus for Term 3. Further into the term, the concepts of Geometry concepts of position and orientation, and transformation will be investigated.

- **Otago Problem Challenge** - the fourth and fifth set of questions take place this term. All students have the opportunity to participate in this competition.
- **Mathswell** - this inter-school competition is likely to return this year, however, we are still awaiting confirmation of the event. We are continuing to work through the process of selecting a team of six mathematicians to represent the Wadestown School in the Year 7 & 8 competition that is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 25 August, commencing at 6.30 pm. More details to follow.
- **Mathletics** - Please encourage your child to complete the weekly Mathletics activities that are set to support classroom learning. Time will also need to be dedicated to the mastery of basic facts for those students who are not yet confident with these.

## Science

### Science Fair

We have been impressed with the quality, creativity and commitment given to the completed Science Fair Projects. A great deal of scientific learning and project management has taken place throughout the process. We have a large number of exhibits that will be entered into the NIWA Science Fair Competition commencing on Wednesday 25 August.

To bring a neutral eye to the Wadestown School exhibits, each project was initially marked by two groups of top college scientists using a detailed marking schedule. All projects were then moderated by the teachers. We thank Pete McLellan, our Parent Green Team representative for his work getting the judging team together. In previous years Pete has been involved with the judging himself and this year his time and energy was dedicated to the logistics of the event.

**Science Roadshow** - In the final week of the term we will be visiting the Science Roadshow which is a mobile science discovery centre. Annually it travels the length of New Zealand, bringing a range of cool interactive science and technology exhibits into communities. The mission of the Science Roadshow is to support science education in New Zealand schools through science outreach. A visit to the Science Roadshow is a fun, exciting and interactive learning experience of science for children. It includes live shows and hands-on exhibits that broaden students' knowledge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Each year the shows, themes and exhibits change, so there's always something new for students to learn and engage with.



Leadership

## Languages

### Te Reo Māori

For Te reo Māori this term, all students will review language from previous terms and then move towards learning verbs and simple sentence structures related to the kitchen. Hemi Prime, our Kapa Haka teacher, continues to introduce new vocabulary and protocols to the students through waiata, kakakia and haka throughout the weekly lessons.

### Spanish

This term we have been able to secure a Spanish teacher, Ximena Abarca-Espina, who will be taking each of the Year 7 and 8 classes for a weekly 45 minute lesson. The students will be introduced to both the language and culture of Spain in a fun and practical way. There are many cognitive benefits of learning languages. People who speak more than one language have improved memory, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, enhanced concentration, ability to multitask, and better listening skills.

## Visual Arts

Indigenous art is the underlying theme for our artworks this term to link to our school wide inquiry of showing diversity through the Arts. The students will be selecting a piece of work to display at our School Art Gallery which will be held in the school hall during the last week of this term.

## Technology

The third, seven week cycle of Technology lessons continue at Karori West Normal School this term. The first session begins on Tuesday 24 August. A reminder that children will need to be organised and arrive at school by **8:30 am** to have the roll taken. Buses leave school at 8.40 am. Missed lessons become difficult to catch-up and often mean projects are unable to be completed.

### EPro8 (STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

This term we are implementing a new initiative that allows all students to have an experience with the EPro8 Challenges. This is an inter-school science and engineering competition where previously only two teams of four students have been able to participate at an off-site venue. This year we have organised an EPro8 week and hired additional sets of equipment so all students have the opportunity to take part in the design and engineering challenges at Wadestown School. Following these challenges two teams will be entered in the inter-school competition to be held in Term 4 on Tuesday 9 November from 5.00 pm - 8.00 pm.



### Physical Education and Health

We have regular Fitness sessions (weather permitting) to start each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. Following these sessions we find that the students have improved levels of focus and energy for the learning activities that await them. These sessions are also an opportunity for our student Sports Leaders to develop their leadership and organisational skills.

Our Kōwhai sports afternoons take place each Thursday. We begin with a unit on 'Traditional Cultural' games. Our first mini-tournament centres around 'Tapu ae' followed by the introduction of 'Ki o Rahi'. In preparation for our School Athletics event at the beginning of Term 4, we will move to some of the skills associated with athletics at the end of this term.

There will be an opportunity for a number of students to take part in the Western Zone Hockey and Netball 'Have-a-Go' Tournaments that are taking place this term.

Growth Mindset activities continue to be interwoven throughout all activities and conversations. There will be numerous opportunities for the students to strengthen resilience and reflect on the learning that comes from their challenging experiences.

### Performing Arts

**Dance Splash** - We have 41 Year 7 and 8 students who have opted to be part of this performance event. This is being co-lead by Jess Keetley, Cathrine Wilkinson and our Year 8 Performing Arts student leadership group. The theme has now been set, the moves choreographed and the learning is happening. We would love to hear from any parents who would be able to offer their sewing services or creative skills to help with the design and making of the costumes.

Artsplash is a young people's arts festival that brings together primary and intermediate schools throughout Wellington to celebrate dance and music. The students will perform at Michael Fowler Centre on Friday 17 September. Wadestown School has been allocated an unconfirmed 7.30 pm performance time. If your child is unable to attend this performance please contact [cathrine@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:cathrine@wadestown.school.nz) as soon as possible as it is becoming increasingly difficult to change the choreographed performance.

**Kapa Haka Festival** - all students have been given the opportunity to be part of the Wadestown School Kapa Haka Performance group who will be preparing for a combined schools festival, scheduled for the beginning of Term 4.

### Homework

The usual homework routine will continue again this term.

- 4-5 *Mathletics* activities are set weekly for each student.
- *Action English* activities (Each week the new activities are added to the Homework document that can be found in Google Classroom.
- 20 minutes of *Reading*.
- Action English Workbooks need to be *brought to school each Friday* for marking and Mathletics tasks completed.

### Term 3 Reo-athon (Fundraiser)

A Reo-athon is a Spellathon fundraiser of Te Reo Māori words. Students aim to learn how to spell as many words from a given list as they can, and seek sponsors to support them. Later this term students will receive a list of words and a sponsorship form. They will be tested in Te Wiki o Te Reo (Māori Language Week). It is a great opportunity for students to increase their knowledge of Reo while raising some money for our school

## Useful Reminders

- **Morning arrival times**

We currently have a number of children who are coming into the classrooms well before the 8.30am arrival time. It is important that teachers are able to use the morning time before school starts to prepare and meet without interruptions. Please ensure your children respect this request.

- **Mobile Phones**

Phones can be brought to school with the expectation that they stay inside their bags while at school. Students know their phones will be removed and given to the office for collection by parents should they be used without teacher permission.

- **Uniforms**

It has been pleasing to see nearly all students wearing the correct uniform. If your child would like to wear a winter hat during the colder months, please ensure that it is a Wadestown School beanie. We encourage students to bring a warm coat to wear while out in the playground and a rain jacket if it is raining or looking like it may rain. This is particularly important on Technology days as there is considerable uncovered distance between the two venues and bus stops. Students know that they are not to wear coats inside the classroom, they are to be kept for outside wear. Long sleeve blue polyprops are available to wear under the school tee shirt if they require an extra layer in the classroom.

- **BYOD**

A reminder that children who have opted to use their own devices should ensure they bring them to school each day that these are fully charged. Any student who obtains access to a new device is able to bring it to school for their personal use. Devices will be enrolled in the school's management system to provide safe access when using the internet.

## Learning Relationships

We strive to build positive learning relationships and ako (the concept that means both to teach and to learn). It's heartening to see the tamariki valuing each other and engaging in meaningful conversations about their learning. We want to embrace a caring and inclusive learning community where each person feels that their contribution is valued and that they can participate to their full potential. This is more than people getting along socially, it is about building productive relationships, between teacher and students and among students, where everyone is empowered to learn with and from each other. With this in mind, a focus for this term is for our students to step outside their close circle of friends and find opportunities to work together with a wide range of their peers.

## Communication with Teachers

Thank you for the emails that inform class teachers of student events and absences. If an email requires a response, teachers will endeavour to attend to these as soon as time is available. 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.

## Student concerns

We are encouraging students to initiate conversations with teachers in the first instance if they are having issues or difficulties at school. It is easier to solve matters of concern the earlier they are brought to attention. On the other hand, if you have any concerns about your child's progress or wellbeing, please don't hesitate to send an email to organise a telephone conversation or a meeting.

We thank you for your continued support of the students in our Kowhai team. We will continue to provide a warm and caring environment that allows the student to be their best selves. They are proving to be an admirable group of focused and respectful children who we are a pleasure to work alongside.

Ngā mihi nui

Cathrine Wilkinson (Team Leader), Amber Pullin, James Shelton and Loren Kennedy

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Kōwhhai Activity Fees	
<b>Total Charged to Student Statement</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Activity Fees Term One</b>	<b>56.90</b>
<b>Activity Fees Term Two</b>	<b>18.00</b>
Activity Fees Term Three	
Cultural Extravaganza - bus and performance donation	6.00
EPro8 Challenge - classroom week equipment	7.50
Science Roadshow - entry fee and bus	14.00
TOTAL - Term 3	<b>\$27.50</b>
<b>Activity Fees spent so far</b>	<b>102.40</b>

Last term saw a successful series of Drama and Performing lessons for each of the Kōwhhai classes, led by Sabrina Martin, a professional performer and actor. The workshops gave the students an opportunity to step outside their comfort zones. They learnt to capture an audience, express emotions, think creatively and develop their impromptu thinking skills.



Action from the EPro8 challenge days. Students had to work in teams to design and create operational 'Cranes' and rubber band propelled 'Caveman Cars'. A wonderful array of creations came to life with varying degrees of success.

