



Wadestown School

Kōwhai Team

Newsletter

Term 4 2021



Kia ora koutou katoa,

We trust that you have all enjoyed the recent break that the school holidays allow. We have a busy nine week term ahead as we move towards the end of the year on Friday 17 December. The Term 3 Covid Lockdown created new challenges and experiences for our students, in particular living with uncertainty, and learning to be adaptable.

As this newsletter is being written we are operating under the Covid Delta Level 2 guidelines. We are endeavouring to be as creative as possible so our programme and scheduled events can continue in alternative formats. We aim to provide our Year 8 leavers with opportunities to celebrate their achievements at Wadestown School and wish them well with their upcoming transitions to college.

We are mindful of our students' well-being at this time, particularly with the various changes and social concerns our adolescents encounter during the fourth term. Wellbeing, relationships and focus are our priority. We will take the time to address these so learning can continue to progress throughout the term. If you become aware of issues your child might be experiencing, please inform the teaching staff so that we can offer appropriate support.

Following is a brief outline of the planned curriculum activities for Term 4:

Literacy

Writing -

In writing, we are working on persuasive writing, leading up to the speech competition later this term. All students will be completing a 1 minute impromptu and a 3 minute prepared persuasive speech. They are to select a topic that is close to their heart; a topic that they are both familiar or passionate about while also being engaging and persuading their audience.

The written features of a quality speech will be examined in class along with numerous activities to develop strategies and confidence delivering both impromptu and prepared speeches. Time will be available in class to research and develop their scripts. We will be stressing the importance of refining and rehearsing in their own time. Following teacher and peer review, their speeches will be delivered to the class and 4 students from each room will progress through to the Kowhai Speech Finals in week 7 (current tentative date: Tuesday 30 November).

Reading -

The initial focus in Reading will be carrying out research reading related to individual speech topics. An independent reading project titled 'Destination Space' will be introduced where students 'travel around' learning about different space related topics and stories utilising New Zealand School Journals. For every story or article, students choose a reading task that will earn them 'fuel cell points'. The better they do the tasks, the more points they can accumulate. At the end of the project students are given the opportunity to use their fuel points to pay for a special reward.

Spelling -

Each week we explore sets of words relating to a spelling pattern, along with a weekly list of themed reo words.

Mathematics

The Kōwhai mathematics programme for term four incorporates a range of approaches: class problem solving, mixed grouping challenges and 'maths class' instruction. Topics from the previous term's learning are being reviewed, along with a key focus on algebra, measurement and probability.

- **Otago Problem Challenge** - All students have the opportunity to participate in this competition. The fifth and final set of questions takes place this term. Due to the time constraints brought on by Covid, the Final Challenge has not been offered to participating schools this year.

- **Mathletics** - We are pleased to note the large number of students who are completing their weekly Mathletics homework activities that are set to support classroom learning. For those students who are not yet confident with their basic facts, it is vital time is dedicated to mastering these.

Science and Social Science

Kōwhai will be exploring earth systems, looking at the structure of the Earth, including the biosphere and hydrosphere. They will gain an understanding of where people live, how they adapt to different biomes, and the economic and social factors behind sustainability.

Please note, the **Science Roadshow** visit that was booked in for Term 3 did not take place due to Covid restrictions. The \$14 that was added to the activity fees has been credited to your accounts.

Languages

Te Reo Māori-

We continue to build upon new learning from the year, including the use of everyday phrases and instructions. The key focus for this term will be verbs and pronouns related to the kitchen, along with pōwhiri protocols and procedures.

Here are some phrases that you might like to try out at your place to keep Aotearoa's language alive.

Mahi kai - prepare	Tunu - cook	Hoko - buy	Kai - eat	Inu - drink
Kotikoti - chop	Waru - peel	Horoi - wash	Whakamātao - chill	Hanumi - mix

Term 3 Reo-athon (Fundraiser)-

Our tamariki took up the challenge to learn the reo-athon kupu and to gather their sponsors for this fundraising initiative. Thank you to the families and students who have already returned their sponsorship donations.

Spanish-

Language learning is a requirement of the Year 7 and 8 curriculum and we will be continuing with our weekly Spanish lessons. Senora Abarca will visit each of the Kowhai classes for a weekly 45 minute session that looks at the language and Hispanic culture.

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

Last term all Kōwhai students participated in our EPro8 classroom challenges. We now have two Year 7 and 8 teams who will represent Wadestown School at the Interschool Challenge. We wish them all the best for the competition next Tuesday evening.

Physical Education and Health

Nearing the end of term, the students will be completing a short series of lessons from the Sexuality Road programme. Further information regarding this unit will be sent home prior to the lessons taking place.

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.

Education Outside the Classroom Activities

Year 8 Government House visit: a tour booking has been secured for Thursday 25 November. The key themes for the tour are centred around leadership and community service. The Visitor Centre education staff will be visiting Wadestown school to do a pre-visit session with students on the role of the Governor-General.

Year 7 Petone Foreshore Clean up: this community service initiative has been scheduled for Thursday 25 November, departing school at 11.00 am and returning by 3.00 pm.

Final week activities: Keeping with tradition, a number of off-site activities have been organised for our final week (13-15 December).

The students have offered their suggestions for activities and the current scheduling includes:

- Monday 13 December - climbing the heights at Adrenalin Forest,
- Tuesday 14 December - geocaching in Mt Victoria followed by a swim at the Kilbirnie Aquatic Centre (tbc)
- Wednesday 15 December - a 'Rock n Roll' session at Fergs that includes rock climbing, roller blading and wharf jumping

We are aware of the additional costs associated with these activities, and our student leaders are currently scheduling activities to help raise funds. Students will also have 'vouchers' that they will use to contribute to household chores.

Further information regarding the final costs, which is likely to be in the vicinity of \$60, and requests for parent help will be sent home once all activities are confirmed.

Termly Reminders

Morning arrival times

Thank you for ensuring your children are not coming into the classrooms before the 8.30am arrival time. We look forward to greeting and chatting with the students each morning, however, we value uninterrupted preparation and meeting times before the day begins with the students.

Uniforms

- Sunhats - all students need to wear a named Wadestown School sunhat when outside this term.
- For those occasions when the school sweatshirt is unable to be located or is still being laundered, a blue polyprop can be worn for additional warmth, instead of non-uniform hoodies.

BYOD

- A reminder that children who have opted to use their own devices need to be in the habit of bringing their devices to school **fully charged each day**.
- 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.

We are looking forward to our final 2021 term and value the support and engagement we receive from our community. As always please feel free to get in touch with us at any stage if you have questions or would like to assist with any of our upcoming events.

Ngā mihi nui

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Kōwhai Activity Fees 2021	
Total Charged to Student Statement	\$100.00
Activity Fees Term 1	56.90
Activity Fees Term 2	18.00
Activity Fees Term 3 Was \$27.50 Could not attend Science Roadshow due to Covid so \$14.00 refunded	13.50
Activity Fees Term 4	
School Athletic Sports - bus to and from Nairnville Park	4.50
Year 7 Beach Clean Up in Petone Trip Year 8 Government House Trip	7.10
2021 Activity Fee Spent to date	\$100.00

