



Wadestown School

*Growing and Connecting as Learners*

**Kōwhai Team**

**Newsletter**

**Term 2, 2022**



**Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,**

We trust you were able to make the most of the recent school and public holidays and enjoyed the change to your daily routines. Our traditional school break would have taken on a number of contrasting forms for our families in the current Covid environment. The students have returned to school with a wide array of adventures; some from within four walls and others out exploring our beautiful country and beyond.

Term Two has arrived before our eyes and we are looking forward to a new term of learning and adventures. Hopefully, it will include some of the 'normality' we know best and will allow us to get together as a school and community. We would like to thank you for supporting us as we navigate our way through the Omicron outbreak. Our students are showing wonderful resilience with their mask-wearing and the Covid protection initiatives.

Our first weeks back at school have enabled the students to reconnect, shake off the cobwebs and set the body clock to school routine mode. They are reigniting their growth mindsets and re-engaging with their new learning activities. Throughout Term One we were incredibly impressed with the student's attitudes and their willingness to take on new challenges and we look forward to this continuing.

Term Two brings another busy timetable. 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 accepting challenges that are outside of their comfort zones.

Following is a brief outline of the curriculum planning for Term Two.

### [Curriculum Overview](#)

Our school-wide theme for 2022 is '**Growth**' - Looking backwards to move forward (*Ka mua, ka muri*). The focus for Term 2 is '**Environmental Sciences**'. This theme will be woven into all the curriculum areas.



#### **Literacy**

Creating a Writer's Toolbox is the instructional focus for the beginning of this term. We are currently working on '12 ways to Write a Sentence' and are already seeing the benefits that this sentence variation is bringing to our students' writing. Later in the term, we will focus on Report writing to coincide with the Science Fair written reporting.

We are also providing the option of working towards entries for the 'Intermediate Writer's Award' (IWA) competition. The IWA has evolved to now offer students an opportunity to engage in the writing process as a shared social experience and provides a nationwide platform that gives students a much-needed avenue for their writing to find 'voice'.

This year the essay question is:

*"History is neither more nor less than biography on a large scale" (Alphonsede Lamartine) - Research the story of someone who inspires you. What is their story? Why should it be told? What is it that their story teaches or inspires in you? Bring the story of who you are to your essay.*

Weekly lists of **spelling** words will continue to be analysed and learnt in class. Timetabled lessons throughout the week teach strategies, rules and concepts to increase vocabulary understanding, recognition of spelling patterns and how to use this knowledge to decode unfamiliar words. Additional Te Reo and challenge words will focus on introducing students to new vocabulary.

## Reading

The reading programme begins with a series of lessons focusing on reviewing and refreshing the key reading strategies and competencies needed to delve into texts with an analytical eye. Developing the skill of synthesising information from a variety of texts will support the research reading needed for Science Fair investigations.

Further, into the term, we are delving into novel studies using the 'Book Club' approach. This is 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.

### The Hell Pizza Reading Challenge



We have introduced the HELL Reading Challenge which is a well-established programme that has been hugely successful in getting tamariki reading and enjoying the pleasures of stories — with the bonus of free pizza rewards! Students receive a stamp on their pizza wheel for each book they read. Once they have read seven books, they can exchange their completed pizza wheel for a free 333 kids' pizza at HELL.

## Mathematics

The mathematics classroom interchange continues this term on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. On Friday the students remain in their homerooms for mixed group problem-solving scenarios.

- Geometry concepts of 2D and 3D shapes, position and orientation, and transformation will be investigated, following the completion of our Number Operations units. 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.

## Science

- This term we work 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. Presentation boards will be available at school for all students to purchase



### Environmental Science (Waste Education Programme)

- Our Kōwhai students will be participating in the Zero Waste Programme run through the Wellington City Council Waste Education team. They are committed to helping children learn about sustainable resource use and understand their role as waste minimisers. This free, award-winning programme enables children to investigate the link between the earth's natural resources, the products they use, and the resulting waste (natural resources we no longer want) that pollutes our environment.

## Social Sciences

- This term we introduce The Like A Boss programme™ (L.A.B) which is an exciting opportunity for students to build their own people or planet focused 'business'. They develop 21st-century skills along the way – creativity, communication, design thinking, global competence and financial literacy as well as entrepreneurship to name a few. Term 3 will see students putting together their 'company' proposals for the \$20 start-up capital to create, launch and operate their own venture.



## Te Reo Māori

- We begin each day with a student-led karakia and use as many daily phrases, questions, and instructions as we can in Te Reo. Our learning focus for the students is to build a range of phrases that they can use in a daily context both inside and outside of the classroom. We will continue to develop our pepeha as well as celebrate Matariki and its meaning.
- Under the confident guidance of our kaiako, Hemi Prime, we come together for our weekly Kapa Haka session on a Thursday morning. A Kapa Haka extension group of volunteer students will have the opportunity to work towards preparing for our Kāhui Ako Kapa Haka festival in week 3 of Term 3.
- After our trial last term using the online programme, *Education Perfect*, to support the learning Te Reo Māori, we have decided to purchase an individual licence for each student. This is a valuable resource, with the additional flexibility of allowing students to move at their own pace.

## Visual Arts

- Our initial focus is creating designs for the Tūmanako art exhibition. This annual art exhibition provides an opportunity for children and youth to create artworks to share their aspirations for a peaceful, inclusive and nuclear weapon-free world. Students will be exploring symbols and methods to express 'A Peaceful World' through their eyes.
- Below is a small selection of samples from our completed Term 1 Portrait and Identity Artworks.



## Technology

- The second, seven-week cycle of Technology lessons continue at Karori West Normal School. The children will need to arrive at school by **8:30 am** for the roll call. Buses leave school regularly at 8.40 am. Missed lessons become difficult to catch up with and often mean projects are unable to be completed.
- Students are required to have long hair tied up and closed in footwear. Please ensure your child brings a raincoat to school on Technology days as there is an uncovered distance between venues and bus stops.

## Physical Education and Health

The curriculum focus that is at the forefront this term is for the students 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, set their own goals and reflect on how they are including regular physical activity into their day-to-day lives. Many of our students lead very active lifestyles and this has been evident with

the impressive efforts and positive growth mindsets that have been on display at cross country training. We are seeing the children reflecting on our messages, that through effort comes personal achievement.

For our Thursday Kōwhai sports lessons, we will be using the Sports Education Programme (SEP) where the goal is to educate students to be players in the fullest sense. Turbo Touch will be the initial focus sport where they learn diverse roles; the performer, referee, the coach and scorekeeper roles. Our Year 8 Sports Leaders will have key parts to play throughout the running of this programme.



## Homework

The homework activities continue as in Term 1. Tasks will be posted in the students' Google Classroom on Monday and are due the following Friday. A brief outline of the weekly activities is sent to all parents via the parent emails held by the school. Later in the term, the homework focus will be working towards the completion of their individual Science Fair projects. Any changes to the homework routine will be communicated through this email.

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 and provides an opportunity for reflective analysis.

The students have homework flexibility to develop their self-management skills and give consideration to out of school commitments and their individual passions.

The **Wadestown School GROW values** will be at the forefront of all our learning experiences to foster positive decision making and personal growth.

G	R	O	W
Gratitude	Resilience	Others	Wonder
<i>Whakawhetai</i>	<i>Manawaroa</i>	<i>Whānaungatanga</i>	<i>Miharo</i>
<i>Be thankful</i>	<i>Be strong and courageous</i>	<i>Be kind and caring</i>	<i>Be curious</i>

## Useful Reminders

- **School Gmail accounts and internet use**
  - Student Wadestown School Gmail accounts are for the sole purpose of school use only and not as a social networking platform.
  - Our students have all signed the "ICT Responsible Use Agreement" that encourages them to consider how their actions can affect themselves and those around them. We use the 'Linewize' online safety and security system and are currently experiencing a number of 'red flag' notifications of inappropriate internet searches, both in and out of school hours.
  - We provide reminders to the students supporting them as they learn the skills required to become successful digital citizens. It may also be timely to chat with your child about their online behaviours. Here is an excellent resource from Netsafe for whānau supporting their family to stay safe in the online world. [Online Safety Parent Toolkit](#)
- **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 using their mobile phones during school time, without permission, will have their phone confiscated, and handed into the office and parents will need to come in to have it returned.
- **Uniforms**
  - Could you please check that all pieces of uniform are named and the hoodie or fleece your child is wearing is an official uniform garment - sports team hoodies are not needed at school. Some hoodies are being given the 'tattered sleeve' look, could you please check if this is the case with your child's uniform.

- As winter approaches students may choose to wear a navy long-sleeved polypropylene under their polo shirts and a Wadestown School beanie.
- Students are encouraged to have a clearly named jacket or additional layer they can wear when outside the classroom. Puffer coats are not to be worn inside the classroom; they become a hazard when left lying on the floor and some have difficulty managing their personal thermometers.
- No designer or coloured socks are needed - white, black or navy.

● **Morning arrival times**

We have a number of students who are arriving on either side of the 8.30 am - 8.45 am expected arrival times. Those who are arriving just after 8.00 often become a distraction to teacher preparation and morning Team meeting times. For those students who are regularly signing in late at the office, it would be helpful if they started their morning routines a little earlier to avoid missing the beginning of the day's information.

● **Student messages and appointments**

Thank you for prior notice of any upcoming appointments within school hours. Please also copy in the office when sending these emails.

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

- **Masks** are required for students 12 years and over when travelling on public transport and are encouraged to be worn by all. As communicated through the school office, mask-wearing indoors will remain a place until our upcoming review on Wednesday 18 May.
- We are in the process of moving to a '**Zero Waste School**', however, we are still dealing with unnecessary litter in the school grounds. Please consider using **reusable food containers** as an alternative to single-use packaging. We need to reduce the waste packaging we are adding to rubbish bins and our environment.

As always, if you have any questions regarding your child, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the classroom teacher in the first instance to arrange a suitable meeting time. Thank you for the ongoing support, we value building strong connections with our whānau.

Ngā mihi nui

Cathrine Wilkinson (Team Leader), James Shelton, Emily Houston and Mel Beirne

<b>Kōwhai 2022 Classroom Activity Donation - Term 2</b>		
<i>Amount charged to Student Statement</i>		<b>\$100.00</b>
Term 1 donations		<b>-\$60.00</b>
Term 2 donations		
● NZ Playhouse Performance	\$5.00	
● Education Perfect subscription - Languages (Te Reo Maori)	\$21.00	
Term 2 total		<b>-\$26.00</b>
<b>Total 2022 Classroom Activity Donation spent to date</b>		<b>-\$86.60</b>