



Wadestown School

Growing and Connecting as Learners

Kōwhai Team

Newsletter

Term 3, 2022



Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

We trust this Term 3 update finds you well and you were able to spend some time beyond the walls of your homes over the recent break. The break from the school routine was much needed and gave us time to reflect on the silent impacts of Covid. These first two terms have highlighted the incredible resilience, tolerance and adaptability of our students and whānau. These are trying times, and we are appreciative of the support and understanding that has been shown while we navigate this uncharted journey. Along the way many new learnings and positive experiences are being found and embraced by our wonderful students. We could not ask for any more enthusiasm and positivity, for which we are very grateful and proud.

We welcome Francesca Kelly, along with her parents Steven Kelly and Julia Byers, back to Wadestown School and the Kōwhai Team. Francesca attended Wadestown School for Years 1-3, before heading to the USA for the past four years.

Thank you for taking the time to check in with your child's learning at the Three Way Conferences last term. This was a valuable opportunity for quality one-on-one time with each student and their families. The conferences provide a personal space to reflect on their many achievements, build learning paths and discuss goals and challenges. We value being able to build strong relationships between the school and home.

Term 3 is looking to be another busy, yet exciting term. As we say to the children, Term 3 is the consolidation term for academic learning, leadership responsibilities, independent work habits and social responsibilities. Outlined below is a summary of the key learning activities across the curriculum as well as the usual reminders.

Literacy

Writing - Our focus on essay and persuasive writing skills provides the basis for our writing programme for this term. We aim to begin the planning and drafting of persuasive speeches in preparation for the Term 4 Speech Competitions. Now, as the Term 4 calendar is fulling very quickly.

Our prior literacy learning has also been a precursor to the 'Intermediate Writer's Award' competition. This is an optional, nationwide competition for intermediate aged students. For those students who are interested in pursuing this opportunity, the topic for this year is, '*Telling Stories - Trail blazers and Torchbearers*'. The IWA *Ākonga* pack has been posted in their Google Classroom.

We continue to emphasise the importance of students being able to self-assess their writing and give constructive, reflective feedback.

Reading - We begin the term by delving into group novel studies, using 'Book Clubs' as a platform. This is an approach that has many benefits, including the art of conversation. It is a student-centred programme that involves small groups reading the same novel and participating in weekly meetings with allocated roles that structure discussions. The key requirements for our 'Book Clubs' include completing the weekly set pages and preparing for their weekly meeting tasks. There is often the temptation to read on, however, this devalues the authenticity of the book club discussions as they have information the other students do not. Students are not required to take their novels home to read unless they need additional reading time to catch up.

Spelling – Each week there is a new list of words that focus on spelling patterns and sounds, along with Te Reo and Challenge words that explore and promote the use of new vocabulary. Students self-select their individual lists from the weekly selection.

Activities to promote the understanding and learning of these words will take place in the classroom. Lists are published weekly in the 'Spelling folder' of their Google Classroom.

Numeracy:

- We continue our **Geometry** lessons where the students have been split into groups and will rotate through the three focus areas of: 2D and 3D shapes, Transformations and Measurement. Moving between different rooms helps student manage the transition to college timetabling.
- **Problem Solving** lessons take place each Friday in the students' home rooms.
- An **Algebra** focus looking at 'Equations and expressions' along with 'Patterns and relationships' is scheduled for the final weeks of this term.
- **Otago Problem Challenge** - the fourth and fifth set of questions take place this term. All students have the opportunity to participate in this nationwide competition.
- **Mathswell** - this inter-school competition has returned for 2022. We are working through the process of selecting a team of six mathematicians to represent the Wadestown School in the Year 7 and 8 competition. This is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 30 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. Additional time should be dedicated to the mastery of basic facts for those students who are not yet confident with these.



Science

Science Fair

- The quality, creativity and commitment given to the completed Science Fair Projects this year is to be commended. This is never an easy assignment; although, a great deal of scientific learning and project management has been gained throughout the process.
- Each student's investigation goes through the process of being reviewed and moderated before feedback is given. When this process is complete, the investigations will be on display in the hall for viewing.
- Due to a change in the timeline of the registration process for the NIWA Science Fair Competition, students had the opportunity to nominate their investigations for entry at the end of Term 2. For those students involved, this event commences on Wednesday 24 August and runs through to Saturday 27 August. Further information will be shared once we have the necessary details confirmed.



NIWA Wellington Regional
Science & Technology Fair

Science Roadshow -

- On Friday 9 September, between 12.00 pm and 1.30 pm, we will be visiting the Science Roadshow which is a mobile science discovery centre. A visit to the Science Roadshow includes live shows and hands-on exhibits that broaden students' knowledge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Each year the show and exhibits change, so there's always something new for students to learn.



Social Sciences

- This term we continue with **The Like A Boss programme™ (L.A.B)** which is where the students build their own people or planet focused 'business'. They are exploring 21st-century skills, team and individual attributes, communication, design thinking, financial literacy as well as entrepreneurship. Term 3 sees students putting together their 'company' proposals for the \$20 start-up capital to create, launch and operate their own ventures.
- **Aotearoa Histories** – we will be working through a resource, *Aotearoa NZ Histories: Something Happened Here*. This resource contains 36 treasure hunts that reveal the history of a place. Beginning with a specific location, students solve clues, search archives for more information and unravel stories. Each story will introduce a range of perspectives, and expose your students to photos, documents, maps, national archives, museums, oral and social histories and digital store houses.

Te Reo Māori and Kapa Haka

- Wadestown School have been fortunate to secure a local Te Reo kaiako, Matua Alwyn Rees. Alwyn works in a number of kura across Wellington and we are very pleased to share his skills and knowledge. Matua Alwyn will be visiting the Kōwhai classes every alternate Tuesday. He will support our classroom reo, learning about tikanga (customs and values) and local stories.
- Hemi Prime, our Kapa Haka teacher, continues his weekly Thursday lessons. He introduces new vocabulary and protocols to the students through waiata, karakia and haka.
- The Kōwhai students all have log-in access to the Education Perfect online programme. Tasks and assignments are regularly set for the students. Most of these tasks and assignments set will be completed in class, however, from

time to time, they will be a component of the weekly homework. Students are welcome to work through self-elected activities if they wish.

- We are very proud of Kapa Haka performance group who are participating at the Te Kāhui Ako o Te Whanganui-a-Tara - Whanaungatanga Festival next week. We would like to acknowledge Hemi Prime for his sterling work putting together the Wadestown School performance and the additional practices put in by the students. This was a wonderful opportunity for the members to gain experience on the performance stage and to make connections with the wider community.



Performing Arts

Dance Splash is a young peoples' arts festival that brings together primary and intermediate schools throughout Wellington to celebrate dance and music. We have 40 Year 7 and 8 students who have opted to be part of this performance event. This is being co-led by our Year 8 Performing Arts student leadership group. The theme has now been set, the moves choreographed, and the learning is happening.



The students will perform at Michael Fowler Centre on Wednesday 14th September. Wadestown School has been allocated a performance time for the 7.30 pm show. If your child is unable to attend this performance, please contact cathrine@wadestown.school.nz as soon as possible, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to change the choreographed performance.

Physical Education and Health

- **Swimming and Water Safety lessons** - please refer to the separate newsletter that was sent to all Kōwhai families last week, outlining the procedures and costs.
- This term we have been given the opportunity to take part in the **Tākarokaro** programme. It begins with students using Sport NZ's *Insights Tool* to research participation in play, active recreation and sport in their class, community, and across the country. Armed with their new knowledge about participation, they will investigate how games are designed to get people active. The focus then moves to designing their own games and investigating the impact of teamwork, enjoyment, their sense of well-being and their desire to be active. To conclude the programme, we are working on connecting with a local rugby club to create an event where their new learning to be put into action.
- **Fitness sessions** - as we all know, our adolescent students often take time to connect with the new day, hence the need to start our morning programme with regular Fitness sessions (weather permitting). We find 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.
- There will be an opportunity for a number of students to take part in the **Western Zone Hockey and Western Zone Netball** 'Have-a-Go' Tournaments that are taking place this term.
- In preparation for our School Athletics event at the beginning of Term 4, we will move to practise the skills associated with athletics at the end of this term.



Year 7 and 8 Camp

Recent contact has been made with our camp providers at Curious Cove in the Marlborough Sounds. They are expecting to be back up and running and have confirmed our re-scheduled dates, which are Monday **31 October to Friday 4 November**. We have been informed that with the rising costs of camp (inclusive of return ferry travel, water taxi return trips, a launch trip, accommodation and food) costs are expected to increase (the current estimated cost per student is between \$460 and \$470). Our student leaders will work together to create fundraising opportunities. If you are aware of any opportunities to raise funds, please email cathrine@wadestown.school.nz. Further information pertaining to the final costs and logistics will be shared as soon as this updated information is at hand.

GROW School Values (Gratitude, Resilience, Others and Wonder)

We endeavour to promote personal and academic growth in each child. At Wadestown School our GROW acronym provides us with a way of easily remembering what our school values are. GROW encompasses a large idea that is then broken down into achievable parts. It talks to personal development, facing challenges and developing as a result of this. We endeavour to inspire our students to discover their passions and flourish in the world. Our GROW values underpin and are woven through all our learning opportunities.

Our recent Hui-a-Kura (school assemblies) have been a platform for our Student Council leaders to share their understanding and visions for each GROW value. They open the podium and invite the younger students to share their experiences and wonderings. It is always heart-warming hearing their thoughts, visions and achievements.

Leadership Programme

- Last term we were fortunate to have a number of guest speakers visit the Kōwhai team to share their specialised knowledge in regard to new initiatives and being leaders of change. This term we have British High Commissioner, Simon

Bull, visiting to share his leadership words of wisdom. We would love to hear from you if you have contacts for any additional speakers for our future leaders.

- All our Year 8 leaders are continuing to navigate through the authentic learning that comes with having a leadership responsibility. Numerous successful initiatives and events were driven by our student leaders last term. Skate Night, Sports officiating, Yummy Apple sports initiative, Book Sale, Chess Club, Wheelie Fun Wednesday, Weld Street Wheels Day, House Assemblies, Pohutukawa team visits, overseeing first aid supplies and Whole School Assemblies, to name a few.
- The Year 7 students have been busy discovering the joys and challenges of teaching, as they work through their buddy lessons with the Year 3 and 4 students in the Rata Team.
- We are always very proud of the students as they continue to receive positive feedback from the students, teachers and the community about the efforts and organisation. Ka pai, leaders.

Technology

There are no scheduled Technology lessons at Karori West Normal School, this term. These will commence again in Term 4, where the students will begin their third cycle of activities. Lessons next term will take place on a Tuesday morning. Please ensure your child is on time on these days so they do not miss the bus.

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)
- Action English Workbooks need to be *brought to school each Friday* for marking and Mathletics tasks completed.
- *Education Perfect* tasks
- 20 minutes of *Reading* to work towards the Hell Reading Challenge

Reading is a crucial discipline that exercises the brain and importantly creates skills to access information. In our busy lives, we have become drawn to the screens and social media, often referred to as the fast food of literature. The analogy of books and print, being the fruit and vegetables we need to stay healthy and screens and devices as the chips, burgers, and soft drinks of the world, has some important reminders.

Useful Reminders

- **Morning arrival times**

Our students are showing greater respect by not entering classrooms before 8.30 am. Teachers are easily distracted when students arrive and it is important this morning time is dedicated to uninterrupted meetings and preparation. Please continue to ensure your children respect this request.

- **Winter Uniform**

As classrooms need to stay ventilated in the colder months, we suggest wearing a long sleeve blue poly prop that are available to wear under the school tee shirt if an extra layer is required in the classroom. 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.

- **BYOD – Bring Your Own Device**

Any student who obtains access to a new device can 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. 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.

- **Mobile Phones**

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

- **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 the 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.

- **Face Masks**

We continue to strongly encourage face masks to be worn when indoors and when travelling on buses. Please ensure your child arrives at school with a well-fitted mask and ideally a spare mask in their bags. Many masks seem to find unknown places to vanish to throughout 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 do not hesitate to send an email to organise a telephone conversation or a meeting.

We look forward to working in an environment that reflects pre-Covid days. We are heartened to see our students living their school life to the fullest and focusing on the positives. Thank you again, for your ongoing support and please feel free to get in touch if you have any further questions that are still unanswered.

Ngā mihi nui

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

Kōwhai 2022 Classroom Activity Donation - Term 3		
Amount charged to Student Statement	\$100.00	
Term 1 donations	-\$60.00	
Term 2 donations	-\$26.00	\$86.00
Term 3 donations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Science Road Show entry fee</i> 		\$9.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Strike' – Percussion Performance</i> 		\$5.00
Total 2022 Classroom Activity Donation spent to date		\$100.00

Creations from Technology



House Leaders in Action



Student Leadership event - Wheelie Fun Wednesday



Pastel Art - A Moment in Time - time represented in digits, seasons, words and symbols.



Year 7 Leadership



Rehearsal



Bliss



Officials

