



# Wadestown School

Growing and Connecting as Learners

## Kōwhai Team Newsletter Term 4 2022



Kia ora koutou katoa,

Welcome back after what we hope has been a restful break. We have a busy final term ahead as we move towards the end of the year on Friday 16 December. The nine-week term sees us farewelling our Year 8 students as they transition to college, bringing special occasions and leaving fond memories.

This term we are welcoming two new students and their families to Wadestown School; Henry Robinson and Jarvis Ting who are both in Year 7. We look forward to getting to know our new Kōwhai Team members and sharing new learning experiences with them.

As this newsletter is being written we are planning and preparing for our much-awaited camp at Curious Cove, in the Marlborough Sounds. Although it was disappointing to have the camp postponed back in Term 1, we are confident the Term 4 schedule will provide the same opportunities for all our campers. We are incredibly grateful for the 16 parents who have kindly offered their time and energy to support the camping experience. Please refer to the separate camp notice for final details and reminders.

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

### Literacy

**Writing:** We begin with a focus on persuasive writing techniques to support and prepare for the speech competition later this term. All students will have the opportunity to perform and present a 1-minute impromptu and a 3-minute prepared persuasive speech. Individual goals and challenges will be set to manage the varying experience, needs and confidence of our learners.

The students have been briefed about selecting a persuasive topic that is close to their heart; a topic that they are both familiar or passionate about while also being engaging for their audience. Time will be available in class to research and develop their individual speeches.



Following teacher and peer review, their speeches will be delivered to the class, and then four students in each category will progress through to the Kōwhai Speech Finals in Week 7 (Monday 28 November). Teachers are reinforcing the importance of students refining and rehearsing in their own time.



## Physical Education and Health

The key sporting activity this term focuses on 'athletic skills' as we build up to our School Athletic sports and the associated inter-school competitions. Daily fitness sessions begin each day and provide an authentic opportunity for our Year 8 Sports leaders to apply and practise their leadership skills.

Nearing the end of term, the students will be completing a short series of lessons from the Relationships and Sexuality Curriculum using the *Sexuality Road* programme. A large part of our learning in class will be focused on maintaining positive relationships, well-being, individuality and diversity. By addressing these issues, we hope to prepare our students for the challenges of adolescence and help them to navigate these future years safely.

Further information regarding this unit will be sent home prior to the lessons taking place.

## Technology

Term 4 sees our return to the Technology classes at Karori West Normal School, for the final cycle of the year. Please remind your children to be at school by 8.30 am on these days, unless they are rostered for the school-based 'Coding' class. Below is a timetable of the scheduled lesson dates.

Lesson 1	Week 1	Tuesday 18 October
Lesson 2	Week 2	Thursday 27 October
Lesson 3	Week 4	Tuesday 8 November
Lesson 4	Week 5	Tuesday 15 November
Lesson 5	Week 6	Tuesday 22 November
Lesson 6	Week 6	Thursday 24 November
Lesson 7	Week 7	Tuesday 29 November

## Homework

This term there is a slight variation to the usual homework routine:

- 4-5 Mathematics activities will continue to be set weekly for each student. These activities are particularly valuable to ensure any gaps in learning can be bridged.
- Action English activities for weeks 1 and 2
- 20 minutes of reading each night
- Week 3: no homework – students at camp
- Weeks 4 - 6: additional speech research, writing and preparation time.



## Education Outside the Classroom Activities

**Year 8 Government House visit:** a tour booking has been secured for Thursday 8 December. 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.

**Final week activities:** Keeping with tradition, a number of off-site activities have been organised for our final week (12-16 December). The students have offered their suggestions for activities and the current scheduling includes:

- Monday 12 December - climbing the heights at 'Adrenalin Forest'
- Tuesday 13 December - 'Rock n Roll' session at Fergs Kayaks, which includes rock climbing, roller blading and wharf jumping
- Wednesday 14 December - local event in Otari Bush
- Thursday 15 December - school-based activities

We are aware of the additional costs associated with these activities, and our student leaders are currently scheduling activities to help raise funds. Further information regarding the final costs (which are likely to be in the vicinity of \$60) and requests for parent help will be sent home once all activities are confirmed.

## Year 8 Leavers' Dinner

Preparation for our Year 8 Leavers' Dinner on Friday 8 December is well underway. Many thanks to our current organising committee (Vanessa McKee, Kristen Carden, Belinda McFadgen and Chathuri Mendis) who are working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our leavers have a special farewell. Further information and a request for assistance on the evening are being sent to families.

The students are preparing for the evening in the form of speeches, video items and Year 8 individual portfolios.

## Termly Reminders

### Morning arrival times

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

### Uniforms

As the year comes to a close, a number of uniforms are also coming to an end, in particular the tattered sleeves of many sweatshirts and the non-uniform shorts. Second-hand uniforms are available for purchase and can be sold again at the end of the year if not required for siblings.

- 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.

## Devices and Mobile Phones

- A reminder that students 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 personal use. Devices will be enrolled in the school's management system to provide safe access when using the internet.
- **Mobile phones** are required to stay securely **inside bags while at school** as there is no need for these devices during school hours. Students who are unable to manage this requirement will have this responsibility and their phone taken from their possession, and guardians will be able to collect the devices from the school office. Cyber safety messages continue to be reinforced and we endeavour to avoid the temptation of unnecessary online incidents.
- If you need to make contact with your student for last-minute emergencies, please contact the **school office** who will ensure a message gets to your child. We discourage parents contacting their children directly through the school day.

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. Well-being, relationships and focus are our priorities. We will take the time to address these so learning can continue to progress throughout the final term. If you become aware of issues your child might be experiencing, please inform the teaching staff so that we can offer appropriate support.

We are looking forward to our final 2022 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.

Nā mātou noa, nā

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Kōwhai Activity Fees 2022			
<b>Total Charged to Student Statement - \$100.00</b>			
Activity Fees Term 1	\$60.00		
Activity Fees Term 2	\$26.00		
Activity Fees Term 3	\$14.00	\$100.00	
<b>Activity Fees Term 4</b>			
School Athletic Sports - bus to and from Nairnville Park			\$5.00
<b>2022 Activity Fee owing</b>			<b>\$5.00</b>





