



Wadestown School

Growing and Connecting as learners

Kōwhai Team

Newsletter

Term 2 2023



Kia ora Whānau

Welcome back for Term 2. We hope that the recent Easter holidays and school break enabled time for you to unwind and recharge as well as rekindle connections with family and friends.

The highlight of the last term was undoubtedly the Kaitoke YMCA Camp, which provided our students with unforgettable experiences. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of the parent helpers who accompanied the Kōwhai Team to camp. Their invaluable contributions helped to create a positive, proactive and team-oriented environment, which was essential to the success of the camp. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa - many thanks to you all.

We were fortunate to have the weather on our side, which enabled our students to enjoy the camp activities to the fullest. The children's behaviour was exceptional; they remained focused, well-behaved and tried their best throughout the camp.

Below is a message we received from the Kaitoke administrators, who shared their positive experiences of working with our school:

"We had an absolute blast with you all at camp! The kids were all so awesome and 100% the most fun and supportive group of teachers and adults we have had the pleasure of having at camp this season!"

We extend our thanks to the families who have generously donated towards the cost of camp. However, there remains a portion of the expenses that still need to be covered. If you have been considering making a donation or may have inadvertently forgotten to process a payment, your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Your generosity will help alleviate the current deficit being carried by the school.

Term Two Curriculum Focus

As we commence term two, we are excited to offer our students a diverse range of activities and events. With the students now familiar with the classroom routines, expectations, and personal learning goals, we are placing more emphasis on reinforcing the management of independent work habits, as well as the importance of working collaboratively as part of a team. We believe that learning from mistakes is an integral part of the learning process and will be emphasising this philosophy in our teaching approach.

Following is a brief outline of the curriculum planning for term two, which has a key focus on the Aotearoa New Zealand Histories curriculum.

Literacy

The students will be connecting with recent experiences, including our camp, to inspire their writing. Following the assessment and review of their current writing skills, each student will be co-constructing their personal writing goals.



Later in the term, the focus will move to poetry, with particular emphasis given to Wellington writer, Robin Hyde (Iris Wilkinson) who was a 'fighter with words'. When Hyde saw injustice she used words for women's rights and when Maori were dispossessed of their land. We will explore a range of poems, both classic and contemporary, including an analysis of the 'Writers' Walk' quotations on the Wellington waterfront.

Reading

The reading programme will centre around our 'New Zealand Time History Adventure'. This resource provides a motivating way for students to explore New Zealand's history through recent Level Four School Journals. A time travel scenario is used to engage the students, where they earn mosaic tiles that help them "get back to the present day". Small group guided reading sessions will operate alongside the Time Travel activities.



Mathematics

Our interchange begins this term on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, immediately following fitness sessions, with the intention of arriving to their Mathematics classes with a clear, focused mind! Students have been placed in mixed groups and will move between all classes that focus on either 'Fractions', 'Decimals' or 'Percentages'. On Friday the students remain in their homerooms for investigations and problem-solving scenarios looking at 'Maths in Nature'

- **Problem Challenge Competition** - all students have the opportunity to participate in this national competition.
- Please encourage your child to complete the weekly Mathletics activities that are set to support classroom learning.
- Additional homework time will be beneficial for those students who are not yet familiar with their basic facts. The mastery of times tables is a key component for progress in mathematics.
- Encourage your child to articulate their mathematical learning and strategies with you at home, as this helps to reinforce their understanding of new concepts.

Science

This term, we are gearing up for the Year 7 and 8 Science Fair and the NIWA Science and Technology Fair, both of which are scheduled for the beginning of term 3. To help students prepare for these events, we have provided them with guidelines and information through their Google Classroom accounts. Additionally, presentation boards will be available for all students at a reduced cost of \$10.00, which will be invoiced to their accounts.



To facilitate the scientific processes required for their investigations, we will be conducting classroom lessons and discussions. Currently, students should have thought about their interests and narrowed down their topics. Once they have selected a topic, they will need to conduct research to build knowledge, investigate their question further, and perform tests.

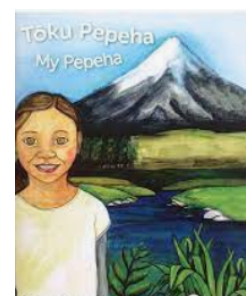
Te Reo Māori

The focus for study this term is the weather, where the students will be looking at nouns, adjectives, possession and sentence structures. E.g. *Ā te Rāhina, ka whiti te rā.* (On Monday, the sun will shine.)

Weekly kapa haka lessons will again take place with Matua Hemi Prime on Thursday mornings for all Kowhai students, along with the optional Kapa Haka Performance group rehearsals.

Matua Alwyn will visit each class on a fortnightly basis, with the following learning intentions:

- Sharing Pepeha - communicating where you are from
- Building knowledge about local places and place names in Te Reo
- Understanding and using phrases to encourage and support others



Aotearoa New Zealand Histories

We are currently in the process of organising a field trip in collaboration with the Pukeahu Education Centre's historian-educator, Ricky Prebble. The field trip, titled 'Stories in the Land,' aims to explore the intricate relationships between people and places, with a focus on how historical accounts of occupation and power are preserved through the names and landscapes of Te Whanganui-a-Tara/Wellington.

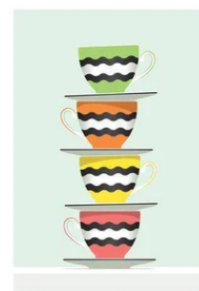


The primary objective of the field trip is to help students develop a deeper understanding of how local, national, and international events and people are interconnected, and to bring the history of the local area to life through hands-on experience with primary sources. Through this immersive experience, we hope to enhance the students' appreciation for the rich cultural and historical significance of the region.



Visual Arts

We will continue to explore New Zealand contemporary artists, including Glen Jones, Reina Cottier and Ernest Mervyn Taylor. We examine the styles and features of the artists and then apply the learning to create our own unique art pieces.



Technology

A second, seven-week cycle of Technology lessons continues at Kārori West Normal School this term. The children will need to arrive at school by **8:30 am** to have the roll taken. Please note:

- Buses leave school at 8.40 am.
- Students are required to have long hair tied up and all footwear needs to be closed in.
- Please ensure your child brings a raincoat to school on Technology days as there is an uncovered walk between the two venues and bus stops.
- Those students who are in the 'Coding' class need to be at school in time for the 8.50 am morning bell.

Physical Education

The curriculum objective that is at the forefront of the P.E. programme this term is 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 and set their own goals. Training the brain before the body is a key message given. Impressive attitudes have been brought to our morning fitness sessions where our runners tackle the new cross-country course, including the strategically placed step challenge, with great determination. We are seeing the children taking on board our messages, that through effort comes achievement.

This term, we will be focusing on ball skills through playing team games with an emphasis on developing passing skills, as well as those important skills essential to working together as a team. The students will be taking part in a Sports Education Programme (SEP) where the goal is to educate students to be players in the fullest sense. They learn diverse roles; the performer, referee, coach and scorekeeper roles for a variety of winter and alternative sports, including lacrosse, ultimate frisbee and handball.

Health

This term we are introducing the Cool Schools Peer Mediation Programme. This is a mediation programme developed by the Peace Foundation that has been adopted by many schools in New Zealand. Its philosophy is based on conflict being seen as something that can be handled positively and learnt from, without using violence.

'It encourages us to learn about situations of conflict, and how to change them from experiences many of us would rather avoid or ignore into experiences to help us grow and learn. It helps us develop problem-solving approaches to conflict rather than denial or aggression.'

Leadership

- The Year 8 students have successfully completed their first set of challenges, which involved writing application letters, preparing for, and participating in a formal interview. This week, the students will receive their individual leadership roles for 2023. We have been thoroughly impressed with the students' quality of discussions, their thoughtful responses to questions, and their insightful ideas for making the most of their leadership opportunities.
- We endeavour to provide authentic leadership experiences for our students. If you are able to support our programme in any way we would love to hear from you.
- The Year 7 students are being offered leadership roles for our Cool Schools Peer Mediation programme. As we have had a positive expression of interest in these roles, twenty students will be trained during terms 2 and 3. Those students not involved will be working with the junior students as tuakana-teina, designing and leading lessons to share their knowledge.

Homework

- The homework activities continue with the same flexibility to accommodate after-school commitments and develop self-management skills.
- Activities will be set on a Monday and are due on Friday. A brief outline of the weekly activities is sent through the students' Google Classroom accounts, along with a copy via the parent emails held by the school.
- Please encourage your child to grow their reading mileage. Regular reading for enjoyment supports children's language development, especially vocabulary acquisition.
- Later in the term, homework time will be dedicated to their individual Science Fair investigations. This timing will be communicated to the students and backed up through an email.

The usual useful 'Reminders'

- **Morning arrival times** - Please, as much as possible, delay your child's arrival at school until **8.30 am**. Before this time, teachers are in meetings, preparing resources for the day, or engaging in professional discussions. Children are expected to wait outside until invited into the classrooms.
- **Mobile Phones** remain in their school bag unless specific permission has been given by a teacher. Students caught using their mobile phones during school time without permission, will hand their phones into the office for parents to collect.
- **Uniforms**
 - As winter approaches students may choose to wear a navy long-sleeved polypropylene under their polo shirts. Socks should be either white, black or navy. Students are encouraged to have a clearly named jacket or additional layer they can wear when outside the classroom.
 - Jewellery is limited to small studs in each ear and a wristwatch.
 - Make-up is not to be worn with the school uniform.

Communication with Teachers

As always, your first port of call is your child's teacher. This is best done through a brief email to initiate further discussion either through a telephone call or interview. We encourage the students to initiate discussions at school when they have concerns and if possible at the time of the incidents.

We are very appreciative of your ongoing support and value the time and energy that is being given to the children. Please feel free to visit the Kōwhai classrooms, we enjoy having visitors to share our learning.

Ngā mihi nui

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Kōwhai Activity Fees - Term 2	
Amount charged to Student Statement	\$100
Term 1	
Life Education visit	\$6.00
Term 1 total	\$6.00
Term 2	
NZ Playhouse Performance	\$5.00
Book Week visiting author koha	\$2.00
NZ History trip to Pukeahu	\$6.00
Term 2 total	\$13.00
TOTAL	\$20.00

