



# Wadestown School

*Growing and Connecting as Learners*

## Kōwhai Team

### Newsletter

**Term 3, 2023**



#### Kia ora Whānau

We trust you and your whānau had a restful and enjoyable school break, and that you were able to make the most of the special occasions that came with the Matariki celebrations. Term Three has been an opportunity to extend these celebrations, with the likes of our Matariki breakfast, the shared Hangi and the Mihi Whakatau to welcome our new students and their families.

This term we warmly welcome Abel Anish and his family to Wadestown School and the Year 7 cohort. His family have come to New Zealand's cooler climate following recent schooling in the heat of Doha, the capital city of Qatar, and before this, India.

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 parents. The conferences provide a personal space to reflect on their many achievements, build learning pathways and discuss goals and challenges. We value being able to build strong relationships between the school and home.



As we begin the new term at Wadestown School, the Kōwhai students have returned to their classrooms with a great sense of positivity. We are looking forward to channeling this energy into the numerous learning opportunities scheduled for this ten-week term. Outlined below is a summary of the key learning activities across the curriculum, as well as the timely reminders.

#### Literacy

**Writing** – Our writing this term has a focus on Poetry where the students will be analysing and creating a range of poetical structures, expressive features and then delving into their own creations. We will be working towards creating our very own 'Wadestown Writers Walk' following inspiration from the visit to the 'Wellington Writers' Walk' last term. The development process from an inspirational idea, right through to the final production, will be student driven.



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

**Spelling** – The Spelling Programme this term has a new look, as across the school we are introducing Liz Kane's 'The Code', which is an explicit, systematic and cumulative programme from Year One through to Year Eight. Through this approach teachers are explicitly, systematically and cumulatively teaching phonemic awareness, orthography (the spelling system), morphology, vocabulary, syntax and grammar, to give students the skills they need to read, spell and write with confidence. This is an evidence-based approach that we feel better supports students' individualised needs. All students have undergone assessment testing to determine the groupings that will be used within the Kōwhai Team. This approach requires short lessons across the week that focus on a particular sound and any associated spelling rule, and therefore there will no longer be weekly lists of words to learn and memorise at home.

**Reading** – Our Term 3 'Book Clubs' are underway. Each student has been assigned a specific novel and placed in a group based on their book preferences. This programme is designed to be student-centred, where small groups read the same novel and actively participate in weekly meetings with assigned roles that structure discussions effectively.



We acknowledge that some students might feel tempted to read ahead, but we emphasise the importance of avoiding this. Reading ahead can compromise the authenticity of the Book Club discussions, as some students may have information that others do not, leading to imbalanced conversations. Thus, we recommend that students refrain from taking their novels home unless they genuinely require additional reading time to catch up to where they need to be.

### Numeracy

- The students are working in their '**Number**' groups for their final rotation that explores the concepts from the areas of Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. Following this, we will move to a '**Geometry**' rotation that has a focus on: 2D and 3D shapes, Transformations and Measurement.
- **Problem-Solving** lessons take place each Friday in the students' home rooms.
- **Otago Problem Challenge** - the fourth and fifth set of questions take place this term. All students have the opportunity to participate in this competition.
- **Mathswell** - We are working through the process of selecting a team of six mathematicians to represent the Wadestown School in the Year 7 and 8 Inter-school Mathswell Competition, which is coordinated by the Wellington Mathematics Association. This is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 25 August, commencing at 6.30 pm.
- **Mathletics** - Please encourage your child to complete the weekly Mathletics activities that are set to support classroom learning. It is a valuable resource that consolidates students' mathematical knowledge and learning.



### 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. Final details will be sent via email.
- A selection of exhibits, that meet the selection criteria, will be put forward to the NIWA Science Fair. This event is being held from Wednesday 30 August to Saturday 2 September. Further details will be sent to those students involved.



#### The Power Challenge

- We have signed up to take part in the 'Power Challenge' which is Engineering New Zealand's free programme for schools designed to get students excited about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- The students will discover the amazing phenomenon of electricity and learn how it's generated, moved and used across Aotearoa.
- Students design and build a wind turbine and work as a team to light up a mini town using the power of renewable energy.
- We have been fortunate to have an engineering ambassador assigned to each class, who will work alongside the students providing support throughout the programme.



#### Science Roadshow

- On Friday 22 September, we will be visiting the Science Roadshow which is a mobile science discovery centre. It is an interactive learning experience of science and includes live shows and hands-on exhibits.
- A range of over 60 hands-on exhibits grouped under the following six themes:
  - Rocks and minerals — *Ngā toka me ngā kohuke*
  - Helping the senses — *Te āwhina i ngā tairongo*
  - Light properties — *Ngā āhuatanga aho*
  - Movement — *Te nekeneke*
  - Observation and inference — *Te mātakitaki me te hīkaro*
  - Pressure — *Te pēhanga*
- Venue: We will be departing Wadestown School (by foot) and heading to Northland School at 9.30 am. The show runs from 10.20 am – 11.30 pm. A bus has been ordered for the return journey back to school.



## Te Reo Māori and Kapa Haka

- 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.
- We are very proud of our Kapa Haka Performance Group who are participating at the Te Kāhui Ako o Te Whanganui-a-Tara - Whanaungatanga Festival next week. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to gain experience on the performance stage and to make connections with the wider community.
- This term, Alwyn Rees our Te Reo Māori Kaiako, will reinforce the concepts behind Manaakitanga. The students will understand the importance of showing hospitality, kindness, generosity and support and practise this important aspect of tikanga in the classroom.
- The students will also be learning the stories of Aotearoa in a way they can retell them, reference them to places and understand the meaning.

## 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 50 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 finalised, the moves choreographed, and the learning is happening.
- The students will perform at Michael Fowler Centre on Thursday 14 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](mailto:cathrine@wadestown.school.nz) as soon as possible, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to change the choreographed performance. Further information will be provided to the performers as details are finalised.



## Physical Education and Health

- **Fitness sessions** – we endeavour to begin each day with a form of physical movement to help prepare our adolescent learners for the day that awaits them.
- Physical Education lessons each Thursday will provide opportunities for the students to develop teamwork, leadership and skill development through a variety of traditional and unconventional team games.
- There will be an opportunity for students to take part in the **Western Zone Netball and Basketball 'Have-a-Go' Tournaments** that are scheduled to take place this term. This is also an opportunity for our senior students to experience the triumphs and challenges of leadership, through coaching, umpiring and managing teams.



## Zero Waste Programme

We have been fortunate to have a Wellington City Council educator, Loraine, share her wealth of knowledge with the Kōwhai Students. Her insights on resource sustainability have been inspiring and eye-opening. Now, we aim to empower our students to take action and become leaders in recycling and sustainable resource use.



## Leadership Programme

- 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. Pink Shirt Day, Kaitiaki (Caring for our Environment) Day, Sports officiating and coaching, Wheelie Fun Wednesday, Yummy Apple sports gear initiative, Lunchtime Clubs, Fundraising initiatives (American Hot Dogs), House Assemblies, Mātauranga Māori presentations, Pohutukawa Team visits, overseeing first aid supplies and leading our Hui-a-Kura (Whole School Assemblies) to name just a few.
- The Year 7 students are being trained as Peer Mediators, using the 'Cool Schools' programme. They will be available at break times for students to seek help with their lower level playground conflicts. The students are learning positive skills that enable them to deal effectively and respectfully with one another, when dealing with conflict.
- The Year 7 students have also 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, senior school leaders.



## Technology

Technology lessons continue this term at Karori West Normal School, for the first seven weeks of the term. This is the final rotation for 2023. There are no scheduled Technology lessons next term. Please ensure your child is on time on these days so they do not miss the bus; and with a raincoat in their bags!



## Homework

The usual homework routine will continue again this term. (The weekly Homework instructions can be found in the students' Google Classroom in the 'Homework' section).

- Three to four *Mathletics* activities are set weekly for each student.
- Two *Action English* activities
- 20 minutes of *Reading* to work towards the Hell Reading Challenge
- Action English Workbooks need to be brought to school each Friday for marking and Mathletics tasks completed.

## Useful Reminders

### • Winter Uniform

- Makeup is not to be worn with the school uniform
- Jewellery is limited to small studs in each ear and a wristwatch. For safety reasons, no hoop earrings please.
- During the winter months the students are encouraged to have a warm coat for outdoor use. Please note that puffer coats are not to be worn in the classroom. Students need either a sweatshirt or a polypropylene for warmth indoors. Our classrooms are heated; however, we are mindful of keeping a healthy airflow.

### • 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 and take responsibility for fully charging these.

### • 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.

### • 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.

### • 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 generally easier to solve matters of concern at the time of the incident. Students can bring a friend when discussing their concerns with a teacher, should they wish to. 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 are looking forward to the term ahead and the new learning experiences that await us all.

Ngā mihi nui

Cathrine Wilkinson (Team Leader/DP), James Shelton, Emily Houston and Mel Beirne  
Kōwhai Teaching Team

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## Kōwhai Classroom Activity Donation - Term 3 2023

<b>Amount charged to Student Statement: \$100.00</b>	
<b>Term 1 donations</b>	<b>\$6.00</b>
<b>Term 2 donations</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>
<b>Term 3 donations</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Science RoadShow entry fee and return bus fare</i></li> </ul>	<b>\$12.50</b>
<b>Total 2023 Classroom Activity Donation spent to date</b>	<b>\$31.50</b>

