



# Wadestown School

Te Whakatipu me to Honohono Hei Akonga  
Growing and Connecting as Learners

## Kōwhai Team

Newsletter  
Term 4 2023



Tēnā koutou katoa,

Welcome back after what we trust was a rejuvenating break. As always, we have an eventful final term ahead as we approach the conclusion of the school year on Friday 15 December. This ten-week term will include bidding farewell to our Year 8 students as they embark on their journey to college, marking significant occasions and creating cherished memories.

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

### *Literacy*

#### **Writing:**

We have begun the term focusing on 'Writing Better Sentences', working towards building a toolbox of 12 ways to write a sentence.

Following this, our attention shifts to mastering persuasive writing techniques, a fundamental component in preparing for the upcoming Kōwhai Speech competition later this term.

Each student will have the opportunity to develop their speech delivery skills, through a 1-minute impromptu speech and a 3-4-minute prepared persuasive speech. To cater for the varying needs and confidence levels of our learners, individual goals and challenges will be established.

Guidance has been provided to students on selecting persuasive topics that align with their interests but also engaging for their intended audience. We have dedicated class time for research, however, we encourage students to use additional time at home to gather the necessary background information. Students will need to give additional time to refining and rehearsing their speeches in their own time to ensure their best performance. The top four students in each category will advance to the Kōwhai Speech Finals scheduled for Week 8 (Wednesday 29 November).

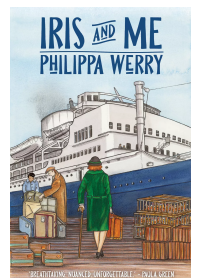
#### **Spelling:**

Students will continue to work in their assigned groups through 'The Code', a programme designed to build their understanding of spelling patterns, sounds, rules and morphology. We are seeing the benefits of starting the day with our daily 15-minute lessons, which have an explicit and systematic approach to spelling.

#### **Reading:**

Our instructional reading focus centres on the newly released verse novel 'Iris and Me' by the talented local author, Philippa Werry. She is the recipient of the Young Adult Fiction Award at the NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults in 2023. The book delves into the captivating life of Iris Wilkinson, a remarkable woman who penned poetry, novels and journalism under the pseudonym Robin Hyde.

We will unpack this novel as a class, igniting thought-provoking discussions on a myriad of important themes: social history and discrimination, friendship and the profound impact of wars. Personal qualities of bravery, courage and endurance will also be considered.



## Numeracy

The Kōwhai Mathematics programme for Term 4 continues with the final two Geometry rotations that cover:

### 2-dimensional Shapes

- ❖ Identifying and classifying polygons
- ❖ Measuring, classifying and calculating missing angles
- ❖ Transversal of parallel lines
- ❖ Parts of a circle

### Symmetry and transformations

- ❖ Symmetry, reflection, rotation and translation

### Three-dimensional figures

- ❖ Identify polyhedra
- ❖ Nets of three-dimensional figures
- ❖ Front, side and top-view
- ❖ Base plans

### Geometric measurement

- ❖ Perimeter
- ❖ Area of parallelograms, triangles and compound figures
- ❖ Volume of cubes and rectangular prisms



Our focus will then move to a unit on Algebra: forming and solving simple linear equations; generalising properties of multiplication and division with whole numbers; and using graphs, tables, and rules to describe linear relationships found in numbers and spatial patterns.

## Social Sciences and Aotearoa New Zealand Histories



**New Zealand Historical Events Exploration:** In this challenge, students will engage in a comprehensive study of up to 120 significant historical events in New Zealand. They will be reviewing summaries of the events, critically analysing their significance and posing thoughtful questions about their impact on New Zealand's history.

## Te Reo Māori

This term will provide opportunities to consolidate Te reo Māori commands including the use of mai (towards the speaker) and atu (away from the speaker) and instruction sentence structures; building kupu/word banks of nouns, verbs and place within a sentence structure. We will continue to learn new karakia to start and end our day; learning and using tikanga for the classroom - greetings and farewells, feelings, praise and compliments as well as language for learning.

## Physical Education and Health

The key sporting activity this term focuses on athletic skills as we build up to our Wadestown School Athletic Sports and the associated inter-school competitions. Pickleball, volleyball and cricket will then be the platforms to develop a range of striking skills.

Daily fitness sessions 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 *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 students for the challenges adolescents face as they navigate their future years.

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

## Technology

Our Technology lessons at Karori West Normal School have finished for the 2023 school year. These will commence in 2024 with the remaining rotations.

## Homework

Weeks 1-3: the usual Homework routine will continue

- 3-4 Mathletics 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
- 20 minutes of reading each night

Weeks 4 - 7: Speech preparation and rehearsal time.



## Education Outside the Classroom Activities

**Year 8 Government House visit:** We have secured a tour booking for Tuesday 14 November. The primary focus of this tour will revolve around the themes of leadership and community service.

**Final week activities:** Keeping with tradition, a number of off-site activities have been organised for our final school week. We have taken into consideration the suggestions put forth by our students, resulting in the following schedule:

- Monday 11 December - climbing the tree tops at 'Adrenalin Forest'
- Tuesday 12 December - school-based and Otari Bush activities
- Wednesday 13 December - Kilbirnie Recreation Centre (Roller Derby) and Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre

Further information regarding the final logistics and requests for parent help will be sent later in the term. The costs associated with these events have been included in the Student Activity Fees for Term 4.

**2024 Curious Cove Camp (Monday 4 March - Friday 8 March):** Documentation detailing the expectations, costs and offers of assistance for parent help will be sent to families early in November.

## 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 who are working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our leavers have a special farewell. Further information and requests for assistance during the evening will be sent to families.

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

## Cyber Safety Messages

We endeavour to support our students as they navigate the online world that surrounds them. Please find opportunities to reinforce these messages below:



- **Be nice.** Mean behaviour is not okay. We expect everyone to treat others with respect and to never post hurtful or embarrassing messages. Always tell an adult about any harassing or bullying messages that others post.
- **Think twice before hitting "enter".** Reminding students that what they post can be used against them. For example, letting the world know that you are on holiday or posting your home address gives would-be thieves a chance to strike. Students also should avoid posting specific locations of parties or events, as well as phone numbers.
- **Follow the "WWGS?" (What Would Grandma Say?) rule.** Do not share anything on social media that you would not want your teachers, future bosses — and yes, Grandma — to see.
- **Use privacy settings.** Privacy settings are important. Go through them together to make sure your children understand each one. Also, explain that passwords are there to protect them against things like identity theft and should not be shared with anyone, not even best friends.
- **Do not "friend" strangers.** "If you do not know them, do not friend them." This is a plain, simple — and safe — rule of thumb. Let them know that those who follow friends are generally happier than those who follow strangers.
- **Keeping devices out of bedrooms at night.** This not only avoids poor online decisions, it is a precursor to getting the sleep needed for optimal functioning at school the following day.

## Termly Reminders

- If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact both the school office and the class teacher, as daily attendance needs to be logged with the Ministry of Education.

### 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. 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, is still being laundered or is in poor condition, a blue polypropylene can be worn for additional warmth, instead of non-uniform hoodies.
- For students who have **outgrown their current uniforms**, there are second-hand uniforms available at the school office. These appropriately fitting items can either be passed down to younger siblings or, if not needed, sold again at the end of the year.

### Stationery requirements:

- Teachers and classrooms have turned into 'pop-up' stationery stores. To ensure lessons are not impeded and stationery teacher supplies are not drained, please ensure your child has in their possession the following named items:
  - A straight 30 cm ruler without dents
  - Pencils that are long enough to be held correctly
  - A useable rubber that erases cleanly
  - A calculator that is powered
  - A protractor with all the readable markings
  - A red and blue pen with flowing ink
  - Highlighters that still highlight
  - Glue sticks that have lids
  - Fine and medium black Sharpies that have not dried up.



### Kōwhai Writers Walk at Wadestown School

Following our visit to the Wellington Writers Walk last term, we embarked on a journey of poetry writing with the Kōwhai students. Our goal has been to create a unique Wadestown School Writers' Walk right on our school grounds. Each student has put their heart and soul into selecting one poem for this project and the voting is currently underway to choose the final 9-10 poems.

Our project's last hurdle lies in securing the necessary outdoor materials and suitable printing to cover the associated costs. To turn this dream into a reality, we're reaching out to our supportive parents who may have contacts, skills or access to funds. Your assistance would be instrumental in bringing this project to life and making our school grounds a hub of literary inspiration. If you are able to assist in any way please make contact with any of the Kōwhai teachers.



We are committed to ensuring the well-being of our students. Our top priorities are their well-being, nurturing relationships and maintaining a strong focus, allowing for uninterrupted learning and growth during the final term of the school year. If you become aware of any issues that your child may be encountering, please inform our teaching staff so that we can provide the appropriate support and assistance.

We are looking forward to our final 2023 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

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

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Kōwhai Activity Donations 2023				
<b>Amount Charged to Student Statement - \$100.00</b>				
Less Term 1	\$6.00			
Less Term 2	\$13.00			
Less Term 3	\$12.50		<b>\$31.50</b>	
<b>Term 4</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Athletic Sports - bus to and from Nairnville Park</li> </ul>		\$5.50		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● EOTC final week events:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adrenalin Forest student admission</li> <li>○ Bus to and from Adrenalin Forest</li> <li>○ Kilbirnie Rec Centre - entry and skate hire</li> <li>○ WRAC - Pool entry and equipment hire</li> <li>○ Bus to and from Kilbirnie</li> <li>○ Sausage Sizzle</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		\$56.00	<b>\$61.50</b>	
<b>Total 2023 Classroom Activity donation spend - Year 7</b>				<b>\$93.00</b>
<b>Total 2023 Classroom Activity donation spend - Year 8</b>				<b>\$100.00</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Year 8 Government House visit - \$7.00</li> </ul>				

*Memories from our Dance Splash performance at Michael Fowler Centre*



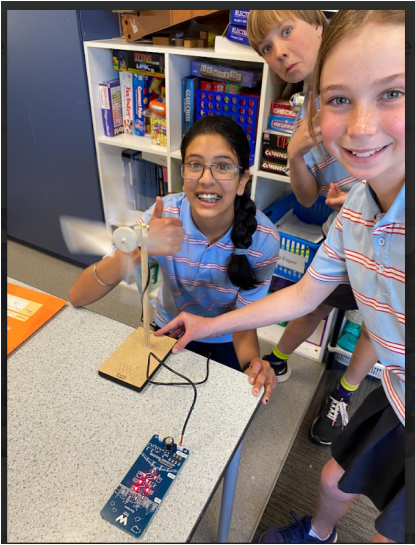


*Kaitiaki Day - Keep New Zealand Beautiful*





Our 'Power Challenge': In teams, we designed and constructed wind turbines with the goal of illuminating a miniature town using renewable energy sources.



Artwork displayed at our Wadestown School Art Exhibition

