

Kauri Syndicate Newsletter

Term 1, 2018

Welcome to the new school year. It is great to see everyone back after the summer holidays. We have lots of exciting events and activities planned for this year, including the School Production in Term 3.

The Kauri Syndicate is made up of two Yr 7 & 8 classes: Room 11 taught by Rachael Bolger and Room 12 taught by Fiona Bolger. We work closely together and will be following largely the same programme across the two classes.

We warmly welcome 10 students who are new to our school and syndicate this year – Joshua Chambers, Xavier Crookston, Elliot Faulkner, Ned Hanlon, Anna Hinds, Johann Jimeno, Elliott McIntosh, Lucy Robinson, Leila Steele and James Voller. We also welcome back Ben Musker who has been in Australia for a year.

Please remind your child to bring a sunhat and a bottle of water to school every day. They also need to be wearing sunscreen when they arrive at school and should bring their own sunscreen to reapply during the day.

Classroom Programme

The programme structure in the Kauri Syndicate is a little different to that of the rest of the school.

On Monday, each student will be given a timetable and a list of tasks based on the lessons of the week. They will be responsible for organising their time to complete the tasks by Friday. Much of the timetable will already be taken up with whole-class lessons, group lessons, technology, PE etc, but we will allow the students as much flexibility as possible to manage their own learning. It is our intention to build the independence and self-management skills of our students, and prepare them to be motivated and successful learners in the future. We will explain the system in more detail at the Meet the Teacher evening on 8 February.

Homework is incorporated into the weekly task sheet. Students are expected to choose some of their assigned tasks to work on at home to ensure that all their work is completed by Friday. We appreciate that people lead busy lives, so if there is some reason why your child cannot complete their work they should bring a note to explain. We also realise that some students may take a little time to adjust to the new programme and we will support students as needed. The weekly task sheet will be posted on our Kauri Syndicate blog at stbensfab.blogspot.com.

Technology

Every Monday starting from Week 3 we go to Mt Cook School for technology classes. We leave school at 12.30pm and arrive back just a little after the bell has gone, around 2.55pm. Those students who need to catch the train can be dropped off at Simla Station on our way back to school. Over the course of the year the students will have classes in Design, Cooking, Woodwork, Robotics and Sewing. They are required to wear covered shoes, not sandals, for safety reasons.

PE

The school PE timetable has changed this year to take more advantage of good weather in Terms 1 & 4. We will be starting the year with a one-off cricket lesson and then moving on to a series of hockey lessons, building on the skills we learned last year. PE will be on Thursdays for Room 11 & 12, starting in Week 1. Students should wear their PE gear to school on those days. In Term 2 we will be doing swimming, and in Terms 3 & 4 we will do sports at the Nairnville Recreation Centre.

Religious Education

We start off the year with a focus on different types of prayer, and we will also link the 'Myself and Others' RE topic with our Kia Kaha health unit. Our main RE topics for the term will be the 'God' strand and Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter.

Topic

For our first topic of the year we will be learning about early New Zealand history as part of the Social Sciences curriculum. We will investigate some of the main events such as the arrival of different groups of people to New Zealand, the Treaty of Waitangi, the New Zealand Wars and the gold rush. Later in the term we will be doing a Kia Kaha unit. It is an anti-bullying programme that has been put together by the police to teach children self-worth, confidence and how to stand up for themselves.

English

Our main focus this term is looking at how we can clearly express and develop our ideas through writing. We will be using a range of genre, but focusing on personal recounts in particular. We will be extending our writing skills, developing descriptive language, characterisation and sense of place, building up to writing recounts based on our Camp and EOTC experiences.

As reading is such an important skill, our expectation is that students will read one book per week (of a size and level suitable to them) during the term. Some longer books may take more time of course. Each term we set the students a range of optional challenges that they can choose to complete, e.g. read a book set during WW2, or a book recommended by a family member. The idea is to encourage the students to read widely and to expand their knowledge of the world and develop empathy for others, as well as practice their reading skills. The list of challenges for this term will be on our blog if you would like to have a look and encourage your child.

Mathematics

We will begin the year with the statistics strand. In this unit we will be carrying out statistical investigations and looking at different ways of displaying and interpreting data. Later in the term we will be building on our number knowledge and developing more advanced addition and subtraction skills.

Te Reo Māori

This year we will be using a mixture of the Ka Mau te Wehi programme and the He Reo Tupu, He Reo Ora programme. We will also incorporate te reo into other curriculum areas wherever possible.

Languages

We will be studying Spanish this year, using a combination of the Si! programme and the Duolingo app.

ICT

We integrate ICT into all areas of the curriculum so that students develop confidence and skill with a wide range of programs and websites, including beginning to learn coding concepts. We have a syndicate blog at stbensfab.blogspot.co.nz, where you will be able to find information on what we are doing in the classroom. We would like the students to have their own blogs too, and will send out a separate notice with more information about this soon.

Camp/EOTC

Both the Year 7 Education Outside the Classroom week and the Year 8 camp will be held in week 7 from 12 – 16 March. More information about both events will be sent home during the next few weeks.

If you have any questions, either about your child or what is going on in the school, please feel free to ask us. You can email us at fiona.bolger@st-benedicts.school.nz or rachael.bolger@st-benedicts.school.nz or call the office. We look forward to an enjoyable and successful term.

Kind regards

Fiona Bolger
Room 12
Syndicate Leader

Rachael Bolger
Room 11

Term 1 Events

School Masses and Liturgies

Ash Wednesday Mass – Wednesday 14 February 9.30am

Resurrection Liturgy – Wednesday 4 April 9am at school

Class Masses

Room 11 – Wednesday 7 March 9.15am

Room 12 – Wednesday 21 March 9.15am

Meet the Teacher Evening

Thursday 8 February

School Picnic

Friday 16 February at Bishop Park, Eastbourne

Goal Setting Interviews

Wednesday 28 February and Thursday 1 March

Camp/EOTC week

Monday 12 – Friday 16 March

Mission Fair

Wednesday 11 April