

# **Kauri Syndicate Newsletter**

## **Term 2, 2019**

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 2. This term one of our major events is the Science Fair. This will be held in the last week of term on Tuesday 2 July. The top ten projects will go on to the NIWA Wellington Science Fair. More information about this will be sent home separately.

We also begin swimming lessons and our Electives programme this term. Swimming begins on Thursday next week and Electives starts on Friday next week.

### **Parent Interviews and Reports**

Thank you to those parents who came in for a goal-setting discussion last term. We will have parent interviews again at the end of this term (26 & 27 June) where we can discuss your child's progress. You will also receive a written report at this time. We look forward to having the opportunity to meet with you and discuss your child's learning.

### **Religious Education**

This term we will be largely covering the Holy Spirit and Sacrament strands of the curriculum and we will be integrating RE into our topic studies wherever possible.

### **English**

We will be learning about different types of formal writing this term, for example, instructions, explanations and essays. We will link this to our Social Studies and Science topics. We will continue to give the children opportunities to read and write in a range of other genres.

As in Term 1, we expect students to work on improving their reading skills by reading at least one book per week. Books that are longer than usual for your child can count as two or three if appropriate – we don't want students to limit the size of the books they choose. There are a range of other reading challenges this term – these can be found on our blog. Please continue to do what you can at home to encourage your child to read regularly.

### **Mathematics**

In Mathematics we are carrying on with learning strategies for adding and subtracting whole numbers, decimals, fractions and integers. We will move on to multiplication and division later in the term. We will also be studying geometry this term, focusing on shape, reflection, rotation and enlargement.

### **Inquiry Topic**

We start the term by looking at fair testing in Science. This is to help the students carry out their own experiments for Science Fair, following the scientific method. We will then move on to our major topic of Ancient Egypt, with a link to Maori history. We will be looking at how different societies are organised, how cultural practices change over time and how historians and archeologists find out about the past. We will also have a strong focus on research skills.

Towards the end of the term we will be doing a health unit on Changes at Puberty.

## **Te Reo Māori**

This term we will continue to have lessons with our external teachers Joanne and Stacey. We will also incorporate Te Reo into other curriculum areas. This term our major focus will be on preparing for a powhiri.

## **Art**

In art this term we will be focusing on sketching 3D objects and a range of Egyptian-inspired art.

## **French**

We will continue learning basic German vocab and sentences this term, following the Ja! Programme, and using the DuoLingo app/website.

## **Digital Technology**

As usual, we will integrate digital technologies into all areas of the curriculum so that students develop confidence and skill with a wide range of programs and websites. We have a Kauri syndicate blog at [stbensfab.blogspot.co.nz](http://stbensfab.blogspot.co.nz), where you can find information on what we are doing in the classroom, and links to all the students' blogs that we are starting up this term. We would love to see some comments on our posts, so have a look when you can. The students generally post something once a week and it is motivating for them to know they are writing for an audience beyond the classroom.

## **Physical Education**

Our swimming programme begins on Thursday in Week 2. We will be travelling by bus to Keith Spry Pool in Johnsonville.

## **Homework**

Homework is incorporated into the weekly task sheet and is therefore given on Mondays and due on Fridays. It is our expectation that each child will complete all their work and hand it in on time. If there is a reason why your child cannot complete their work they should bring a note to explain.

A major part of homework this term will be the Science Fair project. It is essential that the project be completed by 2 July (last week of term), as we have external judges coming in to assess the projects. It is not possible to complete a Science Fair project at the last minute, so please encourage your child to work steadily on it throughout the term. We would like all students to have decided on their topic by the end of Week 2. Please read the separate information letter that will be coming home this week.

Kind regards

Fiona Bolger  
Room 12

Rebecca Blackwood  
Room 13

Rachael Bolger  
Room 11

## **Term 2 Events**

### **School Masses and Liturgies**

St Benedict's Day Mass, Friday 5 July at 9:30am

### **Class Masses/Liturgies**

Rm 13 – Wednesday 5 June, 9.15am

Rm 12 – Wednesday 12 June, 9:15am

Rm 11 – Wednesday 26 June, 9:15am

### **Sports**

School Cross-country– 14 May (postponement 21 May)

Northern Zone Cross-country – 6 June (postponement 13 June)

Swimming – eight consecutive Thursdays from 9 May to 27 June

### **Immunisations**

Gardasil (Yr 8s) – 22 May

Boostrix (Yr 7s) – 22 May

### **Parent Interviews**

Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 June

### **Science Fair**

Tuesday 2 July