



## Manuka Syndicate Newsletter - Term Two, 2019

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019

### Dates for your Diary



**Parish Mass or Liturgy at St. Benedict's Church, Wednesday at 9:15 a.m.**

**Rooms 1 and 8: Week 3, 15<sup>th</sup> May**

**Rooms 2 and 9: Week 8, 19 June**

**Rooms 3 and 10: Week 5, 29<sup>th</sup> May**

**Rooms 4 and 11: Week 9, 26<sup>th</sup> June**

**St Benedict's Day Mass and activities: St Benedict's Church, Week 10, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 9:30 a.m. This will be followed by cultural activities at the school thereafter.**

**Get Set, Go: Wednesdays Week 1 to Week 8 inclusive (Each class has their own session time. Please wear sports mufti and sports shoes to school on Wednesdays).**

**Electives: Each Friday from Week 2, 10<sup>th</sup> May until Week 10, 5<sup>th</sup> July**

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to the second term at St. Benedict's School. We are excited about the many opportunities it will offer your child to learn and socialise with others throughout the school.

To those families beginning their first term with us, we wish you a very warm welcome indeed and trust that this will be the start of many wonderful experiences with our school family. We are certain that you will quickly feel at home amongst so many friendly, helpful people.

### **Fonterra's Free Milk in Schools Programme**

St. Benedict's School receives free UHT milk (long-life milk), deliveries from Fonterra and your child may well be offered a daily 200ml carton of this in their classroom. Please inform your child's teacher if you do not wish your child to receive this milk.

### **Winter School Uniform**

Term Two marks the time to wear the St. Benedict's winter uniform. We expect all students to wear the correct uniform with pride. Please ensure any leggings or under-shorts are not visible. Hair ties and clips should be in the school colours of black, navy blue or maroon and for safety reasons, stud earrings and watches are the only jewellery permitted. There is a navy woollen school jersey, or sweatshirt available for all students. Please visit the school office if you wish to purchase any uniform items or have any

queries about the school uniform. You can refer to the school's website for a detailed list of winter uniform options. Please ensure all school clothing is named.

### **Sunhats**

School sunhats are not required in Term Two, however you might prefer your child to wear one during break times and outdoor sports. If this is the case, it can be left at school inside your child's school bag, chair bag or on their bag hook. Please ensure that it is clearly named. A school uniform beanie can be purchased from the school office to keep heads warm.

### **Timely Arrival at School**

Students are welcome in their classrooms at 8:30 a.m. Before this time, they may wait quietly in the school library or outside the school buildings. We request that all students are ready to begin classes by 8:50 a.m. The school roll is taken at 8:50 a.m. and students arriving after the roll is taken will be recorded as late. Late arrivals disrupt both students and teachers.

### **Weekly Homework**

Homework provides a home - school link and in Manuka, the focus is on reading activities. It should require minimal adult input. Homework books are sent home each Friday and should be handed in for marking by the following Thursday at the latest. Reading books will be found in bookbags and should be read daily by your child. Their purpose is to practise and enjoy reading at a non-challenging level of difficulty. Daily reading is the priority homework task.

## **Term Two's Curriculum and Events**

### **School Reports and Parent Interviews**

The students in our syndicate will receive a written Action Plan Report at the end of the term, with the opportunity for an accompanying teacher-parent interview on either Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of June. The exception will be students not yet five-and-a-half years of age by the end of the term: the parents of these children will be invited to a parent-teacher conference after approximately six weeks of their child attending school. As the end of term approaches, those parents receiving reports will be notified as such by e-mail.

### **Electives**

The school's Electives programme will run each Friday from Week Two to Week Ten inclusive (nine sessions), from 11:30am - 12:30pm. Electives are a great opportunity to practise new skills in a supportive environment and with students from different classes and age-groups. Students demonstrate enjoyment in different class groups and activities.

If you are still to register your child's elective, please do so urgently through the school office.

### **Get Set, Go on Wednesdays**

*Get Set, Go* is an excellent programme run by a Kelly Sports coach. It practises the fundamental physical and social skills necessary for a range of sports, and class sessions will be held each Wednesday for eight weeks beginning in Week One. **Your child requires appropriate sports mufti and sports shoes for *Get Set Go*, each Wednesday.** Please dress your child according to the weather conditions.

### **Syndicate Assemblies**

A Syndicate Assembly is held each Friday and is an opportunity for us to sing together, share our achievements, show our class work and focus on our topic study through stories and other presentations. The assembly is run by a different class in the syndicate each week.

### **Epic Eddie and Epic Edwina Awards**

Epic Eddie and Epic Edwina are separate awards given to classes that demonstrate our school's EPIC values in a particular week. These awards are presented during our Monday school-wide assembly. The classes being awarded Epic Eddie and Epic Edwina also end up being recognised in the school's newsletter.

### **Te Reo Classes**

Fortnightly, each class in the syndicate has a Te Reo session with two visiting teachers. We then practise the newly acquired language and skills in our classrooms. There is also an opportunity for students to join the Kapa Haka group each Friday from 12:15pm - 12:45pm.

### **Religious Education**

We begin the term's Religious Education lessons with a study of the Holy Spirit. We explore some symbols that represent the Holy Spirit and learn about how God's Spirit changed individuals' lives.

After Pentecost, our focus will be on Jesus, his early life, and how He reveals the nature of God.

We welcome families joining us for morning prayers and the students love having you there. Thank you for arriving before 8:50am. and supporting this reflective beginning to our school day. A friendly reminder that following prayers, a quick parent getaway is appreciated so we can start the day's learning!

### **Social Science, Science and English**

Five Senses: *Sense This*. This unit will prove to be great fun with its wide scope for interesting experiments! We're sure you can imagine!

In the second half of the term, we will be looking at our community fire and ambulance services and the associated people who help us. This Social Sciences unit will include a visit from a fire engine and ambulance (Huge thanks to one of our syndicate parents for organising the latter.), with a presentation from each department.

The English curriculum focus is *The Purpose of Writing* and we will explore the purpose of our own and other authors' writings. Related activities will vary from class to class, but will link with our Social Sciences and Science studies wherever possible, and could include the reading and writing of experiments, instructions, explanations and diagrams.

### **Mathematics**

*Number Knowledge* and *Number Strategies* will remain the focus for the term. The students will continue to develop their counting, grouping and equal sharing strategies, addition and subtraction. In the *Geometry* strand they will study geometrical shapes and how these can be transformed by, for example, rotation and reflection.

Thank you very much for your wonderful, ongoing support as we teach your children. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

**Anne Minto - Room 1, Charmaine McGowan - Room 2, Fiona Barnett - Room 3, Lata Govind - Room 4 and Sarah Wood (Learning Support Teacher)**