

Kauri Syndicate Newsletter

Term 3, 2019

Welcome back to Term 3. We hope the students have had a great holiday and have come back refreshed and ready for an exciting term.

This term one of our major events is our Art Exhibition in Week 10. We hold this in alternate years to the school production. The students will be working on a range of visual art activities this term, building up to the exhibition for parents on Thursday 26 September.

Well done to all the students for the work they put into their Science Fair projects last term, and thank you to parents for your support. The judges were very impressed with the standard of entries. The top ten projects will go on to the NIWA Wellington Science Fair at the end of August.

Religious Education/Topic

This term our R.E. teaching will be integrated with our Science topic. We will be focusing on some aspects of the pope's *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home* encyclical about caring for our planet. Our Science learning is based around animal adaptation and evolution and we will look at how human actions affect habitats and animal life.

Towards the end of the term we will be teaching a Health unit called 'Keeping Ourselves Safe'. This unit has been put together by the police to teach students how to stand up for themselves and others, and how to seek help in situations of abuse. We will include aspects of cyber safety. There will be a parent meeting to share information about this unit on Monday 12 August at 6pm, or you can read about the programme on the NZ Police website at <https://goo.gl/IGuXyP>.

English

This term we will be learning more about structure in writing, including the narrative structure: initiating events – problem – resolution. In factual writing we will learn more about how to write good introductions and conclusions and use effective structure within and between paragraphs. We will continue to give the children opportunities to read and write in a range of other genres. As usual, we expect students to work on improving their reading skills by aiming to read the equivalent of at least one book per week.

We will also be running book groups, where students meet in groups of four to six to read and discuss a particular novel that they will read over a few weeks. The aim is to encourage students to enjoy books and to develop their ability to analyse and discuss what they are reading. Groups that are working well and having thoughtful discussions will be allowed to bring in some snacks to share during their meetings.

Mathematics

In Mathematics we are learning mental and written strategies for solving multiplication & division problems. We will also be studying measurement this term, in particular area, perimeter, volume and unit conversions. We will begin a focus on fractions, decimals, ratios and percentages later this term.

Art

Art will be a major focus in Term 3. We will work on building students' skills in paint, pencil and mixed media as we create pieces for the art exhibition in September.

Te Reo Māori

This term we will continue to work on extending the students' knowledge of common words and phrases. Our external te reo teachers, Joanne and Stacy, will visit each class every fortnight. We

French

We will be beginning to learn French words, phrases and culture, following the Oui! Programme, supplemented with the Duolingo app.

ICT

As usual, we will integrate ICT 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.com, where you can find information on what we are doing in the classroom, and links to all the students' blogs. 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/Health

Our Nairnville programme continues this term, starting from next week. Room 13 goes to Nairnville on Tuesdays from 9 – 10am, Room 12 from 10 - 11am and Room 11 from 11 – 12pm. The Nairnville programme will focus on athletics skills and winter sports this term.

Weekly Tasks & Homework

Our weekly task sheet is given out every Monday and all work needs to be completed by Friday. We encourage students to hand in work throughout the week so that teachers can give feedback and improvements can be made if necessary. Students need to practice their time-management skills by making decisions about which tasks are best done at school and which at home. We appreciate that people lead busy lives, so if there is some reason why your child cannot complete all their work they should bring a note to explain. The weekly task sheet is posted on the Kauri Blog each week so you can keep up to date with what is happening.

Term 3 Events

School Masses and Liturgies

Grandparents Mass, Friday 26 July, 10.00 am (Morning tea afterwards)
Assumption Mass, Tuesday 15 August, 9:30 am

Class Masses

Room 11 – Wednesday 18 September, 9:15am
Room 12 – Wednesday 21 August, 9:15am
Room 13 – Wednesday 25 September, 9.15am

Sports

School Swimming Sports – Thursday 25 July (Karori Swimming Pool)
Northern Zone Swimming Sports – Friday 30 August
Interzone Swimming Sports – Thursday 12 September

Exams

Aust. Maths Competition – Thursday 1 August
ICAS Science – Thursday 5 September
ICAS Writing – Tuesday 10 September
ICAS English – Tuesday 17 September
ICAS Maths – Thursday 19 September

Keeping Ourselves Safe meeting - Monday 12 August 6pm

Sports & Group Photos – Wednesday 25 September

Art Exhibition Evening – Thursday 26 September 3 – 7pm

Kind regards

Fiona Bolger

Rebecca Blackwood

Rachael Bolger