

Kauri Syndicate Newsletter

Term 1, 2019

Welcome to the new school year. It is great to see everyone back after the holidays. We have lots of exciting events and activities planned for our syndicate this year.

This year the Kauri Syndicate is made up of three Year 7 & 8 classes: Room 11 taught by Rachael Bolger, Room 12 taught by Fiona Bolger and Room 13 taught by Rebecca Blackwood. We will provide many opportunities for the students in the three classes to work together.

We warmly welcome four students who are new or returning to our school and syndicate this year – Jong-Woo Ahn, Robbie Elwood, Billy Giles and Dylan Glass.

Classroom Programme

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.

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.

Uniforms and Absences

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform and double-check that every item of clothing is named. This includes the school sunhat. If your child is going to be absent, please ring the absence line or email the school office.

PE & Health

We will be starting the year with a one-off cricket lesson and then moving on to a series of AFL (Aussie Rules) lessons. PE will be on Thursdays for Room 11, 12 & 13, starting in Week 4. 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.

We would like your support to help teach the students the importance of eating healthily and protecting themselves from the sun. We expect that students will wear sunscreen to school and bring their own supply so that they can re-apply it when needed. It is important that Year 7 & 8 students develop independence in looking after themselves.

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/Electronics, Cooking, Woodwork, Coding/Movie-making and Sewing. They are required to wear covered shoes, not sandals, for safety reasons.

Religious Education/Topic

We start off the year with a focus on different types of prayer, and we will also link the 'Myself and Others' RE unit with beginning of year activities to establish a positive classroom culture. Later in the term we will learn more about Lent and Easter. Our main topic for the term will be an RE/Social Studies Caritas unit on South Sudan.

English

Our 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 narratives and factual recounts in particular. We will be extending our writing skills, developing descriptive language, characterisation and sense of place. Later we will write 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

This term we will be learning about statistics. In this unit we will be carrying out statistical investigations and looking at different ways of graphing and interpreting data. We will also be building on our number knowledge and developing more advanced calculation skills.

Te Reo Māori

This year we will be having fortnightly lessons with external teachers and also teaching our own te reo lessons to support these. We will also incorporate te reo into other curriculum areas wherever possible. Optional Kapa Haka lessons will take place weekly.

Languages

We will be studying German in Term 1 and 2, using a combination of the Ja! 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. We have a syndicate blog at stbensfab.blogspot.co.nz (just google 'kauri blog') 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 6 from 4 – 8 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, rachael.bolger@st-benedicts.school.nz and rebecca.blackwood@st-benedicts.school.nz or call the office. We are looking forward to an enjoyable and successful first term.

Kind regards

Fiona Bolger
Room 12

Rachael Bolger
Room 11

Rebecca Blackwood
Room 13

Term 1 Events

Masses and Liturgies

Beginning of year Mass – Wednesday 13 February at 9.30am
Ash Wednesday Liturgy - Wednesday 6 March
Stations of the Cross – Friday 12 April

Meet the Teacher Evening

Thursday 31 January 7pm

School Picnic

Friday 8 February at Bishop Park, Eastbourne

Year 8 Camp/ Year 7 EOTC week

Monday 4 – Friday 8 March

Mission Fair

Wednesday 10 April

Our Classes Leading School Assemblies

Room 11 Monday 4th February @11am
Room 12 Monday 11th February @11am
Room 13 Monday 18th February @11am

Sports events this term:

Primary Schools Wellington Northern Zone Cricket - Tuesday 26th February
Primary Schools Wellington Northern Zone Football - Tuesday 12th March
Primary Schools Wellington Futsal - Tuesday 2nd April

Goal Setting Interviews:

Wednesday 20th February and Thursday 21st February