

Kauri Syndicate Newsletter

Term 4, 2019

Welcome back to the final term of 2019. It will be a very busy term, with events such as the school Athletics Day, Spring Fair, Book Week and the speech competition. Towards the end of term we have several end of year activities, such as the final Mass, Year 7 and Year 8 Retreats, the Year 8 Leavers' Dinner and the Carol Service & Prizegiving. We plan to do as much as possible in this last term to prepare the students academically and socially for the challenges of next year.

As we approach summer, please remind your child to bring their sunhat and sunscreen to school every day this term. Students of this age need to learn to take responsibility for their own health and manage their sun exposure.

Religious Education & Topic

We will start the term with 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. You can read about the programme on the NZ Police website at <https://goo.gl/IGuXyP>.

Our R.E. teaching will again be integrated with our topic. We will include ideas around respect for each other and respect for God's gift of life during the Keeping Ourselves Safe unit. After that, we plan to follow up what we learned last term about the environment and the pope's *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home* encyclical. Our learning last term was based around animal adaptation and evolution. This term we plan to focus more on issues that affect the environment, e.g. climate change and pollution, and what actions we can take to help find solutions to these problems and show respect for God's creation.

Towards the end of the term we will learn about Advent and Christmas. We also have separate Year 7 and Year 8 retreats planned for the end of the term that will give students a chance to reflect on the year and help them prepare for next year.

English

Our focus for this term is speech writing. Students will deliver their speeches to their classmates in Week 5, we will hold semi-finals in Week 6 and the finalists will go on to compete in the school competition held in Week 7.

We will also be working on improving students' ability to understand inferences and deeper meanings in fictional texts. We will give students opportunities to write their own stories and poems, and practise expressing their thoughts and feelings effectively.

The school is holding a book week in Week 4, 4 – 8 November, which will include a book character dress-up day on the Friday.

Mathematics

In Mathematics we are studying fractions, ratios, decimals and percentages. We will also be learning about algebra and probability this term.

Te Reo

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 will also incorporate te reo into other curriculum areas.

Digital Technology

We will continue to integrate digital tools into all areas of study.

Physical Education/Health

This term we will be focusing on gymnastics skills at Nairnville. We have the same Tuesday timeslots as last term, starting in Week 2. Room 13 goes to Nairnville on Tuesdays from 9 – 10am, Room 12 from 10 - 11am and Room 11 from 11 – 12pm. Students should wear PE gear on those days.

Languages

We will continue our study of the French language this term, following the Oui! programme, supplemented by the Duolingo website.

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 practise 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 sheets are posted on the Kauri Blog (stbensfab.blogspot.co.nz) each week so you can keep up to date with what is happening.

Camp 2019

The Year 8 Camp is booked for 23 – 27 March next year. Much of the planning needs to be done this year, so parents of Year 7s, please look out for information coming home soon asking you to confirm attendance, fill in a medical information sheet and possibly volunteer to be a parent helper.

Parents of Year 8s – if you have any thermals or woollen socks that your child will not be needing, we would love to build up a collection of these items at school that we could lend out each year. The thermals and socks are a significant cost for many families and something that we always have to spend a lot of time chasing up, so this would be much appreciated. Alternatively, perhaps your child could make arrangements with a friend in Year 7 to lend them the gear for the week of camp. This is often more difficult once the Year 8s have moved on to college, so organising it this year would be great.

Kind regards

Fiona Bolger
Room 12

Rebecca Blackwood
Room 13

Rachael Bolger
Room 11

Term 4 2019 Events

School Masses and Liturgies

All Saints Liturgy – Library 1.30pm Friday 1 November

End of Year Mass - 9.30am Friday 6 December

Carol Service & Prizegiving – 6pm Thursday 12 December

Class Masses

Room 12 – 9.15 Wednesday 6 November

Room 11 – 9.15 Wednesday 20 November

Room 13 – 9.15 Wednesday 27 November

Sports events

School Athletics – Thursday 17 October (postponement date Wednesday 23 October)

Northern Zone Athletics Monday 4 November (postponement date Monday 11 November)

Interzone Athletics Tuesday 26 November (postponement date Thursday 28 November)

Book Week - 4 – 8 November (book character dress-up day Friday 8 November)

40/20-hour Famine – 15 – 17 November

School Speech Competition - Friday 29 November

Yr 7 & Yr 8 Retreat Days – Tuesday 3 December (Yr 7), Thursday 5 December (Yr 8) (TBC)

Year 8 Leavers' Dinner – Sunday 8 December

Big Day Out – Wednesday 11 December (TBC)

Reports home – Thursday 12 December

Last day of school – Friday 13 December – finish 1pm