

Kauri Syndicate Newsletter

Term 1, 2020

Tena koutou katoa, welcome to the start of the 2020 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, including Year 8 camp, Year 7 EOTC week and our school production in Term 3.

The Kauri Syndicate is made up of three Year 7 & 8 classes. We work closely together and provide many opportunities for the students in the three classes to work together. This year we warmly welcome Emma Milne to our teaching team, she will be teaching in Room 12. Room 11 will be taught by Rachael Bolger and Room 13 taught by Rebecca Blackwood.

We also welcome five students who are new to our school this year – Hamish Crookston, Lex Cattermole, Amberley van Zyl, Tasmin Elwood, Te Aroa Te Ariki-Ferguson and Jessica Robinson.

Classroom Programme

In Kauri Syndicate we run what we call the “task system”. On Mondays, 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.

Kotahitanga

Our overarching theme for this term will be Kotahitanga (unity). We will be looking at ways to build our syndicate and class communities, and create a supportive atmosphere in which everyone is able to flourish. As part of this we will be looking at our whakapapa, aspects of New Zealand’s history such as Te Tiriti and Parihaka, developing personal strengths and a growth mindset.

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

Our main focus for Term 1 will be Caritas in Action: Restoring Hope and Spreading Love. This takes a look at the work Caritas is doing in West Papua, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. It will be a cross-curricula inquiry with an emphasis on social justice and how we can take action to help others.

English

This term we will be taking part in Get NZ Writing in which we will exchange pieces of writing with another school somewhere in New Zealand. The focus will be on poetry this term, but we will be using a range of genres in our work throughout the term.

We are also signing up for #Nzreadaloud which is where schools all over the country read the same book to their students and explore concepts from the book, sharing ideas with other schools through the blog, Edmodo and Twitter.

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 practise 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 will be integrated into all curriculum areas, and will be a specific focus of our Kotahitanga unit as we look at aspects of Māori history.

Languages

We will be studying Spanish in Term 1 and 2, using a combination of the Si! programme and the Duolingo app.

Digital Technology

This will be a focus for us this year and we will be learning about a wide range of digital tools we can use to enhance our learning in all curriculum areas. 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.

PE & Health

The PE for Term 1 is still being negotiated as we had a last-minute cancellation. When it is finalised we will let you know. The students should wear their PE gear to school on the days we have PE.

Camp/EOTC

Both the Year 7 Education Outside the Classroom week and the Year 8 camp will be held in Week 9 from 23 March to 27 March. More information about both events will be sent home during the next few weeks.

Uniforms and Absences

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform and double-check that every item of clothing is named, especially the school sunhat. When everyone's clothes are identical, they are easily lost! If your child is going to be absent, please ring the absence line or email the school office.

Reminder: We're a Sunsmart School

As a Sun-Smart School St Benedict's:

- Requires all students to wear a school sunhat which shades the face, neck and ears whenever the students are outside and involved in school activities during Terms 1&4.
- Encourages students to protect themselves with sunscreen during school trips and recommends students bringing their own sunscreen to reapply during the day.
- Encourages students to wear clothing that protects their skin when they are on school trips and are exposed to the sun for extended lengths of time e.g. sports days or picnics. (White would be the preferred colour of long sleeve tops under the sports top.)
- Encourages parents and teachers to follow the above and be positive role models when participating in school activities.
- For school picnic and camps only – encourages students to wear swimsuits that cover as much as possible when swimming outdoors e.g. long sleeve rash tops.

School Picnic Information - Bishop Park, Eastbourne. Friday 14th February 2020

Please refer to today's whole-school newsletter for all the information about this year's annual school picnic.

Arriving at school

For reasons of Health and Safety (e.g. not being supervised), students are not permitted on the school's grounds before 8:00am daily. After this time, students can read quietly in the school's library (unsupervised). The 8:30am bell signals the option to enter the corridors and classrooms in order to unpack and prepare for daily lessons.

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 rachael.bolger@st-benedicts.school.nz, rebecca.blackwood@st-benedicts.school.nz or emma.milne@st-benedicts.school.nz or call the office. We are looking forward to getting to know and work with your children.

Kind regards

Rachael Bolger
Room 11

Emma Milne
Room 12

Rebecca Blackwood
Room 13

Term 1 2020 Events

School Masses and Liturgies

Beginning of Year / Ash Wednesday Mass Wednesday 26th February 9:30 am

Stations of the Cross Friday 12th April

School Picnic

Friday 14th of February at Bishop Park Eastbourne

Meet the Teacher Evening

Thursday 31st of January

Year 8 Camp / Year 7 EOTC Week

Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th of February 2020

Mission Fair

Wednesday 8th of April

Goal Setting Interviews:

Wednesday 19th of February and Thursday 20th February

Buddy-Class Masses:

Rooms 2&8 and 3&9 Tuesday 11th of February

Rooms 4&10 and 5&11 Tuesday 10th of March

Rooms 6&12 and 7&13 Tuesday 24th of March