

# Manuka Syndicate Newsletter – Term 4, 2020

## Dates For Your Diary

**Rooms 1, 2 and 3 Mass** - Week 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, St Benedict's Church – 9:15am

**Room 4 Mass** - Week 5, 10<sup>th</sup> November, St Benedict's Church – 9:15am

**End of Year Advent Mass** - Week 8, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December, St Benedict's Church

**Christmas Carols and Year Eight Prize-giving** - Week 9, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December,  
St Benedict's Church - 6:00pm

**Swimming** - Fridays, Weeks 1 to 8 excluding Week 6 (Teacher Only Day). (7 sessions)

**St Benedict's Family Fun Day** – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October – 11:00am - 2:00pm

## **Dear Manuka Parents and Whanau,**

Welcome back to the final nine weeks of school for 2020. On top of many new arrivals in to Manuka Syndicate last term, we warmly welcome five new students who have started this term. Jackson Matuszewski, Arabella Clarke, Zach Clark and Nina Munn - all in Room 1, and Mariajose Correa-Cazares in Room 3. Welcome to the St Benedict's School family.

This term will fly by with all the exciting learning opportunities that we have planned for your children. A number of new families are joining us over the term, and on behalf of the syndicate community we welcome you to our school. We are certain that you will feel most welcome amongst us.

We would like to invite you to our classroom Morning Prayers. These are held at the beginning of each school day and last approximately 10 minutes. You are also warmly invited to the End of Year Advent Mass on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December and the Christmas carols and Year Eight prize-giving on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December. These masses will be held at St Benedict's Church.

This term we enjoy warmer, sunnier days and our summer uniform. Please remember that sunhats must now be worn during break times and sport to protect your child's head and neck from the sun. All hats should be clearly named and can be kept at school in desks, chairbags, schoolbags or on your child's bag hook. Sunscreen may be worn to school.

Black sandals for both boys and girls, or black school shoes with the school's uniform ankle socks, are the footwear options. Please remember that hair-ties and hairbands should only be worn in the school colours of black, white, navy blue or maroon, and that no jewellery or nail polish should be worn. For safety reasons, studs are the only earrings allowed.

## Some of the Term's Events

**A Religious Education, Social Science and Technology unit: *Our Community*:** A topic focus for the term is an integrated Religious Education unit called *Our Community*. The emphasis of this unit will be recognising the many people who support us in our community, and identifying ways that we can contribute to our community in return.

**Carter Observatory Trip:** we will visit the Carter Observatory in Kelburn in Week 5 (Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November), and will be asking for parent assistance with this event. You will receive a notice about this trip nearer the date.

**English:** the syndicate's reading and writing programmes will focus on the *structure* of writing. Classes will investigate the organisation of words, sentences, paragraphs and images within shared books and their own writing. The school's Speech and Poetry Competition will be held in Week 7 on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November, and all Manuka students will practise reciting a poem for this. You will receive more information about preparing for this competition later in the term.

**Mathematics:** our main focus continues to be *Number Knowledge* and *Number Strategies*. We will also study *Time and Money*.

**Physical Education:** this term we will complete 7 sessions of swimming at Khandallah School Pool.

The swimming sessions will be held each Friday from Weeks 1-8, excluding the Friday of Week 6 which is a Teacher Only Day. Each swimming session is 30 minutes long. Your child will be transported to and from the Khandallah School swimming pool by bus. Each swimming group comprises of roughly five swimmers with a trained EasySwim instructor, and four swimming groups use the pool at a time. Your child should come to school on Fridays in named sports mufti that they can independently change from into their named togs, and easily get dressed into after swimming. All swimmers need goggles and a swimming cap. If your child does not bring a swimming cap, one will be provided by the pool staff. Wet costumes and towels need to be easily transported back to school in a sturdy waterproof bag that is not their school bag. If you would like to join your child's class at the pool, please inform the teacher concerned.

**Te Reo Māori:** once a fortnight, the syndicate will receive instruction in Te Reo Māori from the school's te Reo teacher. The syndicate will also meet each Friday afternoon for a syndicate assembly and at this time will practise te Reo through song. Each classroom incorporates the language into their learning programme.

**School Reports, Week 9:** all students except for those New Entrant students beginning school in Term Four 2020, will receive a school report in Week 9 of this term. New Entrant students beginning school in Term Four will have an Entry into School Assessment after approximately six weeks at school. Upon the completion of this assessment, parents will be invited by their child's teacher to attend an interview and discuss the results.

Thank you for supporting our classroom programmes, and particularly the homework tasks including reading practise. Our home and school partnership provides your children with a strong foundation for learning, and is very much appreciated.

Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about our school activities. We wish you and your families a very fulfilling and happy term.

With best wishes and kind regards,

**Anne Minto, Charmaine McGowan, Fiona Barnett, Sarah Wood, and Mary Ryan (Part-Time in Room 4).**

**Manuka Syndicate Teachers**