

Kauri Syndicate Newsletter - Term 1, 2021

Thursday 4th February 2021

Tena koutou katoa, welcome to the start of the school year. It is great to see everyone back after the holidays and we have some exciting events and activities planned for this term.

The Kauri Syndicate is made up of three Year 7 & 8 classes. This year we warmly welcome to the teaching team, Richard Smith (Room 11) and Paul Cunningham (Room 12) with Room 13 being taught by Rebecca Blackwood (Syndicate Leader).

We also welcome two students and their families who are new to our school and syndicate – Max Bowmaker and Isabel Mc Cormick-Morales who are both in Room 12 this year.

Classroom Programme

In the Kauri Syndicate we run a task-based system. 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. On a Monday, a weekly timetable and a list of the tasks are shared with the students. These can be found in the Google Classroom. Students are responsible for organising their time during the week and homework is incorporated to ensure that all work is completed by the Friday. If for some reason your child cannot complete their work, please email us to let us know. We acknowledge that some students may take a little time to adjust to the new programme and we will support students as needed.

Religious Education

Our main topic for this term will be a Caritas unit on Lent - the theme is *A New Way Forward*. In our changing world we all need to work together to find a new way forward to transform our world into one that promotes love, hope and justice for all.

Science

The students will be taking part in a 21 Day Challenge - *Young Oceans Explorers*. This challenge is integrated across curriculum areas promoting thinking, creating and action to engage and empower students to care for New Zealand's oceans. The syndicate will be visiting the Island Bay Marine Reserve on Friday 12 March.

The overall aims and actions are:

- To encourage an increased knowledge of the ocean, particularly the Hauraki Gulf.
- To build an understanding of the importance of the ocean to many people in various ways.
- To think about kaitiakitanga and caring for our ocean.
- Take daily action - each child to pick up at least one piece of plastic each day.
- To prompt further action and share their learning about caring for our ocean.

Literacy

Our focus this term is looking at how we can clearly express and develop our ideas writing, oral and visual language. We will be using a range of genre, with a focus on explanation and persuasion. We will be extending our knowledge and skills by reading a variety of articles and books, developing our writing skills through recording research questions, interviewing people for their points of view, presenting our findings, creating visual posters, and listening carefully to ideas.

Later in the term we will write recounts based on our Camp and EOTC experiences.

Each term we set the students a range of optional reading challenges that they can choose to complete. 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.

Mathematics

This term we will be focusing on 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.

PE & Health

We will be starting the year with golf lessons. PE will be on Tuesdays and students should wear their PE gear to school on those days. In Term 2 we will be doing swimming and focusing on cross country, and in Terms 3 and 4 the focus will be on athletics and lawn bowls.

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. Over the course of the year the students will have classes in Design/Electronics, Cooking, Woodwork, Coding/Moviemaking and Sewing. Students are required to wear **covered shoes** for safety reasons, so please no sandals.

Te Reo Māori

This year we will continue to have fortnightly lessons with Whaea Adrienne and weekly Kapa Haka with Matua Hemi (which is optional). We also teach our own lessons and incorporate Te Reo into other curriculum areas wherever possible.

Languages

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

Music

This year we have a specialist music teacher with Rebecca Haswell. The lessons will be on Fridays for Term 1 and 3. The focus will be understanding the basic elements of music, how to find a beat and how rhythm works.

Digital Technology

We integrate digital technology 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 to celebrate student success stories and to keep parents informed. All students have their own blogs which will be set up in the next few weeks.

Camp/Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC)

As part of our EOTC programme both the Year 7 EOTC week and the Year 8 camp will be held in week 7 from Monday 15 – 19 March. More information about both events will be sent home during the next few weeks.

Reminder: We're a Sunsmart School

As a Sun-Smart School St Benedict's:

- requires all students during Terms 1 & 4 to wear a school sunhat whenever outside and involved in school activities.
- 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.

- 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 12th February

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

Uniform/Lunches

Please ensure your child/children wear the correct uniform. Items need to be clearly named and this includes the school sunhat. Girls should wear hair ties and bands in the school colours (navy, maroon or white). Please ensure that your child/ children have plenty of healthy food items in their lunchbox and a drink bottle with water.

Arriving at School/Absences

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 to unpack and prepare for daily lessons. If your child is going to be absent, please ring the absence line or email the school office.

If you have any questions, either about your child or what is happening at school, please feel free to ask. You can email us at rebecca.blackwood@st-benedicts.school.nz, paul.cunningham@st-benedicts.school.nz, richard.smith@st-benedicts.school.nz or call the office. We are looking forward to an enjoyable and successful first term.

Kind regards

Rebecca Blackwood
Kauri Syndicate Leader
(Room 13)

Paul Cunningham
(Room 12)

Richard Smith
(Room 11)

Term 1 Events

Masses and Liturgies

Beginning of year Mass/Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 17 February (9:30am)

Lent Reconciliation – Tuesday 9 March (11:15am)

Buddy Class Mass – Tuesday 23 March (9:15am)

Holy Thursday Stations of the Cross – Friday 1 April (11:15am)

Resurrection Liturgy – Wednesday 7 April (9:15am)

Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 16 February (6:00pm-7:30pm)

Goal Setting Interviews:

Tuesday 23 and Thursday 25 February (2:00pm-6:00pm)

School Picnic

Friday 12 February at Bishop Park, Eastbourne

Year 8 Camp/ Year 7 EOTC week

Monday 15 - Friday 19 March (Week 7)

