

Kauri Syndicate Newsletter: Term 2, 2021

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope the students have had a great holiday and have come back refreshed and ready for learning. This term one of our major events is the Science Fair, being held in Week 9 on Tuesday 29 June. We also begin our enrichment programme, swimming and we are walking to Tokyo! Please remember to check the weekly newsletter for other dates relevant to the Kauri Syndicate.

Inquiry – Science/Social Science

This term we will start with a science focus, looking at chemical changes. This is to support the students to carry out their own experiments for the Science Fair, following the scientific method. In the second half of the term the focus will be New Zealand history; Voyagers – Pacific and European Explorers.

Literacy

Our literacy programmes consist of shared, guided, and independent reading and writing. The focus being on reading strategies, comprehension, language features, structure, sentencing, spelling, and punctuation. We will integrate both our reading and writing within our inquiry units where possible.

As reading is such an important skill, we will continue to encourage the students to read regularly in their own time. As in Term 1, we expect each student to work on improving their reading skills by reading at least one book per week.

Mathematics

We will be focusing on measurement, in particular: area, perimeter, volume, and unit conversions. We are carrying on with addition and subtraction and will be moving into multiplication and division later in the term.

Religious Education

We start the term with a unit which looks at the idea of Jesus as ‘Saviour & Liberator’, then after Pentecost we will move on to a unit examining how the Holy Spirit is portrayed in scripture.

Physical Education/Health

Swimming will be on a Thursday this term and we will be going to the Tawa Pool. Students should wear their sport uniforms to school and bring their swimming gear with them. Please note that each class will be leaving school at different times:

- Room 11 – Departs school @10:10am – Arrives back to school @11:30am
- Room 12 – Departs school @10:45am, arrives back to school @12:10pm
- Room 13 - Departs school @11:30am, arrives back to school @12:50pm

We will be using our swimming sessions and fitness time to run from the south of Japan to Tokyo in time for the Tokyo Olympics. All fitness completed by each student inside and outside school counts.

Art

We will focus on paint, pencil, and mixed media as we build on student’s skills ready for the art exhibition in Term 3.

Languages - Te Reo Māori/German

We will continue to work on extending the students’ knowledge of common words and phrases. Our external Te Reo teacher Whaea Adrienne will visit each class every fortnight. We will continue learning basic German vocab and sentences using a combination of the Ja! programme and Duolingo.

Technology

Just a reminder that Technology at Mt Cook School has changed to every Wednesday. We leave school at 10.15am and arrive back around 12.45pm. Over the course of the year the students will have classes in Design/Electronics, Cooking, Woodwork, Coding/Moviemaking, STEM and Sewing. Students are required to wear **covered shoes** for safety reasons, so please no sandals.

Enrichment Programme

This year the Kauri Syndicate will be providing an enrichment programme. The purpose of our enrichment programme gives students the opportunity to pursue their own areas of interest and strengths in one of the following: Engineering, Photography, Drama, or Financial Literacy. The programmes will be run on a Friday afternoon starting in Week 2.

Parent Interviews and Action Plans

Parent Interviews will take place in Week 9 Thursday 1 July from 2-6pm and Week 10 Tuesday 6 July from 2-6pm. We look forward to having the opportunity to meet with you and your child to discuss their learning. Action Plan reports will be given to you and discussed at this time.

Science Fair

A major part of homework this term will be the Science Fair project. It is essential that the project be completed by Tuesday 29 June as we have external judges coming in to assess the projects. It is not possible to complete a Science Fair project at the last minute, so please encourage your child to work steadily on it throughout the term. We would like all students to have decided on their topic by the end of Week 1. Please read the separate information letter that came home at the end of last term.

Kind regards

Rebecca Blackwood
Kauri Syndicate Leader
(Room 13)

Paul Cunningham
(Room 12)

Richard Smith
(Room 11)

Term 2 Events

Masses and Liturgies

Pentecost Liturgy -Tuesday 25 May (10am)
Buddy Class Mass – Friday 1 June (9:15am)
St Benedict's Day Mass- Thursday 8 July (9:30am)

Principal Visits (St Mary's College and St Patrick's College)

Mr. Andrew Murray (Year 8 Girls) and Mr. Mike Savali (Year 8 Boys) – Thursday 20 May (11am)

Gardasil Immunisation

Year 8 Boys Year 7 Girls – Thursday 27 May

Science Fair

Tuesday 29 June (6:30pm in the Library)

Action Plan Interviews:

Thursday 1 July and Tuesday 6 July (2-6pm)