

Kōwhai Syndicate Newsletter - Term 3, 2021

Friday 23rd July 2021

Nau mai, haere mai e te whānau, welcome to Term 3, 2021. We hope that everyone has had a good break.

We warmly welcome Eli Benson to Room 10. We look forward to getting to know you and your family, welcome to the St Benedict's School community.

Dates to Diary this Term:

School Masses and Liturgies:

Grandparents' Mass at 10:00am in the Church on Friday 30th of July (morning tea in the school's library after Mass)

Assumption liturgy Monday 16th of August at 10:00 am in the classrooms.

Buddy Class Masses:

Rooms 5&11, 6&12 and 7&13 Tuesday 10th August.

Rooms 1&2&8, 3&9 and 4&10 Tuesday 31st August.

Our Classes Leading School Assemblies:

Monday 23rd of August Room 10.

Monday 6th of September Room 9.

Monday 20th of September Room 8.

Sport:

Athletics at Nairnville Recreation Centre (8 sessions)

Tuesdays for Room 9 starting Tuesday 27th July.

Thursday for Rooms 5,6,7,8 and 10 starting Thursday 29th of July.

Year 3-8 School Athletics Day Monday 20th September at Nairnville Park (9:00am – 12:30pm approx)

Year 3-8 Swimming Sports – Thursday 5th August at Karori Pool (9:00am -12:30pm noon approx.)

Trips:

Whole syndicate going to Circa theatre and Te Papa Tuesday 27th of July leaving at 9:15 and returning at 1:00pm. Rooms 6 and 7 to Otari Bush Tuesday 17th of August **TBC.**

External Examinations:

Australian Maths Competition Wednesday 4th August.

ICAS Writing and Digital Technology Week 3 (Monday 9th August to Friday 13th August).

ICAS English Week 4 (Monday 16th August to Friday 20th August).

ICAS Science Week 5 (Monday 23rd August to Friday 27th August).

ICAS Mathematics Week 6 (Monday 30th August to Friday 3rd September).

Whole-School Art Exhibition: Thursday 30th of September

Come along and view the amazing artwork produced this term by our wonderful students. Classes open from 3pm until 6pm. We look forward to seeing you then.

Kōwhai Syndicate Covers Year 3 to Year 6.

The teachers and classrooms in our syndicate are:

Room 5	Year 3	Miss Nicole Simson (Te Reo Leader)
Room 6	Year 3/4	Mrs Clare Short (Literacy Leader)
Room 7	Year 4	Mr Bath
Room 8	Year 4/5	Mrs Jacqui Miranda (Director of Religious Studies)
Room 9	Year 5 and 6	Mr Michael Havell
Room 10	Year 6	Mrs Cheryl Taylor (Deputy Principal/SENCo/Syndicate Leader)
Part-Time Teachers:		Miss Fiona Bolger (Room 9 release, Room 10 Deputy Principal release)
		Mrs Mary Ryan (Room 5 and 7 release)
		Ms Shauna McCoolle (Room 8 DRS release, Room 6 release)

Our school's values are key to everything that we do at St Benedict's. We hope that through their knowledge and ability to display these values our students will grow into well-rounded Christian citizens.

In Kōwhai Syndicate we focus on supporting students to become independent and self-motivated learners. Students are responsible for getting all work in on time, bringing their sports gear when needed, negotiating with their teacher solutions to issues and taking an active role in everything that is happening at school. We look forward to helping the students develop further a sense of autonomy while nurturing the holistic develop of the child.

Also, in Kōwhai syndicate we take opportunities to have the students working co-operatively across year levels to support the development of friendships and the ability to work with a variety of people. To continue to develop our tuakana-teina model of buddy systems within the syndicate (as well as across the school).

Homework

Homework provides two things, a link to what is being covered in class and an opportunity for your child to practise the new skills being taught. We envisage that homework should take no longer than 20-30 minutes daily. This includes the reading time – which usually consists of a book brought home from class but can be a **combination** of books given to them in class and also books of their own choice for Year 3 and 4 students in Room 5, 6 and 7 and independent reading for Year 5 and 6 students in Rooms 8, 9 and 10.

Students should be able to complete their homework by themselves but doing it with them allows you to discuss it with them and to be involved in their learning journey. However, homework should not cause any friction at home. Study Ladder homework tasks are set up each week and spelling words are given to practice for their weekly spelling test. Along with this a weekly notice will be sent out to provide you with information regarding upcoming events. From time to time there will be other homework sent home.

Lunches

Many students have allergies to different foods as well. We ask you to remind your children not to share food at school. Students get very hungry during the school day and need good healthy food to nourish them and feed their brain. They also need to drink plenty of water. Please ensure that your child(ren) has plenty of healthy food items in their lunchbox and a drink bottle.

The students are supervised for the first 10 minutes of lunch to ensure that they have time to sit and eat their lunch before running off to play.

By this stage of their life they should be encouraged to make their own lunch (with supervision of course). Please do not include food items that are hard to open or require heating as we do not have the capability to tend to this.

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.

All students are encouraged to be at school between 8:30am and 8:45am. This allows them time to get themselves set up for the day and to chat to their friends. Arriving on the bell or after the bell doesn't allow students to do this important organisation for the day. The roll is taken at 8:50am in all classrooms. Students who arrive before 8:30am should remain in the library or outside in the playground if the weather is fine. No-one is permitted to be in the classrooms or corridors outside the classrooms before 8:30am as this is important preparation time for teachers.

Uniform

Please encourage your child to wear the correct school uniform. Girls should have hair ties and bands in school colours (black, navy, maroon or white). Nail polish and jewellery is not to be worn to school please. It is too easy to lose precious pieces and some forms of jewellery pose a safety risk in the playground. Earrings should be **plain** studs or **sleepers** only please. Students will be asked to remove nail polish and any jewellery that is not appropriate for school wear. We thank you for your support in

ensuring that St Benedict's School uniform is worn by all students correctly and with pride.

Kōwhai Curriculum for Term Three

Religious Education:

The Sacraments

The students will focus on developing an understanding that the Sacraments being a sign of God's grace. We will also cover the Assumption this term.

Topic:

Social Science: *Meet the Locals*

This unit carries on from last term and links to the new curriculum focus on NZ History which will be mandated in 2022.

We are planning outings and visits to significant spots within our local Khandallah area and wider Wellington.

We would like to invite people from our community some into school to share their talents with us. If you have a special talent or skill that you could share with us or know of someone in the community who could spend a day working with us and the students, please let us know.

This unit will link to our **Te Reo** lessons, learning the correct Māori names for our local resources.

Mathematics

Number continues to be our major focus this term, we begin with **number strategies used to solve multiplication and division problems involving whole numbers and fractions**. Strategies such as place value partitioning, tidy numbers, rounding and compensating, doubling and halving etc. and how to select the most appropriate strategy to solve a number problem.

Geometry and Measurement will be another focus with most classes learning about shape and transformation, enlargement, scale factors, perimeter and area of shapes.

Literacy

In Kōwhai syndicate our reading and writing is closely linked to our topic study. This helps us to use our reading and writing as a learning tool. We will focus closely this term on being able to recognise how an author carefully select descriptions and **language features** when writing to build a picture for their reader. To do this we will focus on a variety of genre but in particular: instructions, explanations, plays, scripts and poetry.

Te Reo Māori and Kapa Haka

As well as being linked to the "Meet the neighbours" unit learning the correct Māori names for our local resources, we will also learn basic classroom language and everyday phrases. We are very lucky to have Whaea Adrienne taking our Te Reo lessons and Matua Hemi leading kapa haka.

Physical Education/Health

Classes have daily fitness sessions: these consist mainly of a whole class game. We also have Athletics sessions at Nairnville Recreation Centre each week. Tuesday for Room 9 and Thursday for Rooms 5,6,7,8 and 10. Please make sure that you bring a coat on these days as we walk to Nairnville regardless of the weather.

Ngā mihi nui (Regards),

Nicole Simson Room 5, Clare Short Room 6, Jared Bath Room 7, Jacqui Miranda Room 8, Michael Havell Room 9, Cheryl Taylor Room 10 and part-time teachers Fiona Bolger, Mary Ryan and Shauna McCool