



Te Ara Whānui Newsletter

Term Tahī 2024

*Where students learn creatively and strive for excellence preparing for lifelong learning
Kia auaha te ako a ngā ākonga me te whai i te iti kahurangi mō te akoranga tūroa*

Kia Ora Parents and whānau,

Welcome to 2024 from the Whānui team. We welcome new ākonga, their whānau, and kaiako to our ara this year. Our teaching team is now made up of Niamh Kelly (team leader), Rebekah Rasmussen, and Hugo Miller. We will be referring to our classes with new names. Niamh's class is Whānui Rua, Hugo's class is Whānui Tahī, and Rebekah's class is Whānui Toru.

Niamh is an experienced teacher who has taught Year 7 and 8 for the past five years. Niamh enjoys swimming, playing netball and is a drama enthusiast. Niamh also has an anaphylactic egg allergy and we ask that you please avoid putting eggs into your child's lunch box. This eliminates the risk of a severe reaction occurring. We appreciate your understanding.

Hugo spent some time at Kelburn last year and did exceptionally well during his placement here at Kelburn last year. We are so pleased to have him on our team this year. Hugo enjoys reading novels, playing squash and watching plays/musicals. This is Rebekah's 5th year teaching in Whānui and we welcome her experience and knowledge of Whānui as Niamh and Hugo settle into the Kelburn culture.

We are looking forward to getting to know your children and building our home learning team/cultures. Here at Kelburn, both kaiako and ākonga work together to create a positive and effective learning environment. There's a lot for us all to become familiar with besides each other. We are lucky to have our year six students to help guide and support setting up our expectations and instructional routines.

In our first weeks back, the children will spend time in their Home Learning teams. We have a variety of engaging activities that allow for the children to express who they are, be creative, make connections and form relationships. These activities will cover the core subjects of writing, reading, maths, our inquiry subjects (science, social sciences, and technology), Art, and PE. There are opportunities to work collaboratively. These activities will help us gain a picture of how your child learns and will better inform the strengths your child brings to the dynamics of the class, as well as the key competencies requiring development.



Our key competencies support our ākonga in learning how to be learners. This gives the children an active sense of being capable, and being a part of their own and others' learning (Relating to Others). A sense of belonging and being a 'part of', is so important for wellbeing and achievement.

In week three, we have our annual Ara camp. This is at Makahika Outdoor Pursuits Centre (Feb 14th - 16th). This out-of-school setting is a great way to further know and understand your tamariki. It's fun, challenging, and fosters strong relationships across the classes.

Please find attached the gear list and feel free to contact your child's home learning teacher if you require any extra information about Makahika.

Our learning programmes for Term One

Art: This term we will look at self portraits. Through exploring various techniques and mediums, our students will have the opportunity to portray their unique identities, encourage self-expression, and capture their individuality. We will look at artists throughout history who have used self-portraits to convey personal narratives and emotions. We look forward to seeing the incredible artworks that our talented students will produce!

Inquiry: Our inquiry focus this term is linked to our social sciences topic on exploring identity and cultural traditions. The ākonga will delve into researching various aspects of their own identity and cultural background, as well as learning about different cultural traditions in New Zealand and around the world. Through this project, the ākonga will gain a deeper understanding of their own cultural heritage and develop a sense of respect and appreciation for the diverse cultures present in our Whānui.

Literacy: This term, as part of our reading/writing curriculum, ākonga will immerse themselves in the world of poetry. Poetry offers a unique and creative form of expression that encourages students to explore language, emotions, and different perspectives. Throughout this unit, our students will have the opportunity to discover various forms of poetry, such as haikus, sonnets, and free verse, allowing them to appreciate the diverse use and power of words. Through multiple literacies, engaging drama activities and learning conversations, we aim to foster their creativity, critical thinking skills, and confidence in interpreting and writing and presenting poetry. There will be opportunities to develop their vocabulary and inference skills and to look at structure. We can't wait to see their imaginations soar as they bring their own voices to life through this enriching exploration of language.

Maths: To begin our maths unit, all the classes will work on creating maths board games. This game will help students think about maths in a fun and interactive way. They will come up with ideas, make rules, and write instructions for how to play. In this process, students will practise problem-solving, learn basic maths facts, and create a game to share with others. This will allow us to see how students think and understand numbers, strategy concepts, and design processes. After our camp, we will continue to build on this foundation by expanding their knowledge of addition and subtraction.

Technology: Our technology sessions will be integrated throughout our literacy, maths, and arts units, offering numerous opportunities for children to explore various online tools. These tools will empower them to design unique portraits, delve into coding by experimenting with platforms like Scratch, and unleash their creativity through the creation of pixel art. By incorporating technology in these subjects, we aim to enhance students' understanding and engagement, allowing them to harness the power of digital tools to express themselves in new and innovative ways.

Sport and physical education: Team games help build rapport, trust and develop cooperation skills between the students. This term, we will also get ready for cross country in week 11. Throughout the term, we will also have regular fitness sessions to stay active. We hope that the summer weather will provide good conditions for the cross country event. Please remind your child to wear comfortable shoes for exercises when coming to school each day.

Te Reo/Taha Māori: Building on the success of last year's Te Reo Māori programme, led by Matua Jason, we are excited to continue nurturing our students' te reo skills and cultural understanding. These engaging sessions enhance their competence in te reo and foster a deeper appreciation for tikanga. Additionally, our health programme will delve into and demonstrate the principles of Hauora, emphasising the importance of a holistic approach to well-being. Throughout the year, we will integrate Waiata sessions, whakatauki (proverbs), and pūrākau (traditional narratives) into our curriculum subjects, fostering a deeper connection to our culture and enhancing our students' understanding of themselves and their place in the world.

As the year progresses, all students will have the opportunity to participate in waiata sessions led by Jeremy. We will be encouraging our students to join our senior kapa haka, mentored by Henare and this is every Friday morning at 8.30 starting next week.

Home Learning: Regular reading has numerous benefits for your children. Reading stimulates their imagination, cultivates critical thinking skills, and fosters a love for lifelong learning. When children engage in regular reading, it helps to improve their language skills, expand their vocabulary, and enhance their comprehension abilities. Additionally, discussing books with your children further enhances their reading experience. It allows for deeper connections to the story, characters, and themes, as well as encourages them to think critically and express their thoughts and opinions. By engaging in these discussions, you not only strengthen their comprehension skills but also build their confidence, encourage reflection, and promote a sense of connection and bonding within the family.

Our online maths program "Maths Whizz", is a personalised program that provides automated and tailored learning opportunities specific to your child. The programme includes student video tutorials for strategies while promoting them to have fun and confidence in maths. To make the most of this program, we recommend encouraging your child, and to work through the progressions three times a week. We will send home their login details within the next few weeks.

In week two, we look forward to meeting you at our parent-teacher conversations held on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th of February. These conversations are opportunities for you to provide us with information about your child which will help us get to know them better so we can support their wellbeing and learning. If you ever wish to discuss your child's learning with us, please don't hesitate to contact us, and we will be more than happy to arrange a meeting.

Ka kite anō,

Niamh Kelly, Rebekah Rasmussen, Hugo Miller

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Makahika Camp



Makahika Outdoor Pursuits Centre Camp

The camp is an opportunity for the children to try new experiences. Makahika is a specialist outdoor facility and has stringent risk management protocols and trained instructors. The activities will include: team challenges, confidence course, tramping, river safety, cooking on a fire, ropes, orienteering and bushcraft. These activities offer children the opportunity to challenge themselves. No child will be compelled to do any activity; the policy at the camp is challenge through choice. Often in these situations, we see the support of the children working as 'teammates' and this manaakitanga can get those that are unsure through a challenge. Please refer to the following link for more information [Makahika](#)

Departure and Return

We will depart Wednesday, February 14th by bus. We will ask that you drop your child off between 8 - 8.30am and help them carry their belongings to the hall. We will return on Friday, February 16th at approximately 2.15pm. We are asking our whānau to pitch in and help get all the luggage off the buses before you take your child home. Please make sure you check in and inform your child's teacher on Friday before taking them home.

Permission, medical and dietary information

Thank you for filling in the camp health forms. For those children that will be bringing medication we ask that it is clearly labelled with instructions. We will take the medication from the children and administer it as required at the camp.

Cost

We are requesting a camp contribution of \$360.00 per child to cover the costs associated with camp. We appreciate that this is a significant expense. Please do not feel you need to pay the camp donation in full at once as you may prefer to pay in instalments across the year. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact Loraine or Natalie in the office. You can pay via a deposit into our bank account, 12 3223 0190001 00. (Please add your child's name and camp as a reference). You can also pay at the school office by eftpos.

Gear List for Camp Makahika 2024

To be followed by students AND adults, participating in the activities at camp.

What to Wear for the Day (weather dependant)

T – Shirt and/or polyprop top
Shorts/and or polyprop leggings
Long Sleeved top – warm
Sun Hat – sun block
Wet weather raincoat

*Socks must also be worn with sports shoes (this helps to prevent blisters)

Footwear

Covered in type shoes – lace up or slip on running shoes/sports shoes
One spare pair of dry shoes for evenings (crocs and socks perfect)

*NO open sandals / aqua shoes / croc's for the day tramp but can be worn during meals or down time.

Back-Pack

A small school bag, (back-pack) to carry lunch, drink, wet weather gear, medicines etc.
Ensure there are no broken straps/zips. Students will need their hands free for walking, climbing.

*Supermarket plastic bags or over one-shoulder bags are NOT acceptable.

Additional Items you must bring:

WARM Sleeping Bag (camp can lend some sleeping bags if required)

Pillow (if desired)

Long Pants (track– no jeans)

Shorts x 2

T-shirts x 3

Warm long sleeved woollen or fleecy jersey

Thermal - top or woollen singlet

Light waterproof coat/jacket

Warm hat or beanie

Insect Repellent

Underclothes (2-3 pair)

Nibbles, and drink (i.e. pump bottle)

Sports socks x 2 pair

Towel

Togs (There will be no swimming as such however, there may be opportunities to explore the river - supervised of course)

Toilet bag - soap, toothbrush etc

Camera (There is no cell coverage so we recommend you do not bring cell phones)

Named plate, bowl and cutlery - in a named bag.

Personal Medication named

Sun Screen

Plastic rubbish bag (for wet gear)

Warm socks x 1 pair