



Te Ara Māia 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

2 February 2024

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

It has been a delight to reconnect with students after the break, the vibe is of youthful enthusiasm! The KNS regulars are demonstrating their understanding of our school values and have been actively welcoming new students into the fold.

Camp

Our week 6 camp will provide rich opportunities for developing manaakitanga, the students are eager for our adventure to Riversdale! Whilst at camp we will explore our learning and creativity through a range of place-based learning opportunities.



Te reo Maori

We are fortunate to have Matua Jason supporting us with our Te Reo and Tikanga program. Lessons are fun and interactive. A key focus for te reo is getting the children up and speaking te reo, and giving them the opportunity to explore some of the key cultural knowledge encoded in the reo.

Languages

As a complement to our te reo learning, we will also introduce the children to German. Whilst German might not be the language that learners choose to pursue in the future, it does provide us with an opportunity to introduce key elements of the language learning process in general. As a language that is similar to English- but different in fundamental ways- German offers a rich context in which to learn about our own first (or second) language. In addition we will develop our knowledge of grammatical concepts and terminology.

English

Our reading focus for this term will be on short texts. We will use various written and visual texts to develop our ability to describe personal experiences, and to adopt novel perspectives on the world. For example, *The Summer Book* by Tove Jansson features vivid descriptions of family life and locations through the eyes of a child; it is material such as this that we will use as models for our own writing. The writing and reading component of our social science unit will further support our learning in English.

Mathematics

Number and Problem Solving is our focus for the term. We will be using Maths Whizz in class. This is an online tool that involves an initial test and calibrates the learning to the individual child and it can also be used as a home learning tool. Our problem solving activities will involve as many real-life contexts as possible. In Māia, a key focus is supporting the children to develop the skills to justify and describe their mathematical thinking. Students will learn to verbally articulate and reflect on their processes, creating a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts.

Science

The Journey of a Marble! We will explore concepts such as momentum, acceleration, and simple machines. This is an entertaining way to learn about basic physical forces, but also to develop our ability to record and present pertinent information in a scientifically valid way. A further reason to select this context for our science learning is that it builds on material with which our tamariki have encountered in Whānui.

Social Science

In the social sciences we will be investigating the history of the local area. We will use digital tools such as PapersPast and DigitalNZ to locate images and information about Kelburn (or Kelburne, as it once was). It is important to develop an understanding of how our communities have grown and changed over time, and why. We will start with flora and fauna, and pre-European life, and then move through the years up to now. If you have any information about your home, or other interesting tidbits, share that with your child, as they can share it with us.



Health & Wellbeing

We are aware that adolescence is a particularly challenging phase, perhaps especially for those who have grown up in a global pandemic. We have put structures in place to enable maximum wellbeing support for our rangatahi. Whilst one year group is at Tech, Mrs Munn will be available to the remaining students for 'Office hours' - meeting with students to work through social challenges, discuss learning behaviours, or be a listening ear for students who need help for whatever reason. Twice a day we sit down and eat in our home learning teams to build whānaungatanga- this also enables us to check students are ready to play with hats, sunscreen, and friends!

Physical Education

This term we will be focusing on throwing and catching, working through drills and mini-games to strengthen these fundamental skills. Given that there is a range of abilities within the ara, we will give children the opportunity to share their skills with their less confident colleagues.

Technology

Technology is on Thursdays (Year 7s) and Fridays (Year 8s) and is at Newlands Intermediate School. Students will depart from school at 12:40, returning at approximately 2:50. Please be aware that issues

with transport sometimes arise, so students may occasionally arrive shortly after 3 pm. The technology teachers at Newlands request that students wear closed-toed shoes, and tie their hair back for safety reasons.

Home Learning

Please note that our expectations for home learning are designed to support learning in class and not overwhelm students who are busy with after-school activities and enjoying their youth.

- We expect that a Māia student will read independently for at least **30 minutes each day**. The focus here is on encouraging learners to make reading a recreation they can turn to throughout their lives. By encouraging the reading habit, we help the tamariki to develop critical life skills independently.
- Your child will also have a Maths Whizz log-in. **Maths Whizz** is an online program that we expect students to utilise for **30 mins per week**. Maths Whizz is designed to develop a personalised programme for learners based on their past performance, so it is important that users complete tasks as independently as possible; if there are aspects of the material learners find difficult, Maths Whizz will recalibrate accordingly.

Careers Education

Our learners are going into a world of bewildering complexity, in which many will work in fields we can only anticipate. It is important to highlight the myriad of possibilities open to today's learners, and the learning pathways that they aren't aware exist. Throughout the year as part of our Careers Education programme, we would like to invite parents to come into the school and speak to the children about their careers. This would involve telling the children about how you came to your career choice, the educational pathways you had to follow, and the sacrifices that were necessary to achieve your goals. A particular point we would like to convey is the idea that unexpected opportunities often lead to unanticipated careers. This will be a semi-regular event, usually on a Friday morning, though we will, of course, strive to work with your schedule. If you happen to be available to talk to us please contact Libya Munn to schedule a time. Ideally, the talks would be evenly distributed throughout the term.



As always, if you have any questions about our programme, or would like to discuss anything concerning your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We are only too happy to help.

Nga mihi,

Libya Munn, Alistair Button & Jo Hamid

libyam@kelburnnormal.school.nz

alistairb@kelburnnormal.school.nz

joh@kelburnnormal.school.nz

Weekly Timetable

	Mane	Turei	Wenerei	Taite	Paraire
	Munn/Button	Munn/Button	Munn/Button	Hamid/Button	Hamid/Button
8.50- 9.30	Drama Club/Drama activities	Orchestra/Mixed class critical literacy	Sydicate P.E.	Lyrica/Syndicate Singing	Kapa Haka/Art
9.30-10	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy
10- 11					
11-11.40	Break 1 (10 mins eating together in Home Learning Team)				
11.40- 12	Reading for pleasure	Reading for pleasure	Reading for pleasure	Maths Whiz prac	Maths Whiz prac
12-1	Maths-	Maths-	Maths-	12.15 year 7s eat lunch and head to tech with Mrs Hamid Y8s 40 min basic facts prac	12.15 year 8s eat lunch and head to tech with Mr Button Y7s 40 min basic facts prac
1-1.45	Break 2 (10 mins eating together in Home Learning Team)				
1.45-2.15	Science	P.E.	Art	Te reo	Te reo
2.15-2.45	P.E.	Kapa Haka with Jeremy	Sci/Soc Sci	P.E.	P.E.
2.45-3	HLT	HLT	HLT	HLT	HLT