

*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*



## Te Ara Whānui Newsletter, Term Four

Friday 22nd October 2021

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

Well here we are in term four already; this year seems to have flown by. For some of our students this is their final term in Whānui which can be a sentimental time for many of us. As always term four will be an action packed term; fun-filled, productive and very busy. It's great to see the kids have come back energised and ready for the exciting term ahead!

Our learning culture and routines in Whānui are now well established. We will continue to work closely within our home-learning group because this gives the children a sense of belonging and enables teachers to monitor their progress closely. There will also be opportunities to work as a whole Ara; the advantage of this is that we can target programmes as in maths, or mix it up socially in areas such as physical education.



### Programme for Term Four

#### Health and Hauora

Our unit this term 'Navigating the Journey' is a sexuality education program provided by Family Planning New Zealand. It has links with both the science curriculum and the health and physical education curriculum. It is a big topic about understanding personal growth and the focus will be on supporting personal self and others; pubertal change; body image; risks and issues; sexuality and diversity; critical thinking about gender; friendships; individual rights; dealing with social messages and stereotypes; and how to access health care.

For more information we will be running a community consultation evening on the 1st of November with Anna Gracie from Family Planning at 6pm upstairs in the Whānui space. Our programmes are designed with the well-being of our children in mind. We have regular hui in our home learning teams where children have the chance to talk about their ideas and interests, where we can give them feedback on their learning, and where any social issues can be addressed. Do keep in touch with us and in some circumstances, the information that you provide us about how your tamariki are getting on at school is invaluable in helping us to problem solve at school.

#### English

For our writing study this term we will begin with autobiographical writing. Included in their autobiographies children will write about some of the people and places that are important to them.

This will be helpful when the children write their own pepeha later on in the term for te reo Māori. Our main focus however, this term, will be speeches and specifically discussing, thinking critically, and writing speeches using the prompt 'Life will be better when...' This has a link to Navigating the Journey and it connects our learning with our personal hauora/well being and our school values; another, that it is relatable to the children because of the culture of self-improvement that we are all part of. We will teach the children strategies and ways of discussing it using critical thinking and philosophy. As with last year's speeches an important component of the research will be talking to people to help develop content. The ara and school speech competitions will be held in week eight. One of the real benefits of this unit is that it develops children's confidence and oral language, along with their critical thinking. Practice in sentence construction, the selection of precise vocabulary, punctuation and spelling are all regular parts of our reading and writing sessions.

### **Mathematics**

In mathematics, we will spend the first few weeks finishing up with ratios and proportions. This has a strong link to number and problem solving but this area of mathematics can be quite challenging for many students and therefore requires more time to cover it thoroughly if they are to become confident and proficient. We will also revisit strategies for addition and subtraction as this was covered early on in the year and we feel the children would benefit from continuing to consolidate some of those strategies taught.

We will finish the year covering probability and statistics; for this, the children will work in mixed groups across the Ara.

### **Home Learning**

Home learning will continue much the same as last term. We expect children to read every night for at least 30 minutes, as this will support their language development and help them in their writing.

Children can continue to use Mathletics at home to support their basic facts maintenance. Every child needs to master the times tables for quick recall so that they can calculate fluently. Initially, it is good to work out how to solve the times tables before memorising or learning how to solve them in less than five seconds. The strategy of doubling the 3x, 4x tables makes learning the 6x and 8x much easier. For children who have mastered the times tables, it is important to keep up the Mathletics to build and practise key skills. Please remember to limit children's screen time at home and ensure they have space and time for regular independent reading to get their mileage up. At this age, this is especially important for building vocabulary.

### **Visual Art**

This term we will be kick-starting our visual arts unit with the 'Wellington City Walk' a city walk within a 3km area where we will look at 17 sculptures produced by New Zealand artists. This walk begins at Seismic, by Louise Purvis, and finishes at Nga Kina, by Michel Tuffery.

From here the children will use what they have seen and learnt to create their own sculptures made from a range of inorganic and organic materials. This study will enrich our te reo Māori as the children's sculptures each have links to the people or places that are important to each of them.

### **Te Reo**

This term we will consolidate our learning with Whaea Kapua last term; commands for passing, giving, getting as well integrating colours with classroom objects. The children will continue to use the online programme Education Perfect, a digital toolkit used to help grow the children's te reo Māori. In addition to this the children will be writing their own pepeha. A pepeha is a formal way of introducing ourselves in Maori. Here the children will share with each other who they are in relation to the people and places that are important to them. They may even be able to help you write your pepeha!

## **Physical Education**

Every Thursday we will be going to the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre for swimming lessons. beginning in week one and ending in week eight. Students will be assessed and then grouped depending on their skills. Some will follow the Learn to Swim programme developing their stroke and efficiency, whilst others may be more advanced and therefore will participate in a range of other water sports including springboard diving, kayaking, snorkelling, and Kiwi surf. The cost of this is \$43.00 per child and has been added to your child's statement. This will go from weeks 1-8 (not including week 6) Swimming is on Thursdays; we leave school at 11.15 and are back by 2pm.

All students will participate weekly in summer sports such as cricket, padder tennis, and T-ball. With the weather now becoming more settled we hope to take advantage of our local environment more, such as the Botanical Gardens, as places we can walk to and enjoy. Our annual Rogaine event is planned for the end of the term so keep an eye out for that if this is something you may want to help out with.

## **Performing Arts**

A large number of Whānui children are represented in our performing arts ensembles. In these ensembles, the children work closely together and can contribute to the wider school culture as well. Children will have the opportunity this term to showcase their talents at the annual Kelburn talent quest. Please see the dates for the various events at the bottom of this newsletter.

## **Getting in touch**

As always, your first port of call is your child's teacher. Teachers can be contacted by our email address ( jenniferw, robk, rebekahr [@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:@kelburnnormal.school.nz)). If you wish to talk about your child's learning at any stage of the term, your child's teacher will be happy to talk with you - however, please be aware that Monday, Tuesday after school, and Thursdays before school, are usually staff meeting times.

We all look forward to another great term, the final term for 2021. Our thanks for your support, as always.

Nga mihi nui,  
Jen, Rob, Beks

### Term 4 Events Timetable

Week tahi	Whole school athletics - Tuesday 19th October Whānui swimming - Thursday School disco - Thursday 21st October
Week rua	Labour weekend - Monday 25th October Teacher only day - Tuesday 26th October Whānui swimming - Thursday 28th October Wacky hair day - Friday 29th October Teacher vs students netball game - Friday 29th October
Week toru	Navigating the Journey Sexuality education parent consultation evening - Monday 1st November 6pm - 7pm Whānui camp meeting - Monday 1st November 7pm Kids sing @St Marks - Tuesday 2nd November Whānui swimming - Thursday PAT assessments this week
Week wha	Road patrol training - Tuesday 9th November Whānui swimming - Thursday Western Zone athletics - Friday 12th November
Week rima	Whānui swimming - Thursday Talent quest - Thursday 18th November Western Zone athletics postponement date - Friday 19th November
Week ono	Western Zone hockey - Tuesday 23rd November Road patrol trip - Wednesday 24th November Whānui Swimming - Thursday
Week whetu	Pack the Bus - Tuesday 30th November Interzone athletics - Tuesday 30th November Band concert - Wednesday 1st December Celebration of learning - Wednesday 1st December Whānui swimming - Thursday Rogaine Friday 3rd December
Week waru	Final whole school assembly - Tuesday 7th December Whānui swimming - Thursday (final session)
Week iwa	Visit to new Home learning team - Monday 13th December Whole school water fight - Tuesday 14th December School finishes on Thursday 16th December at 12pm