



# Te Ara Whānui Newsletter

Term Rua 2023

*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 e te whānau,

Welcome to Term 2! We welcome Gene Haggie to our teaching team, working with Whānui Chambers this term and Alex Abernethy, a student teacher joining us for the first six weeks of the term in Whānui Rasmussen.

We started the year with a terrific Makahika experience and as we settle into the new term, we will continue to build and strengthen the relationships within our home learning teams and across the Ara. We are impressed with the way ākonga are displaying resilience in adapting to the changes in our Ara this year.

As always at Kelburn, Term 2 is going to be a big one. Below is an outline of what you can expect your child to be learning this term.

## **Literacy**

Our main focus this term will be on devising our plays in our HLTs to perform at the end of the term. Drama is a key component of the Kelburn Curriculum and it is a highly effective way to engage children and integrate learning from across the curriculum. While the end result is the script and performance, the process to get there will involve plenty of opportunities for writing across different genres including, writing character descriptions, narrative stories, letters and postcards, poetry, news reports, meeting minutes, diary entries, advertisements and reviews. The strategies used to devise our plays also bring together many varied opportunities for reading and oral language development, perspective taking and collaboration. As the tamariki work together on their plays, ākonga also develop their critical thinking as they question, problem-solve, and reflect purposefully. If for any reason, you know your child will not be at school in week 10, please let their home learning team teacher know.

Along with the reading opportunities that support the development of our plays, our programme will also include both teacher-directed reading (reading groups) and independent reading (personal interest and enjoyment). We will also be running a shared novel study across the Ara, 'Wayside school beneath the cloud of doom' by Louis Sachar.

## **Numeracy**

We will begin the term by consolidating number knowledge, number strategies and problem-solving using addition and subtraction before moving on to a focus on multiplication and division. The mastery of the times tables is a key factor in moving ahead in maths and we encourage you to support your child to keep learning the times tables and the inverse division facts so that they can recall them quickly. Ākonga will also be exploring shapes and space through the geometry strand at the end of the term.

## Integrated Study

This term our integrated study will be linked with our HLT plays. We have lots of great plans that incorporate Aotearoa history, science, social science, technology and the arts (dance, visual, and sound) however, in the interest of ensuring we don't expose our drama plans too soon, at this stage we want to hold our cards close to our chest. As we focus on, and develop our plays throughout the term we hope your child will share their learning with you at home. However, you may have picked up on some of the clues in here and something might have clicked for you so you might have a bit of a picture of what we are going to be learning about this term.

## Te reo Māori

Matua Jason will continue to come in and teach ākonga once a week. Along with the continued focus on teaching te reo Māori, tikanga and waiata, this term Jason will also focus on Pūrākau (myths/legends), in particular the story of Paikea.

## Physical education

This term we will be attending three sessions at Ākau Tangi Sports Centre. Specialist coaches will run a rotation teaching ākonga skills required for handball and gymnastics as well as on inflatables. The requested donation for these sessions is \$27 and this will be added to your child's statement. We also have our KNS swimming sports in week 3 and a range of Western Zone events this term. This year sees the introduction of a Western Zone mini-ball event, look out for information about that later in the term. We will continue to enjoy a range of team games on Friday for syndicate sport and there will be ongoing fitness activities each week.

## Health Education

This term we will be putting a strong emphasis on resilience, a growth mindset and exploring relationships - Ngā Whanaungatanga. We will be focusing on supporting our students to foster healthy relationships with a focus on interacting positively with others as they work together to create and perform our class plays. We will also be exploring ways to build resilience and develop a growth mindset, helping ākonga to develop the skills to overcome challenges, bounce back from setbacks, and embrace a positive attitude towards learning and life. We would appreciate you exploring this concept at home to help support our work. We will be using a range of resources and strategies to do this, including Te Whare Tapa Whā and the Big Life Kids podcast.

## Cultural Experiences

Being in Wellington means we have awesome opportunities to experience a variety of cultural events. COVID-19 meant many of these experiences were put on pause, we are fortunate that we are now able to experience them once more. This term, in week 5, we will get to enjoy a Strike Percussion performance in our hall. This interactive, high-energy show introduces a broad range of modern percussion styles from around the world. A donation request of \$7 is asked for this performance. Also in week 5, the Playhouse Theatre will be coming into school to present their latest show, Treasure Island. A donation of \$5 is requested for this performance. In week 6, we will be heading down to the Michael Fowler Centre to see the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra perform a pick-a-path concert. **Parent help is required for this trip, if you are able to join us on the day, please email your child's HLT teacher.** A donation request of \$5.50 is asked for this performance. These donation requests will be added to your child's statement.



## Home Learning

We do not have a formal structured home learning programme in Whānui, our tamariki work very hard during the day and many are very busy after school. Regular reading for enjoyment at home supports children's language development, especially vocabulary acquisition at this stage. At this age tamariki should be reading quietly at home for at least 30 minutes per day. Please visit the community library frequently (take a box and fill it up with books and other reading material) and support your child to read at home and engage with them about what they are reading.

Maths Whizz - This is a new online platform that we are using this year to support Maths learning. It was great to hear positive feedback about it at our goal-setting conferences at the end of last term. Maths Whizz is a personalised maths programme that provides automated learning opportunities to your child. Our recommendation is for ākonga to complete three progressions per week. You can read the parent information handout [here](#).

### Reminders

- Brain break snack - with our new break times this year, each morning we have a short brain break at 10am where children are encouraged to have a fruit or vegetable snack. Please ensure your child has something in their lunchbox that they can have at this time.

### Communication

There are some differences in how communication is done in each Ara. In Whānui, you will receive a newsletter like this one at the beginning of each term and one at the end of each term to wrap things up. You may also receive some additional updates during the term to remind you of upcoming events or to share ākonga progress.

We highly value open communication and collaboration between whānau, ākonga, and teachers. If you have any questions or wish to talk about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact us. Teachers can be contacted by our email addresses (rebekahr, geneh, emmam [@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:@kelburnnormal.school.nz)).

Remember to please email your child's home learning team teacher if you are able to come along and help us on our trip to the Michael Fowler Centre to see the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra perform a pick-a-path concert on Wednesday 31 May.

We are looking forward to an action-packed term ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,

The Whānui team - Rebekah, Gene and Emma



## Key dates for your diary

Week 2	Wed 3 May - Ākau Tangi Sports Centre Wed 3 May - Te ao Māori Engagement Hui #1 @ 7:00 pm
Week 3	Tue 9 May - KNS Swimming Sports - Karori Pool
Week 5	Mon 22 May - Strike Percussion performance at KNS Tue 23 May - Ākau Tangi Sports Centre Wed 24 May - Playhouse Presents - Treasure Island at KNS
Week 6	Wed 31 May - NZSO Pick-a-path concert at Michael Fowler Centre Fri 2 June - School closed for Staff only day
Week 7	Mon 5 June - School closed for King's Birthday
Week 8	Wed 14 June - Ākau Tangi Sports Centre
Week 10	Wed 28 June - Celebration of learning @ 3:15-5:30 pm Whānui Drama Sharing (TBC)