



# Te Ara Māia Newsletter

## Term Tahī 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*



10 February 2023

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

It has been a delight to reconnect with students after the break, the vibe is of youthful enthusiasm! Our year 8 students have been role-modelling the high standards we have for our students and our KNS regulars have been actively welcoming our new students into the fold. A key focus for this term is Manaakitanga, and the children are off to a positive start.

With only two Maia classes this year we have a bit more flexibility in our modern learning environment and the children have taken on responsibilities to look after their spaces.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

Despite the smaller cohort, we had a hearty turnout for Lyrica auditions, and senior kapa haka is looking very robust too! It is pleasing to see the students taking advantage of the wide variety of performing arts opportunities available at KNS. We have also had strong numbers of students sign up for road patrol, library duty and other leadership opportunities in the school. It is particularly impressive to see students encouraging each other to give new things a try.

Week Three is a big week for our performing arts groups:

Monday 13th First Drama Club meeting 8.30am, School Band Auditions 1.10pm

Tuesday 14th- Orchestra Auditions 8.30am

Thursday 16th- First Lyrica practice

Friday 17th- Kapa haka

## **Camp**

Our week 4 camp will provide rich opportunities for developing manaakitanga, the students are eager for our rustic adventure! You will have received a camp update from us with a form to fill out for your child, we ask that you please complete this as soon as possible as it will enable us to organise catering and sleeping arrangements. Students will be providing their own accommodation in the form of tents so please let us know if you have one you are willing to lend us.

## **Te reo Maori**

We are fortunate to have Matua Jason supporting us with our Te Reo and Tikanga program. Matua Jason will spend 30 mins with each home learning team once a week, and one session with the whole of Te Ara Māia for revision and consolidation. Lessons are fun and interactive.

## **English**

Our reading focus for this term will be on short texts and we are exploring Other Worlds. We have selected a range of texts from different times and places, and in a variety of styles. Our short texts will also be used as models for the children's own writing. In *Other Worlds* we are creating a folio of pieces that explore imagined places. Our work is a vehicle for us to explore our experiences of places, and connect imagined ones to these experiences. This is work we will mostly do by ourselves; in the end, however, we will be putting our creations together, curating them in our classes into exhibitions to be mounted in our new places, for the Celebration of Learning.

## **Mathematics**

The first three weeks of maths are focused on meal planning for camp. The camp setting provides a relevant real-life context for students to engage in problem-solving. We are exploring nutrition, calories, budget, and temperature.

We will continue with Problem Solving for the remainder of the term using 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. On Fridays we will be giving children the opportunity to practise their basic facts; those who have mastered them will explore aspects of maths we might not be able to cover during a typical maths lesson.

## **Science**

On camp, we will have access to real-life examples of different bridge structures. During our Physics focus this term students will learn about some basic engineering principles and have opportunities for calculation, design, and construction of various bridges.

## **Social Science**

We are exploring the Aotearoa New Zealand Histories curriculum. We will be using a range of artefacts and resources to explore specific locations in NZ and their local history. Students will hone their research skills and present their findings to their peers. This will occur in year groups, while their colleagues are at Tech.

## **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 one Maia teacher 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 whanaungatanga- 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 volleyball! The fine weather has meant we are off to an excellent start and the students are enthusiastic about this sport.

## **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 Maia student will read independently for at least 30 minutes each day. Your child will also have a Maths Buddy log-in. Maths buddy is an online program that we expect students to utilise 30 mins per week. Tasks are set by classroom teachers and by our Teacher Aide Katharina. Students can also choose activities that are appropriate for their level, this enables them to take some responsibility for their own learning, self-selecting more challenging or simpler tasks as necessary.

## **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 make 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

## Weekly Timetable

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8.50- 9.30	Drama club / Fitness	Orchestra / Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syndicate fitness</li> <li>• Health</li> </ul>	Lyrica / Fitness	Kapa haka / Fitness
9.30-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Word study</li> <li>• Novel study</li> <li>• Te reo Maori</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waiata</li> <li>• Tikanga</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Word study</li> <li>• Novel study</li> </ul>	
10- 11	Maths				Basic facts prac
11-11.40	Break 1				
11.40-1	Multiple Literacies				
1-1.45	Break 2			Y7 Tech / Y8 Rotations	Y8 Tech/ Y7 Rotations
1.45-2.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Social Science</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• P.E.</li> </ul>				
2.45-3	Home Learning Team Time				