



# Te Ara Whānui Update

Term Toru 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*



## Science

In Week Three, the students conducted experiments to understand Isaac Newton's three laws of motion.

### 1. Law of Inertia (Newton's First Law):

We placed a Unifix cube on top of a piece of card. By quickly pulling the card away, we demonstrated that the cube remained in place due to inertia.

### 2. Law of Motion (Newton's Second Law):

Students moved marbles across different surfaces by blowing air through straws. This activity helped them observe how the force of the air influenced the marbles' acceleration, depending on the surface texture and resistance.

### 3. Action and Reaction (Newton's Third Law):

We attached a blown-up balloon to a straw threaded through a piece of string. When we released the balloon, it flew along the string, illustrating that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

These hands-on experiments provided practical demonstrations of Newton's laws and enhanced the students' understanding of fundamental physics concepts.

## Maths

This term, we've covered a wide range of topics related to fractions and decimals. Our focus areas have included:

1. **Exploring Equivalent Fractions:** Understanding how different fractions can represent the same value, and practicing converting fractions into their equivalent forms.
2. **Comparing and Ordering Fractions:** Learning how to compare fractions to determine which are larger or smaller, and arranging them in ascending or descending order.
3. **Adding and Subtracting Fractions:** Working with both like (same denominators) and unlike fractions (different denominators), and developing strategies to find common denominators to accurately perform addition and subtraction.



4. **Adding Decimals:** Extending our understanding of place value to include decimal points, and practicing the addition of decimal numbers with different numbers of decimal places.

These topics have provided a strong foundation for understanding the relationships between fractions and decimals, and have equipped students with essential skills for more advanced mathematical concepts.

### **Te Reo Māori**

This Term, Matua Jason is taking each Whānui class for a three week block covering Hākinakina (sports) and Taonga puoro (traditional instruments). The tamariki are gaining a deeper understanding of both Māori kupu and tikanga as they learn waiata and karakia that relate to the world around them. Kupu Rapu, Kahoot quizzes to consolidate previous learning, and the ever popular WhareWhere engage the rangatahi with the current kaupapa in an entertaining way.



### **Social studies**

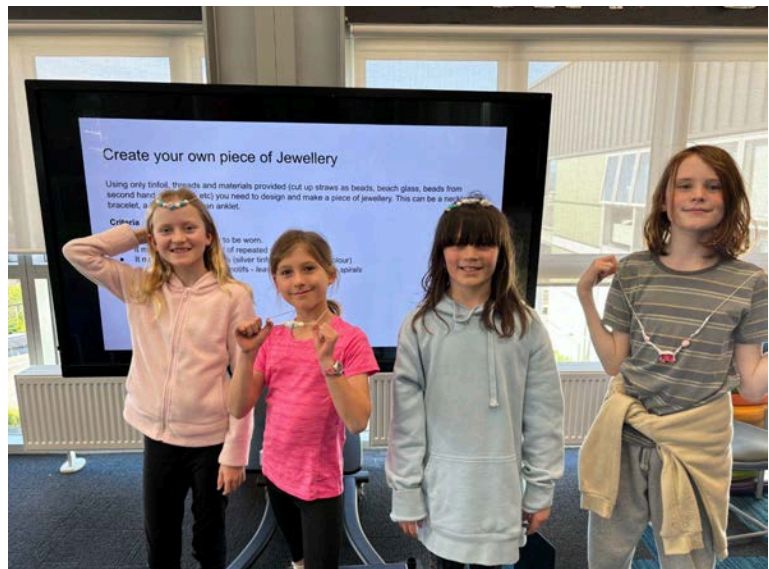
During our social studies lessons we have embarked on an

exciting journey back to the early 1900s to explore what life was like in Kelburn during that era. Students have delved into the past, imagining themselves as children living over a century ago. They've written insightful diary entries, capturing the daily experiences and challenges faced by kids in those days. To bring history to life, our creative historians also crafted skits, showcasing their interpretations of what a classroom might have looked and felt like in the early 20th century. It's been a fascinating exploration of our local history, blending imagination with learning!



### **Art**

Our budding artists have been getting their hands dirty in the art room, crafting beautiful clay jewellery inspired by the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia. Drawing on the intricate designs and rich history of the region, students have recreated necklaces, bracelets, and other





adornments that reflect their personal styles. This project has not only allowed them to explore their creativity but also to connect with the fascinating traditions of one of the world's earliest cultures. The results are truly stunning!



### **Mathswell**

On Monday, Ryan, Jamie, Shaun, Isabella, Louis, and Prinze competed in the Mathswell competition at Victoria University.

Mathswell is an annual event organised by the Wellington Maths Association, inviting students from Year 5 to Year 13 to participate in teams of six. The competition aims to promote the enjoyment of mathematics and challenge our students. A huge congratulations to the team for placing 2nd out of 60 teams—what an incredible accomplishment!

We are all so proud of your teamwork and effort—well done!

### **School appropriate topics**

We have recently observed an increase in some children's interest in guns and weapons. We are discouraging talk and play involving weapons in the school environment. We are having regular conversations as a class to ensure that we uphold behaviour that aligns with our values of respect, safety, and manaakitanga. We kindly ask for your support by reiterating at home that some language and actions are not appropriate in the school environment. By working together, we can ensure that Whānui remains a safe and respectful place for all students.

### **Home Learning**

In Whānui, we recognise that our students engage in numerous extracurricular activities outside of school. However, we emphasise the importance of ensuring that everyone commits to the following two activities every evening:

- Reading before bed - at least 30 minutes. This could involve reading a chapter book from school, reading a chapter to someone in their whānau or listening to audio books.
- MathsWhizz - 30 minutes a week. MathsWhizz serves as an educational resource that reinforces the significant learning occurring in the classroom. If your child does not have their login information or has forgotten it, please remind them to ask their teacher for the details.

If you have any questions regarding your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Best wishes,

Niamh Kelly, Rebekah Rasmussen, and Hugo Miller

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