



# Te Ara Māia Newsletter

## Term Rua 2026

*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 Parents and Whānau,

Woohoo! What a joy to have the rangatahi back at Kura! The wild and woolly weather this week has not dampened spirits, and it is great to see the children enjoying each other's company. Last term, we forged new connections and understandings of each other, and this term, we use our new knowledge and skills to collaborate. We are working to support every child to be the best version of themselves, and to see the best in each other.

### Literacy- Poetry & Novel Studies

This term, students will be in novel study groups, challenging themselves with new reading material! Alongside this, we have a focus on both interpreting and writing poetry. We are looking at the many reasons a person may write poetry- political activism, entertainment, or conveying emotion. We will look at poetry from a range of authors and are working towards the students creating their own anthologies. If there are any poems that are significant to your whanau, we would love you to share them with us.

### Maths- Algebra

In maths this term, our focus will be on Algebra. We will be looking for patterns and formulating rules, as well as methodically finding unknown values, forming and solving simple linear equations; generalising properties of multiplication and division with whole numbers; and using graphs, tables, and rules to describe linear relationships found in number and spatial patterns. Throughout the term, we will also explore these concepts in authentic contexts, so that the children can appreciate the numerous applications mathematics has in their worlds. We will also be practising our problem-solving skills as we continue our participation in the Otago Problem Solving Challenge.

### Physical education

Along with our usual programming, we have our school cross-country and swimming sports this term! We will also have 8 gymnastics lessons taught by EasyMoves, along with a Hockey session run by Wellington Hockey. We also have an

Key dates for Term 1:	
Week 1	Wed 22/04 - Strike Performance
Week 2	Wed 29/04- Band concert Fri 01/05- Mihi Whakatau
Week 3	Tues 05/05- School Cross country Thurs 07/05- School Cross country postponement date
Week 4	Wed 13/05- Celebration of learning Fri 15/05- Māia assembly
Week 5	
Week 6	Wed 27/05 - Year 7 vaccinations Thurs 28/05- Otago Problem Solving Challenge 2/5 Friday 29/05- Music assembly
Week 7	Tues 02/06- Western Zones Cross Country Thurs 04/06- Western Zones Cross Country postponement date Thurs 04/06- School disco
Week 8	Wed 10/06- Tech session 1/7
Week 9	Mon 15/06 & Tues 16/06 - Wellington Boys' College open mornings Wed 17/06- Tech session 2/7 Thu 18/06- Wellington Girls' College open day
Week 10	Wed 24/06- Tech session 3/7
Week 11	Wed 01/07- Tech session 4/7 Thurs 02/07- Whole school swimming sports

opportunity for students to have a go at miniball, at the Western Zones Miniball event. Please note that Western Zones events such as WZ swimming, cross country, and athletics are competitive, whereas WZ miniball, netball, football etc are designed as 'give it a go' days for students to try a sport they don't usually play. Later this term we will be exploring various sports as a means to learn key movement skills. This will include basketball, hockey, and cricket. Students will have opportunities to share their knowledge and learn from each other as they develop their sports skills.

### Science

Our Science focus this term is planet Earth and beyond. We will launch into our studies by comparing the Apollo and recent Artemis missions to the moon. We will also investigate the distance and temperature of planets, orbits, and early star mapping.

### Visual Art

We will sharpen up our pencil sketching skills this term as we practise line and form. Shading, contour, and angles will add perspective and interest to our artworks. We will also dabble in paint as we create our versions of solar eclipses.

### Social Science

This term, we study Aotearoa's history with a focus on protests. We will consider how protests throughout history have shaped society, influenced policy, and shifted cultural norms. Throughout this topic, we will also look at important ideas such as democracy, agency, and the critical human need to hope for a better future.

### Technology

'Tech' at Karori West Normal School will resume in week 8 this term, and will take place on a Wednesday morning. Again, we ask that on Tech days, the rangitahi are at school **by 8.40 am**. Tech days have been added to the community calendar for your planning.

### Te reo Māori

We are fortunate to have Matua Jason supporting us with our Te Reo and Tikanga Māori program. Lessons are fun and interactive. A key focus for these sessions 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 language.

### College Transition

Perhaps it seems that only yesterday these little angels were starting at KNS in Tupu, but it's almost time for them to go to college. Julia Davidson, Principal of Wellington Girls' College, will be in the Māia space at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 6th April to speak with parents and students who are interested in attending.

As well as the open days and visits from College staff and students, there are many things that we do at Kelburn to ensure our students are prepared for College:

- Provide information about each child's academic history and learning needs
- Meet with the Year 9 deans to discuss class placements and student needs
- Make arrangements for extra transition meetings for students who need them
- Interview year 10 students who were previously students at KNS to establish which parts of our programme we can improve to support College transition
- Utilise our health programme to ensure that children are prepared for some of the challenges they may meet in College and how they might face them

### 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 Buddy log-in. **Maths Buddy** is an online program that we expect students to utilise for **10-15 minutes 3 times per week**. Students each have their own login details for this that they have sent to their school email accounts.

### **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. 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. If you happen to be available to talk to us, please contact Libya Munn to schedule a time.

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, Jacqueline Croft, Sophia Wright, & Tom Pearce

[libyam@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:libyam@kelburnnormal.school.nz)

[jacquelinec@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:jacquelinec@kelburnnormal.school.nz)

[sophiaw@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:sophiaw@kelburnnormal.school.nz)

[tomp@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:tomp@kelburnnormal.school.nz)