



Te Ara Māia Newsletter

Term Wha 2025

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

10th October 2025

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

We are thrilled to have the tamariki back in the learning space! After a great end to term 3, we are looking forward to another term of robust learning. It is at this point every year that some of our year 8 students can feel 'ready' for their next step. We have a fun term ahead and are keen for our students to stay focused on their remaining time at KNS before 'checking out'. Please help us to help the kids by reinforcing the message that we have another whole quarter of the year's learning to complete, and our standards for learning and behaviour have not dropped.

What is happening in Māia this term?

- **EPRO8 In School Challenge (7th-9th Oct)**
- **Tech on Tuesdays (7th,14th, 28th oct, 4th, 11th,18th,25th Nov)**
- **Kids Sing event (Lyrica) (14th Oct)**
- **EPRO8 Inter-schools event (16th Oct)**
- **Whole school Athletics, Battle of the Bands (21st Oct)**
- **Ki O Rahi Tournament (30th Oct)**
- **Western Zones Athletics (31st Oct)**
- **Maia Assembly (7th Nov)**
- **Talent Quest (13th Nov)**
- **Musical Refreshment (19th Nov)**
- **WGC Orientation Day (20th Nov)**
- **Celebration of Learning (26th Nov)**
- **Speech finals (1st Dec)**
- **Wellington Boys' College Induction (3rd Dec)**
- **Year 8 Leavers' Event (11th Dec)**
- **Christmas Assembly and farewell to the year 8s (15th Dec)**



Term 4 Fashion

Hats are very 'in' this term, so much so in fact they are a requirement. *Which one should my child wear?* You are wondering- *fedora? Beret? Chef's hat? Pillbox? Cloche perhaps?* No, no, a broad-brimmed hat or legionnaire hat is just the thing! In term 4, we try to maximise the use of our plentiful outdoor learning spaces. As well as hats, we strongly recommend that students arrive at school wearing sunscreen. All the cool kids are wearing SPF.

Miss Ayto & Mrs Hilliard

Miss Ayto is a student teacher in Māia Rua, as part of her practicum here, Ella is teaching the class and is supported by Libya and Tom. Philippa Hilliard is providing an additional pair of hands during structured literacy and will be taking small groups.

Communication

This is a friendly reminder that all information about trips, sports, and school events will be in the Kelburn Comms on a Wednesday. As always, if you have any questions about our programme or would like to discuss anything concerning your child, the first step is to touch base with your child's classroom teacher. We are happy to partner with you to support your child.

Multiple Literacies

Children need to be able to envision a future of hope and possibility. Speeches are a vehicle for positive change, and we want our ākonga to see a purpose in the work that we do at school. Our speech topic this year is ***The most important skill for our future is...*** Students will consider the world we live in and plan for a positive change that they can enact in our society, presenting their ideas in a persuasive speech. We will look at a range of successful speeches and analyse them to develop a deeper understanding of what makes a compelling speech. This focus will culminate in the speech competition finals on Monday, 1st December.

Structured Literacy

We are focusing on base/root words this term as we continue our learning about morphological awareness. We will continue with The Syntax Project- a programme designed to support students to understand and demonstrate grammatical structures and rules.

Mathematics

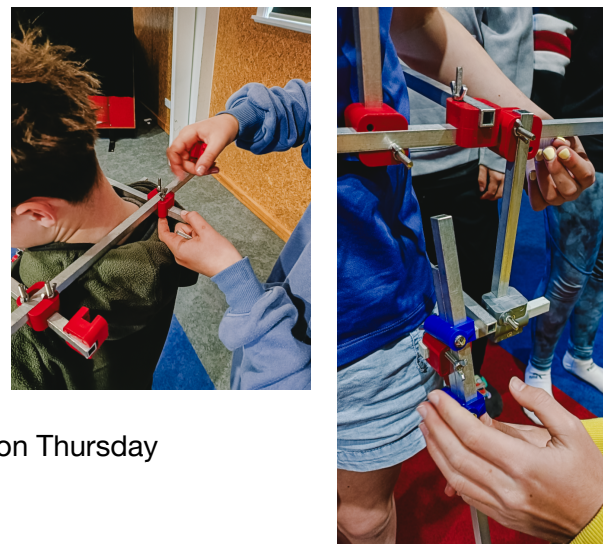
We will finish off our focus on proportional reasoning (decimals, percentages, and fractions) before moving on to Measurement and Geometry. We will turn our attention to designing and crafting models of sculptures for the Wellington Waterfront. The sculptures will need to meet a set of mathematical criteria involving calculations, measurement, and practical application of geometric principles. Ākonga will be taught about these principles and practicalities of geometry, including:

- Calculating angles
- Using protractors and compasses to create nets for 3d shapes
- Understanding and implementing transformations of shapes
- Calculating enlargements
- Calculating perimeter, area, and volume
- Identifying and creating platonic solids, prisms, and pyramids

To perform calculations and measure accurately, students will need to be equipped with the following tools: pencil, ruler, compass, and a protractor. Please check in with your child about these pieces of equipment, as it seems some of our students are running low on these.

Science

Our exploration of the laws of physics will go hand in hand with our maths unit, as we look specifically at Newton's three laws of motion. This week we have had the EPRO8 challenge on in the hall- an engineering and physics challenge that requires teamwork, accurate measuring, and creative problem solving. Our top two teams will go through to an inter-school competition next week on **Thursday, 16th October 5-8pm.**



Te reo Māori

We are fortunate to have Matua Jason supporting us with our Te Reo and Tikanga program. Matua Jason will continue to work with students on Thursday afternoons.

Physical Education

Māia students will be making the most of nearby outdoor spaces this term with a Kahui Ako-wide kī o rahi tournament and rippa rugby. We will focus on learning the pūrākau and rules behind the game of kī o rahi, a tākarō (game) that teaches the importance of restoring balance. This also gives us an opportunity to blend together our knowledge of te reo Māori and physical exercise. Many of the skills used in Ki O Rahi are also needed for Rippa Rugby, which is our other focus area this term. Tamariki will continue to develop their understanding of teamwork and fair play, while learning new warm-ups, skills and games throughout the unit.

Technology

Tech continues on Thursdays at Karori West Normal School on the following dates:

- **7th, 14th, 28th October**
- **4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November**

Thank you for ensuring that your children arrive at **8:40am** on these days, as the bus leaves promptly at **8:45am**. The technology teachers request that students wear closed-toed shoes and tie their hair back for safety reasons.

Visual Art

Our Visual Art unit in term four will focus on shape, perspective, vanishing points and foreshortening. The students will develop their artistic skills whilst exploring line, angle, symmetry and hue inspired by a range of motivations, observation, and imagination. 'Falling into space' will provide students with the opportunity to add their personal flair and contemporary worldview to their creations. The artworks of Pablo Picasso, David Hockney, Rita Angus and Don Binney will also enable our students to study different compositions akin to time, place and context.

Health

Our integrated Health & Science unit in term four will be 'Navigating the Journey'. This relationship and sexuality education programme is an excellent resource provided by Family Planning New Zealand. Relationships and sexuality education is a key component of the health and physical education learning area of The New Zealand Curriculum. The focus of this unit will be informing and discussing topics such as friendships; supporting self and others; sexuality and diversity; critical thinking about gender; individual rights; dealing with social messages and stereotypes; pubertal change; body image; risks, and issues; and how to access health care. These are all important issues confronting our tamariki today.

Please come along to our Whanau information session for more information **Wednesday, 15th October 5pm**

Digital Literacy

Māia will be learning about AI and generative AI this term. The focus will be on responsible and ethical uses of AI, as well as developing critical awareness of how AI works, its biases and pitfalls, and the impact of chatbots like ChatGPT on learning. Because the terms and conditions of most open genAI restrict them to 13-year-olds and over, we will be learning *about* genAI rather than using it extensively ourselves. However, in the context of our speech writing, we will be covering some important research skills like recognising genAI content, lateral reading (fact checking) and critical thinking.

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. 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 Learning Assistant Katharina. Students can also choose activities that are appropriate for their level, which enables them to take some responsibility for their own learning, self-selecting more challenging or simpler tasks as necessary.

Nga mihi,

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