



# Te Ara Māia Newsletter

## Term Toru 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*

18 July 2025

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

It is a joy to have our rangitahi back in the learning space. We are seeing some rejuvenated children ready for learning and excited for the term ahead.

### What is happening in Māia this term?

- **Book Week! 21-25th July**
- **Handball Tournament 31st July**
- **CPR/AED Training sessions 29th July (Rua) 5th August (Tahi)**
- **Whakanui Ahurea Kapa Haka festival 7th August**
- **Western Zones Netball 12th August**
- **Māia Assembly 21st August**
- **Goal Setting Conversations 29th August**
- **Play week 8-11th September**

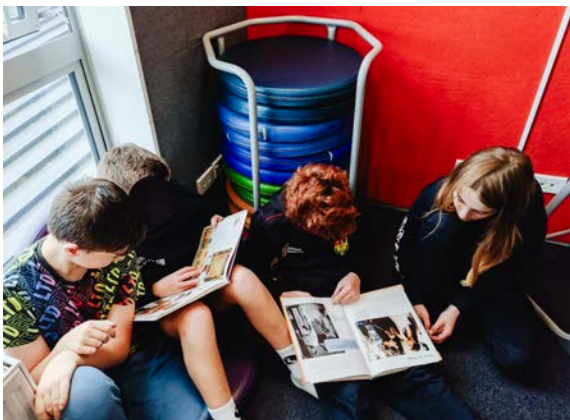


### Communication

You will have noticed that we are streamlining our school communications. 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.

### Jacqueline Croft

We welcome Jacqueline Croft to the Māia teaching team! Jacqueline is teaching in Māia Tahi, she is an experienced and enthusiastic teacher, and we are very happy to have her on board! Jacqueline is keen to get to know her students and our community. Please don't hesitate to make a time to meet with Jacqueline if you would like to discuss your child's learning.



### Multiple Literacies

"Play Term" as the students affectionately call it, is upon us. This year we are studying Shakespeare, with a focus on *The Tempest* (Māia Tahi) and *Hamlet* (Māia Rua). Studying the works of The Bard is always a worthwhile and invigorating challenge for the children. We would love to hear your stories of performing in, or learning about, Shakespeare's plays. Please keep an eye out for some interactive homework tasks... Performing in a proper theatre is a source of excitement for our ākonga. Both the Tahi and Rua Class Plays will be performed for one night only at the **Gryphon Theatre on Thursday, 11th September at 6 pm (Māia Tahi) and 7 pm (Māia Rua)**. Students will need to arrive at the theatre 45 minutes before their class

performs. Please book your tickets by filling in this form: [Māia Play Ticket Form](#). We request a small koha of \$10 per ticket (or \$30 for a family of 4) to go towards the cost of the theatre experience. The school bank account number is:

12-3223-0190001-00, please use your child's name and play as a reference, or alternatively, you can pay by eftpos at the school office. It is a rite of passage for our Māia students, and a rich learning experience for them to perform in a real theatre. There are limited seats, so we ask that you book in advance so that we can accommodate you.

### **A request for support:**

Mon-Thurs of week 9 (8th-11th September) we will be galloping down the hill (and back up again) to the Gryphon Theatre for rehearsals. We will need two parent helpers to accompany us on this EOTC adventure each day. You would need to be available 8.50am-3pm. Please contact Libya if you are able to attend; we will be very grateful for your support.



### **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**

In maths this term our initial focus is on operations using decimals. We will then move on to measurement- converting measurements of length, mass, volume and time. Throughout the term we will also explore mathematical 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.

### **Te reo Māori**

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

### **Social Science**

Our focus in social science will be comparing and contrasting life in Elizabethan England with life in Aotearoa in 2025. We will think about how children were viewed and educated, clothes, food, toys, and recreation more generally. We will tie this in with our own childhoods, looking for both contrasts and continuities.

### **Physical Education**

This term in Physical Education, we will concentrate on basketball and netball. We will develop the skills needed for these activities - catching, throwing, dribbling, and shooting.

### **Technology**

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

- Thursday 17th July
- Thursday 24th July
- Thursday 31st July
- Friday 1st August
- Thursday 7th August
- Thursday 14th August



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.

### **Health & Wellbeing**

In our Home Learning Team time, we prioritise learning about all aspects of wellbeing with particular emphasis on social and emotional skills. Some topics we cover in these discussions include: setting and respecting boundaries, navigating disagreement, being a team player, asking for help, supporting others, and upholding our school values.

Some of the tools we use to support rangitahi with their wellbeing are:

- Regular fitness and Physical Education
- Whanaungatanga time twice a day during kai time
- Physical activity breaks
- Brain Breaks

Two key ways you can support us at school are by sending your child to school with enough kai to fuel them for the day and by keeping lines of communication open.



### 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,

Libya Munn, Jacqueline Croft, and Tom Pearce

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