



Te Ara Māia Newsletter

Term Whā 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*

Friday 16th October 2026

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

We are thrilled to have your delightful children back on site. We have a few small changes this term, including having Matua Jeremy working with us to teach Te Reo Māori. Ngaio turf will also be available to all Māia students at lunchtimes. As with all of our play spaces, this will be monitored by a duty teacher, and access to this area is contingent on following the school rules.



Term 4 is a particularly busy term for our senior tamariki, with a speech competition, Year 8 leavers' events, college visits, technology, and sporting events. We know that at this time of year some of our students feel they have finished with primary school; however, we have other plans! We have a busy and engaging programme and are looking forward to another term of robust learning. We would appreciate your support with 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.

W2	Tues 20 Oct Battle of the Bands Tues 20 Oct Kids' Sing Wed 21 Oct Tech 1/7 Thurs 22 Oct EPRO8 Fri 23 Oct Mihi Whakatau/School Hui
W3	Tues 27 Oct Orchestra Festival Wed 28 Oct Tech 2/7
W4	Wed 4 Nov Tech 3/7 Wed 4 Nov Celebration of learning Fri 6 Nov WZ athletics Fri 6 Nov Maia leading school hui
W5	Wed 11 Nov Tech 4/7 Thu 12 Nov Talent Quest Fri 13 Nov WGC Orientation day
W6	Wed 18 Nov Tech 5/7 Fri 20 Nov Gardasil vaccinations Fri 20 Nov Whānui leading school hui
W7	Wed 25 Nov Tech 6/7 Wed 25 Musical refreshment Date TBC Speech finals
W8	Wed 2 Dec Tech 7/7 Wed 2 Dec WHS induction day Fri 4 Dec Whanake leading school hui
W9	Thu 10 Dec Leavers' celebration Fri 11 Dec Year 7s meet HLT 2027
W10	Mon 14 Dec Christmas & Leavers' school hui

Term 4 Fashion

We know the question that occupies every young person's mind... *Which hat should I wear this term?* A broad-brimmed hat or legionnaire cap is the answer! As well as hats, we strongly recommend that students arrive at school wearing sunscreen. All the cool kids are wearing SPF.

Multiple Literacies

Our speech topic this year is: **Describe the society you would like to live in in 20 years.** 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 in week 7, exact date TBC.

Mathematics

Our term 4 maths topic is arguably the student favourite for the year- Geometry and Measurement. We take a hands-on approach, and students will demonstrate their understanding of

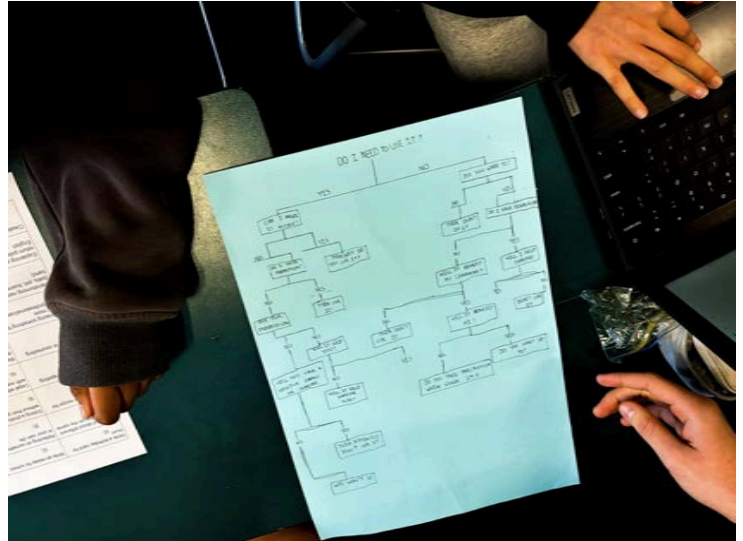
geometric principles in a collaborative project. Students will design and construct a Whare Āwhina (place of support) where young people (aged 10-14) in Aotearoa can seek help for a specific need, eg., dyslexia, mental health, skill development, language learning, etc. Students will need to meet a range of criteria involving:

- 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

If you have some cardboard lying about, please do send this in for construction purposes!

Health

Thank you to our small turnout at our whanau engagement evening last night. Our integrated Health & Science unit in term four is 'Navigating the Journey'. This relationship and sexuality education programme is an excellent resource provided by [Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa](#). Relationships and sexuality education is a key component of the health and physical education learning area of The New Zealand Curriculum. This unit is focused on 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.



Science

Our focus this term is life processes. The students will learn that all organisms need to carry out specific processes for survival. They will be introduced to the trustworthy 'MRS GREN': movement, respiration, sensitivity, growth, reproduction, excretion, and nutrition.



Te Reo Māori

We are fortunate to have Matua Jeremy supporting us with our Te Reo and Tikanga program this term. The content of our Māori language lessons this term will tie in with our health unit. Students will learn how to express what they and others are feeling in grammatically correct sentences.

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.

Physical Education

This term in physical education we are practising our movement skills through volleyball, hockey, and a continuation of our athletics learning. We'll make the most of the hopefully excellent weather and enjoy the opportunity to explore and refine new skills.

Social Science

With knowledge comes power! What are the branches of power? How does our government work? Why do we have elections? All the questions and more will be the focus of our social studies unit 'Our Government and Beyond', where we learn about our governance in a global context.

Technology

Tech continues on Thursdays at Karori West Normal School. 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.

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.

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.

Ngā mihi,

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