



Te Ara Māia Newsletter

Term Toru 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,

We hope you have enjoyed some quality time with your young people amongst the juggle of school holidays. It is great to have the ākonga back and into the swing of things. This term, we welcome Niamh King, who will be teaching in Maia Rua on Thursdays and Fridays, and with Māia Toru one day a week.

Our students are growing independence, but many of them are not there yet. A few admin notes that would be really helpful if you could please support your children with the following:

- Dress for the season. It is winter, and we have heaters on but the only ventilation we have is open windows. Students need warm layers they can take on and off as needed.
- Drink bottles need to come to school every day.
- Lunch- we know that food is complex for some students but students need to have lunch in their lunchbox every day that they will actually eat. It is hard to learn if your brain is not fuelled for it!

Literacy- Devised plays

“Play Term”, as the students affectionately call it, is upon us. We will be devising our own plays based on the themes of *The Machine Stops*, a novella about a future where people live isolated lives, communicating only by audio and visual devices. Our plays will be performed at the **Gryphon Theatre from 5 pm on Thursday, the 3rd of September**. Monday - Thursday of this week we walk down to the theatre to rehearse. We will need **3 parent helpers each day, please contact us if you can help us out**. Devised plays are a major highlight and a significant learning

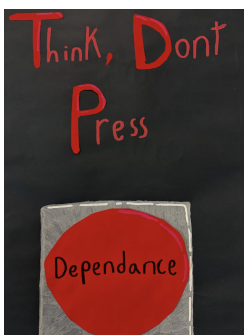
experience. The plays are something we make together, and we want all children to be a part of that. If your child has any planned absences in Term 3, please let your child's teacher know. Please keep an eye out for some interactive homework tasks...

Maths- Statistics and Probability

We are looking at how data is represented and how to glean important

Key dates for Term 1:

Week 1	22/07 Tech 23/07 Musical Showcase at Wellington Boys's College (Parent help received- thank you!!) 24/07 Wheels day 24/07 Mihi Whakatau
Week 2	Book Week 29/07 Tech 31/07 Māia School hui
Week 3	05/08 Tech 06/08 Whakanui Ahurea (Parent help needed) 07/08 Wellington Orchestra Show
Week 4	14/08 3-way learning conversations (Kura is closed for instruction)
Week 5	18/08 Mathswell 19/08 Lyrica performing at NAMSA Conference (Parent help needed) 21/08 School Hui
Week 6	24/08 Maths PD curriculum day (Kura is closed for instruction) 28/08 School Hui
Week 7	Play week (Parent help needed) 01/09 WZ swimming 03/09 Play night at Gryphon Theatre 04/09 School Hui
Week 8	EPRO8
Week 9	Touch sessions 18/09 Music Assembly
Week 10	25/09 Last Day of Term 3



information from a range of graphs and data displays. We will also be conducting our own statistical investigations and creating accurate graphs. If you are working with your tamariki on maths at home, you may be interested to know some key vocabulary we are using in maths this term: variable, mean, mode, median, population, numerical, categorical, discrete, continuous, correlation, hypothesis, correlation, range, quartile, outliers. will also be practising our problem-solving skills as we continue our participation in the Otago Problem Solving Challenge.



Physical education

Throughout the term, we will be learning about Netball, Touch Rugby, and Quoits/Vortex. This variety of focuses will support a wide range of skills. Along with our usual programming, we will also have 2 Touch Rugby lessons later in the term.

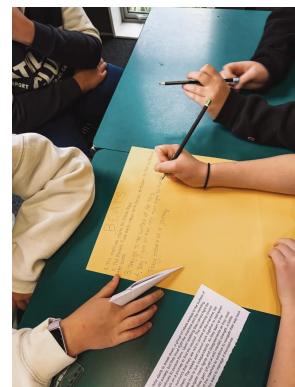
Science

We are focusing on the three states of matter: solid, liquid, gas, and the nature of physical and chemical changes. As part of this unit we will be exploring changes using food, please ensure the office has up to date information regarding your child's allergies.

Visual Art

This being "Play Term," we are looking at aspects of stagecraft, such as costumes, props, lighting, and sound. We will also create posters announcing our respective plays. Closer to play week we may need to enlist the support of some helpers, so if

you have time in week 6, energy, and the ability to sew a straight line, please let us know!



Technology

'Tech' at Karori West Normal School will resume in week 1-3 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.

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,

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