

SENIOR SYNDICATE NEWSLETTER

TERM ONE 2011

Dear Parents

Welcome to a new year at St Patrick's School and to the Senior Syndicate. We are all very excited about the year ahead and this letter is to let you know of some of the upcoming events that your child may be involved in this term.

The teachers in this syndicate are:

Rm 12 Mrs Mary Alderson – Yr 7 Teacher

Rm 13 Ms Sharon Dudding – Yr 8 Teacher and Syndicate Leader

Rm 14 Mr Aaron O'Neill – Yr 7 Teacher

Rm 16 Ms Anne Sutton – Yr 8 Teacher

Rm 17 Mr Graeme Hickling – Yr 7/8 Teacher

Technology Classes:

Year Seven students take part in a programme based at Tamatea Intermediate School every Monday morning – 9am – 11.30. The programme runs for the whole year and students take part in food technology, wood and metal work and Fabric.

Year Eight students attend Tamatea on Mondays from 12.30 -2.30 and continue to build on skills taught last year in these areas.

All students need to wear covered shoes for the lessons and hair must also be a suitable length or tied back to meet the safety standards set by Tamatea Intermediate.

Swimming:

Our swimming programme commences on the 9th February and runs for four weeks. All students are expected to take part in this programme as it is our PE component for the first half of the term. Swimming instructors will work with your child in ability groups for half an hour every Wednesday and Friday Mornings.

Swimming Sports will take place at the end of these lessons – Friday 4th March is the tentative date for the Finals to take place at the Onekawa Aquatic Centre 9am – 11.30

The cost for these lessons is \$10.00 per child.

Outdoor Education:

Year Seven will take part in two days activities later in the term – this will include a day at the Guthrie Smith Camp taking part in canoeing and high ropes activities and another day at the Kiwi Adventure Centre. Dates for these events are: 7th and 8th April and the cost will be \$50.00 per child. We will bus to and from the venues but we would still welcome parent support and supervision during these days.

Year Eight students will be taking part in a four day City Excursion to Wellington in September this year. The cost is estimated to be \$150-\$200 per child and fundraising will take place throughout Terms 1-3 to ensure the cost is kept to this amount. The first of the fundraising events will be a spellathon starting early this term. More details will be discussed in class meetings and newsletters throughout the term.

Homework:

All Senior Syndicate classes have an expectation that students will complete spelling and basic facts activities each night – written in their homework notebook. They are also expected to log their reading at night (at least 20 minutes) and complete any other tasks set by their teachers during the week.

A home and school book is used to communicate with parents and caregivers. This book should contain any newsletters, permission slips etc.that need your attention in any given week.

Sports:

Term One offers students in this syndicate the opportunity to play Cricket and Basketball. Any parent interested or available to help coach or manage a team for either of these codes please let Ms Dudding(basketball) or Mr Hickling (Cricket) know as we do need the support of parents to enable students to participate. Basketball will be on Thursdays at Pettigrew Green arena between 3.45-7pm. Cricket will be run on Saturday mornings. Summer Hockey may also be offered – more details will be forthcoming.

Extra for Experts Afternoons:

This year we would like to offer students an opportunity to take part in programmes they wish to learn more about once a week from 2-3pm. every Thursday. The following activities will take place and your child is to make a choice for the term.

Band – an opportunity to play in the school band (numbers will be limited)

Badminton – a chance to take part in a great game to help with co-ordination and fitness

Horticulture – an opportunity to nurture and learn about plants and vegetables

Art – extra special art lessons for budding artists

ICT – an opportunity to take part in a challenging, engaging programme in the computer suite

Bookclub – a chance to be the first to read the new releases and discuss books – a great head start for students hoping to make the Kids Lit Quiz Team in Term Two.

Children will be asked to make two choices and we will do our best to accommodate their first or second choice.

Baking: an opportunity to try out culinary skills and provide afternoon tea for family members!

Writing, Illustrating and Producing Children's Books – a creative writing and art activity which will produce a quality piece of Children's Literature!

House Captains

All students will be placed in their Houses in the first week of the term.. Term One's House Captains will be voted for during the week and their badges will be given out at Friday's assembly Week Two. House Captains are voted for in Terms one two and three by pupils. In Term Four House Captains are chosen by the Principal and Senior Teachers.

School and Syndicate Masses:

Our Opening school Mass is on Thursday 10th February 9.30 at St Patricks Church

Our Syndicate Mass will be held on Thursday 24th February 9am in the School Chapel

St Patrick's Day Mass is on Thursday 17th March 9.30 at St Patrick's Church

Term One promises to be an eventful and fulfilling one and we look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year.

Thank you and God Bless:

Sharon, Graeme, Anne, Mary and Aaron
Senior Syndicate Teachers