



Senior Syndicate News Term 1, 2014



Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Welcome back after what was an enjoyable Christmas break. We have had a positive start to the year and welcome a number of new students to our syndicate. As you will find out after reading this letter, we have a busy term ahead with a number of exciting opportunities for your children.

New Teachers

We welcome Jodie Stoodley (SJ 16) and Crystal Hewett (SM 13) to our team this year. Their enthusiasm and creativity will be greatly appreciated.

Useful dates for Term four

Wednesday 19th February: Year 7 Activity Day (Leaving School, 9am)

Thursday 27th February: Parent/ Whanau Evening (7pm School Hall)

Friday 28th February: TACS Triathlon (Puketapu School, 9am)

Wednesday 12th March: Beach 5's (Ocean Beach, 10am)

Friday 7th March: Athletics Day (St Patrick's, 10:30am start)

Wednesday 16th April: Swimming Sports (Onekawa Aquatic Centre, 12:30pm)

Technology

Technology sessions are held at Tamatea Intermediate on Mondays throughout the year (9-11:30am.) Children bus to and from school and develop their technological understanding in the following areas: **Food Technology, Visual Art, Multi-Materials** and **Metal Technology**. Children are **required** to wear **sensible, covered school shoes** to all Technology sessions (winter school shoes.)

Curriculum

Numeracy Testing begins in week three. This will enable us to group children based on their current needs. Until then, we will be focussing on mathematical knowledge (facts that we need to recall quickly.)

Literacy/ Inquiry

Our Literacy programme will be based around our current Inquiry, "*Building a learning community.*" We plan to look at what we can do to make our classrooms into learning communities. From there, we will look at how our differences are something we need to celebrate.

Religious Education

We begin the term looking at imaginative prayer. From there, we will look into what makes our school special (Our School Charism.) We will then cover the Jesus strand.

Homework

Homework will be given weekly in the Senior Syndicate. It is expected that children will spend up to thirty minutes each night completing spelling, reading logs and maths knowledge activities. Occasionally, teachers will send home unfinished work for completion at home. We would appreciate homework being sighted and signed daily.

Physical Education

We begin the term with Athletics; various running distances, shot put, discus, high jump and long jump. In week nine we start swimming at the Onekawa Aquatic Centre.

Te Reo Maori

We are looking at our Mihi, introductions, greetings and responding to instructions. If you have interesting facts about your Iwi, Hapu or Marae, please feel free to send it to school so we may share and find out a little more about each other. Kapa Haka will start later this term.

Sports

This term we have teams representing our school in the following sports;

Cricket: Played Saturday mornings at a number of locations in Napier and Hastings.
(Managed by Mr O'Neill, Coach TBC)

Basketball: Played Thursdays at PGA and Rodney Green event Centre.

Volleyball: TBC

Rugby: Beach 5's TBC

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to call in and have a chat to your child's classroom teacher.

Regards and Blessings

Aaron O'Neill (SJ17) Syndicate Leader

Jodie Stoodley (SJ16)

Mary Alderson (SM12)

Crystal Hewett (SM13)