



Senior Syndicate News

Term 2, 2014



Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Welcome back to a new term filled with a number of exciting opportunities for our children. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our children make the most of the new experiences that lie ahead.

New Teachers

We welcome Miss Kaehlah Dawson to SM12 this term. She has settled in well and Room 12 has done a wonderful job of making her feel welcome.

Numeracy/ Inquiry

This term we will begin by focussing on 'Number' (This will involve Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division). From there, our Inquiry Learning will be in full swing (Pest, Problem, Impact) which will enable us to move on to Statistical Literacy (reading and making sense of data displayed in various ways).

Literacy/ Inquiry

Our Literacy programme will be based around our current Inquiry, "*Pest, Problem, Impact.*" The Syndicate enjoyed a trip to Arataki Honey to kick off our Inquiry and find out about the Varroa Bee Mite. We plan to look at what a pest actually is and how they can impact our lives. From there, we will begin investigating local, national and international pests.

As part of our Oral Language component, children will spend time at school and home, planning and preparing a speech about pests. This will be presented in week six, with the winner representing our school at the regional TaCS (Town and Country Schools) Speech Competition in Week 7.

Religious Education

We began the term looking at Easter. This week, we started to learn about The Holy Spirit and how it is present in the Sacraments. We will then cover the God strand.

Physical Education

We began the term with Fitness; various running, skipping and endurance activities. In week three, we start our winter sport rotations (Rugby League, Hockey, Netball and Soccer).

International Languages

Students were given the opportunity to choose one the following languages to study in terms two and three; Japanese, French, Spanish and German. As well as learning the language basics, we will also look at the cultures, customs and geography of our respective countries.

Performing Arts/ Kapa Haka

Students were also given the opportunity to select from one of the following exciting activities; Drama, Music, Dance and Kapa Haka. The teachers are looking forward to seeing the creativity that will be on display from week three.

Sports

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

Netball: Played Wednesday Afternoons at the Onekawa Courts or the Regional Sports Park (Coached/Managed by Miss Stoodley, Miss Hewett, Rowena MacDonald, Lorraine Benbow, Zara Hodgson, Jane Muldowney, Caroline Hickman and Jude Wakely).

Hockey: Played Friday afternoons at Park Island (Coached by Jo Bayliss).

Twitter

The Senior Team would like to introduce a new method of sharing communication about what is happening during the term. While you will still receive newsletters, there are times when a quick reminder would be more useful to you. How many times has your child arrived at school to realise they have forgotten a permission slip for the trip that day or money for the sausage sizzle? The teachers may be given time or date changes that we need to get out to you quickly. The Christchurch schools found Twitter invaluable to quickly update parents on the safety of their children after the second quake. We will be using Twitter to send you quick, short reminders that could be lifesavers for our busy families. You don't even need to have a computer to tweet. You can join from your phone, smart or otherwise. With over 175 million users, why shouldn't the St Patrick's community get on board?!



To join @stpatsseniors on Twitter choose from the following:

1. To get messages straight to your phone (you can do this without having to create a twitter account), send the text message **Follow stpatsseniors** to 8987.
2. To get messages on your computer if you already have a twitter account, search for stpatsseniors and click follow. You can also download an app on your smartphone to be mobile.
3. To get messages on your computer if you don't have a twitter account, go to <http://twitter.com> Follow the steps to create an account. Once you are set up, search for stpatsseniors and click follow.

If you have any technical issues please come in and see or send a note to Miss Hewett. Happy tweeting!

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/ Year 8 Teacher
Jodie Stoodley (SJ16) Year 7 Teacher
Kaehlah Dawson (SM12) Year 7 Teacher
Crystal Hewett (SM13) Year 7/8 Teacher