



Senior Syndicate News Term 1, 2015



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 Buildings

We are currently in the process of moving in-to and setting up our exciting new learning spaces. Please call in and have a look around.

Useful dates for Term one

Thursday 12th February: Year 7 Welcome Mass (9:30am St Patrick's Parish)

Monday 16th February: First Technology Session (Tamatea Intermediate)

Friday 20th February: Art Deco Picnic (12:00 pm School field)

Tuesday 24th February: Year Seven activity day (All day, Stoney Creek Ranch)

Thursday 26th February: Parent/ Whanau evening (7pm School Hall)

Tuesday 17th March: St Patrick's Day (School fun day TBC)

Monday 23rd-Tuesday 24th March: Learning conferences (Your child's classroom)

TBC: Swimming Sports

TBC: Athletics

Technology

Technology sessions are held at Tamatea Intermediate on Mondays throughout the year (10am-12:30pm, a slight change from last year). Children bus to and from school and develop their technological understanding in the following areas; Food Technology, Visual Art, Multi-Materials, Fabric Technology and Metal Technology. Children are required to wear sensible, covered school shoes to all Technology sessions (winter school shoes.) Note: Seniors from St Patrick's School receive the same amount of technology time as students from Tamatea Intermediate.

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 (starting week three). 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 swimming at the Onekawa Aquatic Centre. Later in the term we start athletics training; various running distances, shot put, discus, high jump and long jump.

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.

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.

(Coach: Bill Donkin)

Basketball: Played Thursdays – Location TBC

Volleyball: TBC



Twitter

Last year, we trialled Twitter as a way of communicating with our Senior Syndicate Whanau. It was so successful, we plan to #KeepOnTweeting. 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, and it's free, and it's easy), 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.
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 (M8) Syndicate Leader
Crystal Hewett (M6)

Kaehlah Dawson (M7)
Jodie Stoodley (M5)