



# Senior Syndicate News

## Term 3, 2015



Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Welcome back to school after what was a chilly winter break. As you will find out after reading this letter, we have a busy term ahead with a number of exciting opportunities for your children.

### Science Fair

These are due Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August. The Science Fair is compulsory. Below is part of an outline emailed to all Senior Syndicate children.

**Science project background** - students should clearly explain what the topic is and where their project idea came from.

**Aim/Hypothesis** - should be clear, testable and logically derived from the background information.

**Method** - there should be a clear explanation of the measurements made, why the techniques were chosen, what difficulties were faced, and what factors were controlled or just recognised to help interpretation of the results. Judges should be confident the methods were suitable for testing the hypothesis or project aims.

**Results** - students should provide a clear summary of data and the key points learned from them. Outstanding projects at senior level often include some statistical analysis - relevant information such as standard errors or statistical significance levels are shown and the students can explain them.

**Discussion** - there should be a critical analysis of the data collected. For example, were there possible sources of error and uncertainty in the data collection, and should they affect the conclusions? It is important to state if the results support or disprove the initial hypothesis or met the aims identified. Outstanding projects consider alternative explanations, compare their findings with other available information, and make recommendations for further work or use of the information found.

### Spell-a-thon

You will have noticed that our Seniors are currently working on a spell-a-thon to help raise money for our Year Eight Camp and our Year Seven outdoor education days. We encourage all students to engage in this spell-a-thon and gather sponsors as it will directly benefit our Seniors. Sheets and lists have been distributed and we will test students on Friday (14<sup>th</sup> August) in week four. The spell-a-thon is not intended as another bill for our families. We have encouraged our seniors to branch out and seek sponsorship from the wider community. This could include; direct neighbours, extended family, family friends, parishioners etc. We have not set a minimum amount we would like raised, but we have challenged our seniors to seek out at least 8 sponsors each.

### Gala

With the Gala in mind, this year our Syndicate has volunteered to continue with the Tombola. We would very much appreciate the donation of a bottle or jar from each family in our syndicate. Donations could include; Jam, pickles, chutney, gherkins, cooking sauces, shampoo, bubble bath etc. Our intention is to match each ticket sold with a prize. All funds are raised on behalf of the PTA and will go towards a major outdoor refurbishment.

### **Camp**

Our Year Eights head off to Wellington in week eight this term for the whole week (7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> September). We look forward to hearing about life in our nation's capital.

### **Sport**

Netball teams resumed competitions last week and as usual we were proud of the way they conducted themselves at the sports grounds. We wish the four netball teams the best for the season. Also we would like to acknowledge the dedication of the coaches for each team. Your commitment is much appreciated.

### **TACS**

This Tuesday (4<sup>th</sup> August) 75 of our seniors will bus over to Woodford House for a TaCS (Town and Country Schools) Inter-intermediate Soccer Tournament. It will be a great opportunity for our Seniors to meet and compete with intermediate students from across the region.

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August there will be a TaCS Hockey tournament at Park Island. More details to follow.

### **Cross Country**

We are currently training for our Senior Cross Country (Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September). This is a great opportunity to improve our fitness and set achievable goals. Our Seniors need to bring their correct P.E uniform and sensible running shoes on training days (usually Tuesdays and Thursdays). The top runners from each year group will represent our school at the TaCS Cross Country to be held at Puketapu School on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September (a genuine cross country held on farmland out the back of the school).

### **Orienteering**

Orienteering Hawke's Bay have offered to come in (no charge) and give our Seniors the opportunity to experience competitive orienteering. This will happen on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August. As this is already a P.E day the Seniors will have their P.E gear.

### **Mass**

The senior syndicate will be celebrating Mass at St Thomas More Parish on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August at 9:30am. Your attendance would be much appreciated as we are only able to do this together once a term.

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 Webb (M5)