



Kelburn Normal School

Senior Syndicate Newsletter Term Two 2017

4 May 2017

Welcome back for what promises to be a challenging and productive term. As you probably know, there will be a staffing change as we welcome Libya Munn back to Room 9 from maternity leave. Libya will be teaching from Monday to Wednesday and Danielle Sanders will be teaching for the balance of the week. We thank Lawrence Hobbs for his valuable contributions during his time here and wish him all the best at his new school.

In mathematics we have number as the ongoing topic that we weave into the strands over the year. We will also be practising our problem solving skills as we continue our participation in the Otago Problem Solving Challenge. Our other focus is statistics, in which we look at statistical literacy, statistical investigations, and probability. Your child's classroom teacher will also assign *Mathletics* homework so that your child becomes more fluent with their basic facts.

In English we will be looking at poetry, reading a range of poems and experimenting with the various techniques and language features we encounter. We will also be using poetry to model different kinds of language, and also to build up the connections children see between reading and writing. In class we will also be exploring vocabulary through word study activities and comprehension strategies through responding to set novels. Look out for the display blogs that we will send you links to.

To complement our poetry unit, we will be looking at documentaries and other texts that explore current issues especially around the environment; the purpose of this work will be to build critical thinking which is even more important than ever in this world of fake news and social media bubbles. Digital literacy and proficiency with Google tools will be an important part of this critical thinking. On 15 and 16 May we will be viewing documentaries included in the [Documentary Edge Festival](#), which is generously offering free screenings for school groups. The festival is being held at the Roxy in Miramar. We will be seeing [Alex James: Slowing Down Fast Fashion](#) and [Bugs](#). There is a charge of twelve dollars for the bus. These documentaries will inspire the children's own explorations of contemporary economic and environmental issues.

Each term we focus on a different develop Key Competency- this term it will be Relating to Others. As part of our regular classroom discussions, we work on building a positive social culture and solving any problems as they occur. So in class this term, we will also be talking about the school's values and their link with Relating to Others, particularly respect, manaakitanga, and interdependence. There will also be discussions about how the children engage and become more active in learning; these discussions will also inform teachers as they inquire into how to build more powerful and inclusive learning cultures.

In science we will be conducting science investigations. Students will get the opportunity to select a topic of interest to themselves (with some input from the teacher) and conduct their own investigation. This activity is designed to help develop independent working habits and there is

an expectation that students will conduct a substantial part of the task in their own time. The requirements for this activity will be shared with the children in the coming weeks. Some children may want their projects to be considered for the NIWA competition.

We will also be attending the *Colin McCahon: On Going Out with the Tide* and the *Ngā Toi | Arts Te Papa* this term and producing visual art in response to this and other similar work. The date for this trip is yet to be decided.

The second term is cross-country term. This year we will be running at Ian Galloway Park on Monday 29 May (postponement day is 31 May). On Wednesdays and Fridays we will be going on a training run in the Botanic Gardens and request that on those days children wear appropriate footwear. If your child is unable to participate in cross-country practice please inform their teacher. We will also be practising netball skills this term.

This term the Year Eights will be attending technicraft at Newlands, with the Year Sevens attending on Friday. Please note that students are required to wear covered footwear and tie back long hair when attending technicraft. Our rotations this term will be philosophy with Mr Quayle and art with Mrs Munn on Wednesday and dance with Ms Cossey and Mandarin with an instructor provided by the Confucius Institute on Friday.

We would like to continue our career talks, so if you are available on a Friday morning from 9-9:30 to talk about your career and how you came to be in it, please contact Alistair Button. As always, if you have any queries about the programme this term, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Yours sincerely,

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