



Kelburn Normal School

## Senior Syndicate Newsletter Term One 2017

10 February 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have had an excellent start to the school year. It has been a pleasure welcoming both new and returning students to 2017 at KNS, and we are looking forward to seeing them develop as people and students over the year.

The major event this term is camp. This will help the kids to learn to work together, and develop the personal and social Key Competencies indispensable for lifelong learning. Much of the learning this term will develop around our experiences on the Central Plateau. Once again we will be travelling to Erua, which is near National Park. Today your child will bring home consent and health forms, which need to be returned to school by Friday 17 February 2017 at the latest. We need these forms in hard copy; if your child misplaces theirs, their teacher can provide a replacement. There is a gear list attached to this newsletter. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Alistair Button and Charles Bisley will also be available after the Meet the Teacher event on Thursday 23 February, should you require any further information. The cost for camp is \$400 per student. We would appreciate full payment of camp fees before camp commences. If you would like to set up a payment plan or have trouble meeting this deadline please contact Tina Gates at [tinag@kelburnnormal.school.nz](mailto:tinag@kelburnnormal.school.nz)

At Meet the Teacher you will also find out about the many curriculum enrichment activities that we offer at Kelburn. To encourage the older students to take part in kapa haka, the kapa haka roopu has been divided into two for learning purposes, with the year 5-8 students having kapa haka on Friday morning 8.30 to 9.30 with Henare. As well, this term the whole syndicate has kapa haka on Tuesday afternoons with Jeremy. For Te Reo Maori, we will be exploring whakatauki; this will also be part of our work to develop our class and syndicate culture, in line with the KNS values of aroha, respect, manaakitanga, and interdependency. We have purchased some great software to enable students to explore Te Reo as an ongoing activity.

There are a several camp preparation activities taking place in the next two weeks. On Monday 13 February we will do a walk in the local area to assess which tramp is appropriate for your child. On Thursday 16 February we will do a bike skills test at Magpie Lawn, if your child owns a bike it would be useful if they could bring it along. This is a short test and we will share the use of the bikes. On Friday 17 February we will do a gear check. We will be checking the gear required for the day tramp, which is marked with an asterisk on the accompanying gear list.

In English this term students will get the opportunity to engage with letters and messages from a range of time periods and cultures, as well as writing their own. Our approach will also give our young writers to develop as learners across the curriculum. For home learning the focus is on

getting that reading mileage up, widening the range of reading, and ongoing work on writing, including in the online environment (many students prefer to write in their own space, or when the mood takes them). There will be a significant digital dimension to English; the Colleges tell us that the best prepared students for College are the digitally literate ones, and at KNS digital literacy is important for all learning.. BYOD is an ongoing option at KNS; if students have their own devices their learning has more continuity, so come and talk to us if you are interested in this. We do have a good set of Chromebooks, sufficient for all our senior students

In mathematics we have number as an ongoing topic that we weave into the strands over the year. This term we will also practise problem solving involving concepts such as distance, altitude, speed, fuel consumption, and budgeting. Some students will need to practise their basic facts at home to get fluency.

In science we will be investigating the flora of the Central Plateau, discussing zonation and practising observation as a scientific skill. The purpose will be to sharpen up observation and classification, and develop environmental awareness.

We will be visiting a number of sites of historical interest, such as a pre-European pa, a redoubt dating to Te Kooti's war, Hapuawhenua Viaduct (1908), and the Tongariro Power Scheme. In social science we will be investigating the impact of human activity on the Tongariro area.

One of the perennial highlights of the camp is a visit to Horopito Motors where we will get the opportunity to practise photography, using this material to create compelling artworks. This will set-up the multiple literacies approach which characterises much of modern learning. Another is all the physical activity which will help us reinforce the importance of exercise and the outdoors for Hau Ora, or well being.

This term the year 7s will be attending technology at Newlands Intermediate on Wednesday, the year 8s on Friday. Back at school on Wednesday the year 8s will learn German with Mr Button and look at topics in Philosophy with Mr Quayle and on Friday the year 7s will learn Te Reo Maori with Mr Hobbis and dance with Ms Cossey.

Throughout the year as part of our Careers Education programme, we would like to invite parents to come in the schools and speak to the students about their careers. This would involve telling the children about how you came to your career choice, the educational pathways you had to follow, and the sacrifices that were necessary to achieve your goals. A particular point we would like to convey is the idea that unexpected opportunities often lead to unanticipated careers. This would be a semi regular event, usually on a Friday morning, though we will of course strive to work with your schedule. If you happen to be available to talk to us please contact Alistair Button to make a time. Ideally the talks would be evenly distributed throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Yours sincerely,

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## 2017 Senior Camp Gear List

Sunhats (2) \*(1 for gear check)  
Warm hat/ beanie\*  
Raincoat with a hood\*  
2 pairs of sturdy shoes \*(1 for gear check) (fashion sneakers, such as Converse All Stars, are not appropriate)  
At least two layers of warm clothing (e.g.polypropylene, polar fleece, merino), preferably long sleeved/ long johns.\*  
Gloves\*  
Scarf\*  
Shorts  
Long trousers (quick drying, not jeans)  
6 pairs of socks suitable for walking  
6 pairs of underpants  
Spare dry shoes (for use at or near our accommodation)  
Winter pajamas  
Toiletries (NO aerosols)  
Toothpaste and toothbrush  
Soap/ shower gel  
Face cloth  
Deodorant  
Sunscreen\*  
Insect repellent  
Tissues  
Feminine sanitary items  
Towels (2)  
Small bottle of hand sanitiser\*  
Sleeping bag  
Pillow case  
Day pack (e.g. school backpack)\*  
Lunch box\*  
Water bottle (preferably 750mls)\*  
Torch and spare batteries  
Plastic bags for wet clothes  
Book  
Digital camera/ phone (these will be used for the photography activity and will be collected at departure and distributed when appropriate)  
Small first aid kit (sticking plasters etc.)\*  
Scroggin mix for tramping  
1 packet biscuits and 1 box of baked items for supper/morning tea/ afternoon tea (these will be collected at departure and distributed when appropriate)

Any medication required in a named plastic bag. (Handed in at roll call and dispensed by medical staff as necessary)  
NO sweets  
NO opportunities to spend money.

**\*items required for gear check on Friday 17 February**