



Te Ara Māia Newsletter

Term Tahī 2025

*Where students learn creatively and strive for excellence preparing for lifelong learning
Kia auaha te ako a ngā ākonga me te whai i te iti kahurangi mō te akoranga tūroa*

7 February 2025

Kia ora Parents and Whānau,

We are delighted to have the rangatahi back at Kura! The Māia students of 2025 are an endearing group, and we are enjoying getting to know them. Term tahi is all about building a powerful learning culture and establishing the routines and rituals that set our ākonga up for success. We are off to a great start! This week so far the students have engaged in the new maths programme, started novel studies, developed their throwing and catching skills, woven putiputi, written hypotheses, letters, and reflections.

Thank you for attending our parent/teacher conversations and completing the student information form. We understand that parents are busy and really appreciate you taking the time to partner with us so that we can best meet the needs of your tamariki. We encourage you to reach out to your child's home learning teacher if there is anything you would like to discuss.



Home Learning Teams & Staffing

Emily Wilby and Libya Munn are the Home Learning Team teachers for Māia Tahī and Māia Rua respectively. We are fortunate to have Tom Pearce joining our team this year, who will teach Māia Rua on Thursdays and Fridays while Libya is released for Associate Principal duties. Emily Wilby will be working 9 days a fortnight this year, and Rachel Smith will cover her release and days out of the classroom. Rachel has worked at our kura in varying roles and is well-known to students. Ella Ayto has worked at Kelburn Normal School as a Learning Assistant and is joining us as a student teacher this year.

Key dates for Term 1:

Week 2	Wednesday 12th Feb- Student Immunisation Education Session Wednesday 12th Feb- Whanau Ara Information Evening Friday 14th Feb - Māia led assembly
Week 3	Thurs 20th Feb - School Picnic at Days Bay
Week 4	Thurs 27th Feb - School Picnic at Days Bay Postponement date
Week 5	Tues 4th March- Western Zones Cricket
Week 6	EOTC week
Week 7	Thurs 20th March- BLAKE VR sessions Friday 21st March- Staff only day (no school)
Week 8	Wednesday 26th March- Whole school Cross Country
Week 9	Tuesday 1st April - First Tech Session
Week 10	Tuesday 8th April - Tech session

English

In our *My Special Place* unit, we are creating a folio of texts grounded in our experience of a real place, of a human community and its natural environment. We will explore our experiences of a place we know, and connect others up to these experiences. At the end of this unit, we will be putting our creations together, curating them in our classes into exhibitions to be mounted for the celebration of learning. To support your children with this multi-literacies project, you can spend time at home discussing a place in Aotearoa that is significant to your family. This could be a grandparent's house, a campsite you visit regularly, the street you used to live on, or the location of a significant event in your family. Children find it much easier to generate and communicate ideas at school if they are also doing this in the safe haven of their homes.

Our Structured Literacy programme is designed to teach children the key elements of functional literacy. Syntax and morphology are the key focus areas that we methodically work through so that our students have a firm grasp on the tools they require for communication and expression.

Students also have a set novel that they are reading and discussing in small groups. This is an opportunity for students to make sense of unfamiliar texts, and exposure to a range of texts. Students will be unpacking historical context, language choices, symbolism, and making text-to-text connections, whilst learning to communicate their understanding in both oral and written form.



Mathematics

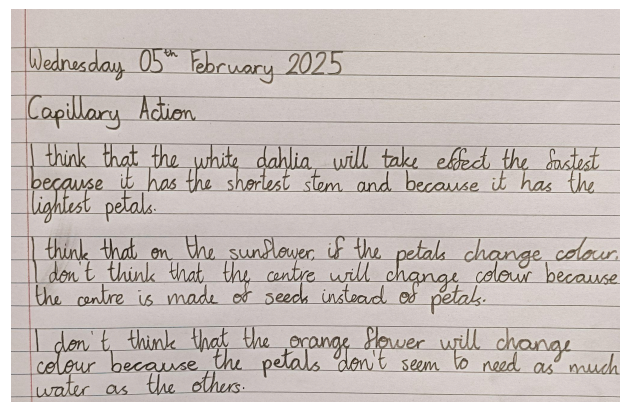
This year, Kelburn is introducing the 'Maths No Problem' programme in mathematics. 'Maths No Problem' is based on a mastery approach, and follows a scope and sequence that will progress throughout the school. This term, we will focus on place value, before moving on to order of operations. Later in the term, we will move on to fractions. Like our previous approach, maths lessons will follow a consistent structure, which includes plentiful opportunities for collaboration, rich discussion and problem-solving. We will be able to share more about this at our ara information evening.

Science

Our students love science, and we want to set them up for success by providing them with opportunities to learn about the science investigation process. We will simultaneously be studying photosynthesis and learning how to carry out a fair test. Cultivating seedlings within the classroom, to observe their development over time. Additionally, we will design and carry out scientific investigations focused on understanding the key factors that influence plant growth. If you have a plant you would be happy for us to babysit, please feel free to send them in!

EOTC Week

Our Education Outside the Classroom week in week 6 will be a varied and adventurous opportunity for team building, collaboration, and risk-taking. Please look out for a separate document about this including a request for parent help.



Physical Education

This term we will be focusing on small ball skills, working through drills and mini-games to strengthen these fundamental skills. Given that there is a range of abilities within the ara, we will give students the opportunity to share their skills with their less confident colleagues. We also have school cross country in week 8, and part of our program will involve preparation for this event.

Te reo Māori

We are fortunate to have Matua Jason supporting us with our Te Reo and Tikanga Māori program. Lessons are fun and interactive. A key focus for these sessions is getting the children up and speaking te reo, and giving them the opportunity to explore some of the key cultural knowledge encoded in the language.



Social & Emotional Literacy

We are aware that adolescence is a particularly challenging phase. School is not just preparation for life; it *is* life, and we want to support our students to care for themselves and for each other. Twice a day, we sit down and eat in our home learning teams to build whānaungatanga- this also enables us to check that students are ready to play with hats, sunscreen, and friends! We also dedicate the last 15-20 minutes of the day to self-reflection, mindfulness, and social problem-solving. In order to work through challenges together, we are developing 'brave spaces' that allow for robust and empowering discussions.



Technology

This year we are excited to be working with Karori West Normal School, our new Technology program provider. At KWNS, we will have three semesters throughout the year, each consisting of seven morning sessions (9.00 am-12.20 pm). Students will rotate around *hard materials, foods, textiles, STEM and multi-crafts* over two years. KWNS is unique from other tech centres in that students have a large amount of time in each room to learn, practice and refine the skills required in each tech area. This also allows students to be engaged in larger projects of quality and value. Danielle and Libya visited KWNS last year to see the Technology education in action and were impressed by the quality of the students' output. As we will be catching the bus to KWNS to start at 9.00 am we ask that on Tech days, the rangitahi are at school by 8.40 am. Tech days have been added to the community calendar for your planning.

A note from KWNS: In the occasional event that parents come to KWNS to pick up or drop off their child, they will need to sign in at the office before they come up to the tech centre. When you

sign in, you will be given a sticker to show the tech teacher. Children will not be released to any parents/adults unless they have this sticker; there are no exceptions.

Home Learning

Please note that our expectations for home learning are designed to support learning in class and not overwhelm students who are busy with after-school activities and enjoying their youth.

- We expect that a Māia student will read independently for at least **30 minutes each day**. The focus here is on encouraging learners to make reading a recreation they can turn to throughout their lives. By encouraging the reading habit, we help the tamariki to develop critical life skills independently.
- Your child will also have a Maths Buddy log-in. **Maths Buddy** is an online program that we expect students to utilise for **10-15 minutes 3 times per week**. Students each have their own login details for this that they have sent to their school email accounts.

Careers Education

Our learners are going into a world of bewildering complexity, in which many will work in fields we can only anticipate. It is important to highlight the myriad of possibilities open to today’s learners, and the learning pathways that they aren’t aware exist. Throughout the year as part of our Careers Education programme, we would like to invite parents to come into the school and speak to the children 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 will 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 Libya Munn to schedule a time. Ideally, the talks would be evenly distributed throughout the term.



As always, if you have any questions about our programme, or would like to discuss anything concerning your child, please don’t hesitate to get in touch. We are only too happy to help.

Nga mihi,

Libya Munn, Emily Wilby, & Tom Pearce

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Weekly Timetable

	Mane	Turei	Wenerei	Taite	Paraire
	Munn/Wilby	Munn/Wilby	Munn/Wilby	Pearce/Wilby	Pearce/Wilby
Performing arts ensembles	Lyrica		Orchestra	Piccolo	Kapa Haka
8.50-9	Roll/Panui	Roll/Panui	Roll/Panui	Roll/Panui	Roll/Panui
9- 9.30	Morpheme Magic/ Spelling/Handwriting Lexia/Stepsweb	Morpheme Magic/ Spelling/Handwriting Lexia/Stepsweb	Morpheme Magic/ Spelling/Handwriting Lexia/Stepsweb	Morpheme Magic/ Spelling/Handwriting Lexia/Stepsweb	Morpheme Magic/ Spelling/Handwriting Lexia/Stepsweb
9.30-9.45	Novel Studies 9.30-10	Syntax Project - Intro	Syntax Project- Practise	Syntax Project- Consolidation	Syntax- Reflection
9.45-9.50	Brain Break				
9.45 - 10.30	Multi-Literacies	Multi-Literacies	Multi-Literacies	Multi-Literacies	Multi-Literacies
10.30-11	Writing focus	Writing focus	Writing focus	Writing focus	Writing focus
11-11.40	Break 1 (10 mins eating together in HLT + 30 Min play)				
11.40- 12	P.E.	P.E.	P.E.	P.E.	P.E.
12.00-1.00	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
1-1.45	Break 1 (10 mins eating together in HLT + 30 Min play)				
1.40- 2pm	SSR & Roll	SSR & Roll	SSR & Roll	SSR & Roll	SSR & Roll
2-2.40	Art	Science	Science	Te Reo with Matua Jason alternating weeks. Te reo consolidation	P.E.
2.40 -3	HLT Hui	HLT Hui	HLT Hui	HLT Hui	HLT Hui