
Title 2023 Senior Syndicate Newsletter - Term 3

Friday, 21 July 2023



Waterloo School Senior Syndicate

Years 5 and 6

Newsletter Term 3 2023

Kia ora everyone

Welcome back to a new term. We hope the students have had a restful break, a chance to recharge and are looking forward to getting back to their classroom, reconnecting with friends, and are ready for learning and participating in school life!

We are really pleased to have Dylan Pittams join our senior team this term. Dylan is teaching in Room 7 to cover Aimee Cunningham while she is on maternity leave.

School Vision: Empowering Active Learners

School Values: Respect Resilience Responsibility

Active Learner Traits: Communicating, Collaborating, Self-Managing, Thinking, Connecting

Term 3 Focus: Connecting

Learning Areas

Inquiry *Building relationships and creating connections between people requires the ability to understand and value cultural differences.*

Big Idea:

Making Connections *Major sporting events such as the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 bring countries together from around the world and provides an opportunity to learn about the different cultures of each of the countries. These events allow us to connect locally and globally and develop our understanding of our own culture and identity in Aotearoa New Zealand.*

We will be using this exciting sporting event as a context through which we can learn about people from different countries and cultures and enhance our knowledge and understanding of our similarities and differences.

Each classroom will work on different tasks according to the needs presented by their inquiry process.

Literacy

Literacy learning will be integrated with our inquiry topic, 'Making Connections'.

In the **writing programme**, our focus will be on purposeful writing tasks linked directly to our inquiry. These writing tasks may take a variety of forms, for example, personal experience, poetry, letters, reports and so on. Through these tasks, we will be learning about how key ideas are selected, how different texts have different structures, the importance of selecting specific words, how to use language tools to describe, using correct punctuation, proof-reading and editing and so on.

In the **reading programme**, we will be re-establishing reading routines that will support the work the students are doing in other areas of the class programme. In Years 5 and 6 students are 'reading to learn', so we will be providing them with texts that connect with and support their learning and understanding of sporting events (past, present and future), and different countries and cultures. We are also continuing our Professional Development into 'Structured Literacy' and this term we will continue to focus on developing reading skills for our struggling readers, using a Structured Literacy approach.

Here is a link to some interesting research that has recently been published on reading. Interestingly, it talks about how **reading for pleasure** (recreational reading) established early on in life can be an indicator of future academic success and well-being.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/06/230627191516.htm>

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Numeracy**Multiplicative Thinking**

This term, we will focus on building the students' understanding of how numbers are represented: as ones, tens, hundreds and thousands in four-digit whole numbers, as well as fractions, decimals and percentages.

We will explore situations that involve multiplication and division - sharing items into equal groups. It really helps their mathematical understanding if students have a fast, accurate recall of the times tables. Support at home with learning these will help.

Measurement:

The links to measurement will include:

- Use linear scales and metric units for length, area, volume, capacity, weight (mass), angle, temperature, and time.
- For example, find the areas of rectangles and volumes of cuboids using multiplication (i.e. length x width x height).

Geometry, including position and orientation:

As part of our inquiry topic, we will look at shapes, designs, patterns, measurement and movement. The links to geometry will include:

- classify plane shapes and prisms
 - create drawings and models of 2D and 3D shapes
 - plot and use coordinates to follow directions on a map/grid
 - Use a coordinate system and the language of direction and distance to specify locations and describe paths.
 - describe and create transformations - such as rotating or reflecting a shape.
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PE

The weather will be very up and down this term, but students should expect to do PE every day. We'll need to grab the opportunities to get outside as they come some days. The PE programme includes 8 days of swimming at the Huia pool in weeks 3 and 4. Other than that, students will build skills in kicking, throwing, catching, striking balls and playing related games.

Home Learning

We cannot over-emphasise the value of developing a love of reading in your child/ren. This may also take the form of you reading to them and modelling the joy of reading.

Individual classes will have their own additional homework expectations. These are based on class and individual student needs and can look different from class to class. Teachers will encourage students to complete any classwork that they are behind in, and to read, read, read every day.

Please speak to your child's classroom teacher if you need further clarification or require any more information.

July 31 August- 3 July (Mon-Thurs)	Swimming at Huia Pool
August 7 – August 10 (Mon-Thurs)	Swimming at Huia Pool
August 10	Kapa Haka Exchange (participating students will miss the last day of swimming)
August 14-18	Learning conversations
July 26 and September 6	APSMO Test 3 and Test 4 (final test)
September 1	Interzone swimming
September 14 Thursday	Dancesplash
Beginning Term 4 TBC	Big 2 Showdown
October 17-18 (Term 4)	ASB Trip (2 groups of seniors)
October 19-20 (Term 4)	ePRo8 engineering internal competition practice day and competition day
November 9 (Term 4)	ePRo8 inter-school event for top two teams
November 14 TBC (Term 4) - pp day November 16	go kart race day

Expectations for School Trips

We have a number of upcoming group trips this term - for sports, cultural and other events. We love to be able to provide the students with as many of these sorts of opportunities as we can. However, we also expect a high standard of behaviour when our students are representing our school.

It is our hope that our students aspire to be role models both within and outside our school grounds. Privileges of representing Waterloo School should be earned and not taken for granted. Can you please support us in this message by discussing with your child the importance of showing the values of responsibility, respect and resilience in all aspects of their lives.

Parent Queries/Concerns

We believe in working together to provide the best for your child. If you have any queries/concerns - big or small please approach your child's teacher first then the Team Leaders (Glynnis Bell and Janice Karl) or the Acting Deputy Principal (Sam McGavin). The partnership between home and school is crucial so please do not hesitate to talk to us and discuss any issues you may have.

Bell Times

The bell goes at 8:55am for the school day to begin. Students need to be at school at least 10 minutes before the bell so they can unpack their bags and get ready for their day.

***Please remember that the students are not able to enter classrooms until 8:30 am*.**

Winter 'ills and chills'

We remain vigilant about health requirements - to combat a range of viruses and stomach bugs that can make people unwell and COVID-19. Teachers will remind students about the health and safety procedures that help keep us well at any time.

Please keep your child home if they have a cough, cold or runny nose. If they have a tummy upset, your child needs to stay home for 48 hours after the last episode. This time helps them to get better and stops those bugs from affecting their classmates and teachers. The same rules of isolation apply if they test positive for COVID-19.

The best things about winter in New Zealand

Snow sports

Hot pools and spas

Museums and culture

Nature and wildlife

Stunning scenery

Food and wine

Rugby and sports

Night skies!

We are looking forward to another great term at Waterloo School with your child/ren.

Regards

The Senior Team

Glynnis Bell, Janice Karl, Brooke Morgan-Cameron, Olivia Van Woerkom, Jason Trenberth and Dylan Pittams.



The winter night sky as seen from Lower Hutt

Signature: **[Optional]**