



**Waterloo School Senior Syndicate
Years 5 and 6
Newsletter Term 4 2023**

***Our Vision: Empowering Active Learners
Our Values: Show Respect (Kia Manawaroa)
Be Responsible (Kia Ngana)
Have Resilience (Kia Takohanga)***

Kia ora everyone

We hope your child/ren have had a relaxing break. It has been lovely to welcome Dylan Pittams into the Senior Syndicate for Terms 3 and 4, teaching in Room 7.

The last term of the year is always action-packed and exciting. It is filled with those activities that make lasting primary school memories for your child such as sports outings, go-kart day and celebrating the transition of Year 6 students as they prepare to move on to the next stage in their learning journey. This term will speed along and we will definitely be hitting the ground running!

Inquiry

The teachers have been busy preparing for the new term and continuing the main inquiry topic: citizenship. Last term we looked at sports as a way of connecting with others globally. This term we continue to consider citizenship using different lenses - social action, taking action, voting, belonging and our different circles of relationships. We will also weave the "Navigating Our Journey" into this term's inquiry studies.

The framework and concepts of Te Whare Tapa Whā are applied in the Physical Education curriculum. An important wall of our 'house' or 'whare' of our wellbeing is one that represents Whānau - family and social relationships. The programme and activities we plan for our students will come under the umbrella of Taha Whānau.

"Taha whānau is about who makes you feel like you belong, who you care about and who you share your life with.

Whānau is about extended relationships – it's not just your immediate relatives, it's your friends, community and the people you care about. Everyone has a place and a role to fulfil within their whānau, and whānau contributes to your individual wellbeing and identity.

Spending time with whānau, doing things for them and getting involved gives you a feeling of purpose, connection and wellbeing. It benefits you and strengthens your whānau. As a core source of strength, support, security and identity, whānau plays a central role in your wellbeing."

Literacy

Literacy learning is integrated into our inquiry topic. In writing, our focus will be on purposeful writing activities linked directly to our inquiry. Each classroom will work on different tasks according to the needs presented by their inquiry process. These pieces of writing may take a variety of forms, for example, personal experience or personal narratives, which relate to the relationships we have with our friends or family and so on. As part of the end of year activities, students may write speeches.

The reading programme will also reflect the topic and provide another avenue into our exploration of citizenship and Navigating the Journey topics. For example, the students may read stories that are about how communities work together and the special connections between friends and so on. Some articles may be about safety online or about the voting process. Other stories may be examples of individuals and groups making decisions or taking action.

Your input in recalling family stories or shared family experiences will be greatly appreciated. Spending time guiding your child to be observant about their everyday experiences, particularly relating to our topic, will be very helpful. Enjoying time with whānau and the community, for example, a walk along the beach, a sport game, a walk through the forest, a cycle and play along the riverbank provide rich fodder for discussion, which then flows into reading and writing. Help your child to recall the events, the sights, sounds, physical sensations and emotions of their experiences and explore language through discussion.

This term, all teachers at Waterloo School will continue their training in delivering Structured Literacy lessons, using the iDeal platform. This programme supports the explicit teaching of the mechanics of literacy skills such as developing letter to sound connections, recognising correct spelling patterns, learning about the function of prefixes or suffixes and more. The purpose is to develop our students' knowledge and understanding of the rules, patterns (and the exceptions) in English in order to support their fluency in reading and writing.

Numeracy

Students will explore addition, subtraction, multiplication and division concepts. We will continue to consolidate their number knowledge and their strategic thinking when problem solving. Teachers will tailor their maths programs to review and

reinforce any areas that they can see the students need (e.g. learning timestables and working with fractions and decimals).

The students are encouraged to develop their own personal learning goals which they can revisit and modify throughout the year. Please support your child to learn their times tables, telling the time and with hands-on measurement activities at home.

Physical Education

The students should come dressed ready for physical activities every day, with action shoes and clothes. Some days start off wet, but then turn out to be fine later on. In Term 4, students need to have a hat that provides shade all the way around. Caps are not suitable for our Sunsmart school.

We will focus on small ball skills this term, working on throwing, catching and striking. Fitness games will provide further opportunities to develop cooperative skills. We have a sports centre trip organised this week which will give all students a chance to try modified sports games with an emphasis on having a go.

According to the Ministry for Health, children are reaching puberty earlier than in previous decades with the average age for girls being sometime between 9 and 14 and for boys, 11 and 16 years of age. Young people (males in particular) often do not recognise their feelings or know how to appropriately express them.

Since 2001, the teaching of sexuality education has been compulsory according to the Education Act. The programme used to deliver sexuality education at Waterloo School has been developed by Family Planning. The resource is called "Navigating the Journey - Sexuality Education" and meets the aims of The New Zealand Curriculum. The New Zealand Curriculum for this age group is designed to develop: knowledge, understanding and skills relating to sexual development (physical, emotional and social), personal and interpersonal skills and related attitudes, understanding and skills to enhance relationships; ability to think critically about sexuality in society.

As part of our PE programme, the teachers will follow the Family Planning programme, Navigating the Journey. A separate Signmee notice was sent out about the topics. Your child's teacher or Team Leader will be able to discuss the topics covered with you, if required.

Seesaw

The students will be encouraged to share about what they are learning in their topic inquiry, mathematics, reading and writing on Seesaw. It is intended to act like a

window into the classroom for you. It is really motivating for your child to get your positive feedback on their posts. Each class varies in the way they use Seesaw. Some may use it directly as part of the class programme, some may use it purely as a sharing platform, whilst others might use it as a way to encourage the students to reflect on their learning. Teachers encourage students to create reflective, descriptive entries, but do not correct spelling and punctuation on these posts.

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.

Active Learning

Active learning happens when a student actively participates in, or interacts with the learning process, rather than being a passive consumer of information. The children will continue to learn about and apply the 'active learner' traits this term. With events like the Big 2 Showdown and go-kart day going on this term, as a syndicate, we will focus on "Managing Me". This is about being self-motivated, making great choices and showing resilience.

Term 4 Events

Term 4 is always jam-packed with fun activities, with opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom.

Tuesday 17th October	Whole day sports centre trip - Rooms 5,6,7
Wednesday 18th October	Whole day sports centre trip - Rooms 2,3,4
Thursday 19th October	EPro8 internal competition - 8 teams practise day for an engineering competition in the school hall 9:15 - 1:00
Friday 20th October	EPro8 internal competition - 8 teams compete in an engineering competition in the school hall 9:15 - 1:00
Monday 23rd October	Labour Day (school closed)
Friday 27th October	Big 2 Showdown Eastern Hutt 12.00-3.00
Tuesday 31 October	Interschool Athletics pp Thursday
Monday 28th October	Labour Day (school is closed)
Tuesday 7th November	Road Patrol training day for Year 5 students for 2024. Students will not be able to do road patrol without full participation on this training day.
Tuesday 14th November	Go-kart day. Parents are welcome to the Parade and races.
Tuesday 21st November	Interzone Athletics pp Thursday
Friday 1st December	Road Patrollers Pool Party
Tuesday 5th December	Regional Athletics pp Thursday
Friday 8th December	Reports Home/Meet the 2024 Teacher
Wednesday 13th December 1:30 - 3 pm	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly with prizegiving - Year 6 Leavers' parents welcome
Wednesday 13th December 6pm - 8pm	Year 6 Leavers' Evening
Friday 15th December	Last day of school - ends at 12:30

Correspondence

School Communication: All of our newsletters, notices and general communication is now distributed directly to you through the **eTAP parent App. Please make sure your notifications are turned on to receive all communication from the school.**

To ensure you know we have sent you a notice and you need to have the app notifications turned on.

@School App Notifications

Once you have logged into the App, you need to go to the App settings and turn ON notifications.

1. Go to the **@school app settings** and tick the notifications options you would like.
2. Go into your **phone settings**, go to notifications, find the @school app, turn ON notifications.

It is important to note that:

1. The @school app logs you out every 30 days. If you wish to stay logged in, please set up a PIN number in the @school app settings.
2. If you have not yet logged into the App yet, please contact the office so we are able to ensure you receive all communication.

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 students are not able to enter classrooms until 8:30am*.**

Hauora - good health and wellbeing

We need to stay vigilant about health requirements - to combat a range of viruses and stomach bugs that can make people unwell, not only Covid 19. Teachers will remind students about the health and safety procedures that help keep us well at any time, but which are especially important during this summer term and time of Covid 19. Students will be reminded that they need to wash their hands before they come into the classroom, before they eat, after they use the toilet, after they blow their nose and after they use play equipment. There is hand sanitiser available in each classroom.

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.

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, Jason Trenberth, Olivia van Woerkom and Dylan Pittams.

