

Title 2023 Senior Syndicate Newsletter - Term 1

Wednesday, 8 February 2023



## **Waterloo School Senior Syndicate**

**Years 5 and 6****Newsletter Term 1 2023**

*Kia ora everyone*

*We trust you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break. The new school year comes around very quickly and we have already had a very busy first week! It has been lovely reconnecting with our Year 6 students and catching up with all their news and also welcoming our new Year 5 students into the Senior Syndicate. This term we also welcome Olivia Van Woerkom (Miss VW), who will be teaching in Room 4, Brooke Morgan-Cameron (Mrs MC), who will be the full time teacher in Room 2, Jason Trenberth (Mr T) in Room 6, leaving Aimee Cunningham in Room 7 and Paula Martin who will continue to work with Aimee for one day per week, Janice Karl in Room 5 and Glynnis Bell in Room 3.*

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*Room 1 Used for learning support purposes*

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*Room 2 Brooke Morgan-Cameron*

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*Room 3 **Glynnis Bell (Team Leader)***

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*Room 4 Olivia Van Woerkom*

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*Room 5 **Janice Karl (Team Leader)***

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*Room 6 Jason Trenberth*

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*Room 7 Aimee Cunningham Paula Martin  
(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday) (Thursday)*

### ***Inquiry***

- ***The Treaty of Waitangi***

*Its significance in New Zealand's history.*

- ***Our Classroom Ecology***

*Getting to know and reconnecting with each other, reminding ourselves of our responsibilities towards each other, our environment and our learning.*

- ***Investigating our marine reserves.***

*We have been very fortunate this term to have the opportunity to participate in the 'Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR)' programme. Its purpose is to empower schools and communities by providing hands-on experience in the ocean. The aim of EMR is to raise awareness, understanding and involvement in marine conservation. EMR is a professional marine education provider and a programme of the charity Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust. You will receive a separate notice regarding this programme and what it means for our students.*

**Please note:** This programme includes a substantial block of 'out of school' learning and this will replace our EOTC - Education Outside the Classroom week that would normally take place in Term 1. Also, because the students will be in/near water we need a high ratio of adults to students. As mentioned above a separate and more detailed notice will soon be sent to parents. We will need lots of support with the two beach trips.

- **Our health programme**, Navigating the Journey, will run throughout the year. In Term 1, we will be learning about relationships, for example, forming and maintaining friendships.

### **Literacy**

Literacy learning will concentrate on establishing reading and writing programmes and routines.

In writing, our focus will be on purposeful writing tasks linked directly to our inquiries. Each classroom will work on different tasks according to the needs presented by their inquiry process. These writing tasks may take a variety of forms, for example, personal experience, poetry, information reports and so on. Through these tasks, we will be learning about things such as how key ideas are selected, how different texts have different structures, the importance of selecting specific words, correct punctuation, proof-reading and editing.

A great way for you to help at home is to encourage a regular habit of reading and also by reading with your child and discussing the features that make up the texts you are sharing. For example, the author's use of descriptive language or how the structure of a piece of text can change depending on the purpose of the writing.

You could also spend time guiding your child to be observant about their everyday experiences: a walk along the beach, a sports game, a game with siblings, or a cooking experience. All these experiences are rich fodder for writing.

### **Numeracy**

There will be an emphasis on students exploring addition and subtraction concepts. We hope to continue to consolidate their number knowledge and their strategic thinking when problem solving. In Term 1, we will have a particular focus on statistics, as this area of mathematics lends itself to the beginning of the year when we get to know each other, as well as to our topic of counting creatures in the marine environment. We can explore the things we have in common or the things that differentiate us and use these activities as a springboard into learning about our world through a statistical lens. The students will be encouraged to develop their own personal learning goals which they can revisit and modify throughout the year.

### **Physical Education**

The weather is perfect this term to be outside for PE – as long as we have lots of water, sunscreen and sun hats with us! The PE programme will begin with a focus on small ball skills related to summer games (striking, catching, running and throwing). Later in the term we will begin athletics (long jump, high jump, sprints, vortex, discus and shot put). Building team work and resilience is also a key aspect of our PE sessions. Teachers will expect a note from home if your child is not able to participate in PE activities.

### **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 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**

All classes will continue to develop the 'Active Learner Traits' ("Connecting me", "Thinking me", "Managing me", "Collaborating me", and "Communicating me"). Active learning happens when a student actively participates in, or interacts with the learning process, rather than being a passive consumer of information. This approach to learning is part of our everyday discussions and the culture of our classrooms. The students will continue to learn about and apply the 'active learner' traits. This year we will be focusing on:

- **Managing me - self-motivated, making choices, resilient**
- **Collaborating me - teamwork, building relationships, self-belief.**

### **School Values**

This term we will continue to reflect and focus on our school values of:

- **Respect ( Kia Manawaroa)**
- **Responsibility ( Kia Ngana)**
- **Resilience ( Kia Takohanga)**

We will aim to link these to our Active Learner Traits.

We are a PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) school. We support students to develop the skills and strategies they need to encourage positive behaviour and take ownership of their actions.

### **Up-Coming Events**

#### **Meet the teacher picnic**

A very relaxed opportunity to meet your child's teacher and visit the classroom. This is on Wednesday 15 February 5.30 - 7pm.

**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), the Deputy Principal (Esmee Elias-Tito) or the acting Deputy Principal (Chris Cowman). 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 8:30am\*.**

We look forward to a fantastic year at Waterloo with your child/ren.

Regards

The Senior Team

**Janice Karl, Aimee Cunningham, Brooke Morgan-Cameron, Paula Martin, Olivia Van Woerkom , Jason Trenberth and Glynnis Bell.**

Signature: **[Optional]**