



Title

2021 Senior Syndicate Newsletter Term 4

Friday, 22 October 2021



Waterloo School Senior Syndicate

Years 5 and 6

Newsletter Term 4 2021

Kia ora everyone

We hope the children have had a relaxing break. The last term of the year is always action-packed and exciting. It's filled with those activities that make lasting primary school memories for your child: education out of the classroom, walks and trips around the region, camp, go-kart day and celebrating the transition of Year 6 students as they prepare to move on in their learning journey to intermediate.

The senior syndicate has a great team of energetic teachers who strive very hard to give each child the best educational experience possible. We are so lucky to have such fabulous support from our Parents' Association, Senior Leadership team and parents - so we can offer all these exciting opportunities. We rely on parent volunteers to make trips. experiences and events happen.

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 on this forum.

Inquiry

The teachers have been busy preparing for the new term and continuing the main inquiry topic. Our inquiry studies are focused around environmental sustainability at a local level - Wāhi: Our Place - Te Awakairangi - Lower Hutt and extends into Wellington as well.

Students will investigate our dependence on a healthy natural environment. Student investigations will focus on the diversity/richness of their natural environment, the way we use and interact with the environment and the way we care for and live responsibly with the environment.

This inquiry will involve a variety of activities and visits to local landmarks and locations. Most students have permission for these trips and a Signmee notice was sent last term to ask for parents to help cover the transport costs of these trips.

The impact of Lockdown meant there was no production last term. However, the senior students are showing their learning in lots of other ways, including producing an interactive map and class displays of places of special interest in our area. They are learning from the new Digital Curriculum areas of the Technology curriculum, as part of this inquiry.

Literacy

Literacy learning will be integrated with our inquiry topic. In writing, our focus will be on purposeful writing tasks linked directly to our inquiry - based around the natural resources and locations of Lower Hutt. 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, blog posts, poetry, letters, 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 by reading with your child and discussing the features that make up the texts you are sharing. For example, how is the layout of a newspaper report different from that in a novel? What rich descriptive vocabulary or devices such as similes are included in a piece of text? Why do reports or explanations have headings or subheadings and so on.

You could also spend time guiding your child to be observant about their everyday experiences, particularly relating to our topic: a walk along the beach, a sport game, a walk through the forest, a cycle and play along the riverbank. All these experiences are rich fodder for writing. Help your child to discuss the events, the sights, sounds, physical sensations and emotions of their experiences and explore the rich language through discussion.

Alongside our writing focus we will be establishing reading routines that will support the work the students are doing in other areas of the class programme. The class novel is still Charlie Tangaroa and the Creature from the Sea - which is about a young New Zealand boy and his brother who encounter a sea creature. The underlying themes of environmental sustainability match our topic inquiry.

We now have free access to the Stepsweb online programme until the end of the year. This programme supports explicit literacy lessons from teachers. Stepsweb is used as an extension as well as for remedial literacy learning activities - spelling, reading and comprehension. It can be used at school and at home.

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. We will have a particular focus on using symbols and expressions to think mathematically. For example, the students learn that “=” does not mean “the answer is”, but rather is used like a seesaw pivot point, to balance two sides of an equation. They will learn how to understand and develop equations, using a range of mathematical symbols (e.g. > < ! exponents, square roots). 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.

Unfortunately, Huia Pool was not able to reschedule our swimming. (A notice will go out about options to reapply or refund these payments for swimming).

We have a few sessions of softball in the first two weeks of the term. It is a great summer sport which will be adapted to ensure all students can learn new skills and have a go. We will work on skills of throwing, catching, striking and cooperation as part of a team during the term. There will be physical education opportunities in our Year 6 camp and Year 5 EOTC activities.

As part of our PE programme, the teachers will follow the Family Planning's programme, Navigating the Journey. A separate note will be sent out about the topics and your child's teacher will be able to discuss the topics covered with you, if required.

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

All classes have been working on 'Active Learning' and 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 becoming part of our everyday discussions and increasingly part of the culture of our classrooms. The students will continue to learn about and apply the 'active learner' traits. With the trips and events like go-kart day going on this term, as a syndicate, we will focus on "Managing Me". Students will select an aspect of this Active Learner Trait to work on to help their learning.

Term 4 Events

Many of our senior school events are focussed on our Topic (trips out and about in our environment) and the concept of our Year 6 students leaving behind a legacy and for our Year 5 students stepping up to leadership.

The new play space area is currently being developed, as a result of learning and design input from our tamariki.

*Monday 18th and
Wednesday 20th
October*

*Monday 1st and
Thursday 4th
November*

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Thursday 21st October</i> | <i>WOW Enviroschools trip Room 5</i> |
| <i>Friday 22nd October</i> | <i>Welcome hui for new whānau and teachers</i> |
| <i>Monday 25th October</i> | <i>Labour Day (school is closed)</i> |
| <i>Wednesday 27th October</i> | <i>ePro8 - Technic Teslas and Awesome Architects compete in an engineering competition at Avalon Intermediate. (Parent helper needed for transport and supervision for the 3 hours)</i> |
| <i>Thursday 28th October</i> | <i>WOW Enviroschools trip Room 3</i> |
| <i>Wednesday 2nd November</i> | <i>Road Patrol training day</i> |
| <i>Tuesday 9th November</i> | <i>Camp for Year 6 students - Friday 12th</i> |
| <i>Tuesday 9th November</i> | <i>EOTC for Year 5 students (parent helpers needed please) - Friday 12th</i> |
| <i>Friday 19 November</i> | <i>Staff Only Day - School is Closed</i> |
| <i>Monday 22nd November</i> | <i>Atua trip - Day 1 (parent helpers needed please)</i> |
| <i>Thursday 25th November</i> | <i>Atua trip - Day 2 (parent helpers needed please)</i> |
| <i>Thursday 2nd December</i> | <i>Atua trip - Day 3 (parent helpers needed please)</i> |
| <i>29th November</i> | <i>Go-kart day. Parents are welcome to the Parade and race from 11 - 12:30. (postponement day 1st December)</i> |
| <i>Monday 6th December</i> | <i>Road Patrol Pool Party</i> |
| <i>Friday 10th December 1pm</i> | <i>Whole school celebration assembly</i> |
| <i>Tuesday 14th December 6pm (tbc)</i> | <i>Year 6 Leavers' Evening</i> |
| <i>Wednesday 15th December 11:15 a.m. (tbc)</i> | <i>Leavers' Assembly with prizegiving - leavers' parents welcome</i> |
| <i>Wednesday 15th December</i> | <i>Last day of school - term ends at 12:30pm</i> |

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 Deputy Principal (Esmee Elias-Tito). The partnership between home and school is crucial so please don't 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. Children 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*.**

Covid 19

We are very lucky that we are able to go about school life as usual in New Zealand. However, we still 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 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.

Please drop off and meet your child at the school gates, unless there is a special need to come into the school grounds. There is a scan sheet for the Covid-19 location app in each block of classrooms and each teacher has a sign-in sheet for parents and any other adult visitors.

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

Regards

The Senior Team

Glynnis Bell, Janice Karl, Charlotte Kelly, Katie Everett, Rachel More, Ruby Leonard and Emma Wright.

Signature: [Optional]