

Totara Syndicate Newsletter – Term 2 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

With term one now firmly behind us, I reflect back on the flexibility and resilience shown by teachers, students and our parent community. We proceeded with senior camp, navigated our way through bouts of covid and isolation, we all remained positive (in attitude) and I thank you for the support you gave the syndicate. Hopefully term two will be smoother sailing.

The following newsletter outlines some of what we will be doing over the course of this term and also touches on a few admin matters.

Curriculum

Our main topic of inquiry will look at celebrations and commemorations, both in New Zealand and around the world. This lends itself to writing information reports as well as honing skills in reading and analysing nonfiction text. The topic also marries nicely with our formal dance practice this term and our biennial senior ball to be held early in term three. Artistic endeavours will centre on decorations for the Ball. The theme will be Venetian Masquerade; students will be making their own masks towards the latter part of the term.

Our maths focus will move from algebraic thinking to geometry, although we will continue to reinforce number knowledge and strategy. We are continuing with our languages programme and students will swap into either german, french, spanish or sign language. Technicraft starts up again this Thursday, please remember it is an earlier start on those days - your child needs to be at school by 8.30am, so that we can take the roll and get onto the buses.

Cross country training has already started and we ask that students bring suitable footwear for running on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The school-wide cross country event is scheduled to take place on Friday of Week 4.

Admin and other matters

We are already beginning to receive information about College Open Days. Kapiti College is holding theirs in the middle of next month. If you haven't done so, now is the time to start thinking about where your Year 8 child will be going next year. I will send more information on the three main colleges we feed into as it comes through.

And finally, the matter of chromebooks. If you have purchased a device for your child over the last little while, please encourage them to bring it in, fully charged. We have noted a number of times when we have been caught short with devices across the syndicate. This will become a more frequent issue as our stock of older school supplied chromebooks are retired from service. We presently don't have the budget to replenish this stock.

Thanks and regards on behalf of the Totara Syndicate.



Mark Hughes