

Totara Syndicate Newsletter – Term 3 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I have to say last term was a bit of a trudge for many (including myself) from a health perspective. But hopefully we have now seen the worst of winter ailments, as well as Covid, and can look forward to a term of fun activities and learning.

The following newsletter outlines some of what we will be doing over the course of this term.

Curriculum

Our topic of inquiry for the first half of the term is on simple machines. This focus will allow us to look at principles of science, technology and design. This also ties in nicely with a literacy focus on procedural writing, reports and the close reading of nonfiction text. The latter part of the term will see us take on puberty. There will be a more detailed notice outlining what we cover, closer to the time.

A third initiative that we actually launched earlier this week looks at Fantasy Football and the 2022/23 English Premiership season. Students sign up, create their own teams and compete against each other in an Adventure School League. This initiative is voluntary, but we believe will hopefully encourage students to read and analyse a raft of articles, opinions, tables and statistics over the next 10 months, especially if they have a love of the “Beautiful Game”.

Our maths focus moves from geometry to statistics, although we will still be reinforcing number knowledge and strategy. We are continuing with our languages programme and students will swap into either German, French, Spanish or Sign Language. Technicraft has started up again on Thursdays. Please remember it is an early start that day. Students have also been offered the opportunity to join Wānanga Māori on Thursday afternoons and Kapa Haka lessons on Wednesdays.

Sport and PE includes 6 training sessions with the Capital Basketball Kiwi Hoops programme. These start next Monday and run through to Week 7. There will be no charge to yourselves. We will also be running swimming sports with Rimu syndicate in Week 4, ahead of the Parumoana swimming competition in Week 8.

Students will also be preparing for and running Stall Day at the end of the term. This is a fundraiser that the whole school looks forward to, and also allows Totara students to experience matters of financial literacy, teamwork and customer service.

As you can see it will be a full and varied term of learning. We look forward to meeting you at learning conversations in Week 5 to discuss your child’s progress. If you have any questions before then, feel free to contact myself or the team.

Thanks and regards on behalf of the Totara Syndicate.



Mark Hughes