



## Adventure School

### Totara Syndicate Newsletter – Term 4 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I must say the retirement of John Wootton in Week 2 of last term had an end of year feeling to it. But the seemingly endless procession of functions, assemblies and buffets quickly faded into memory and we found ourselves with 8 weeks of a winter term still to teach. We managed our way to the end of it all though, refreshed ourselves over the two week break and now find ourselves facing what will be a lightning dash to the end of the year.

We also said good-bye to Kim Swettenham at the end of last term. She left to pursue a career outside of teaching and will be missed. We have been able to convince Carla Nickson to come back and help us out for this term. She is a familiar face to us all and a high calibre substitute to bring off the bench for the last quarter of the year.

The following newsletter gives you an indication of what we will be up to over the next couple of months and also touches on a few admin matters.

#### Curriculum

Our main topic of inquiry will look at the cultural and historical aspects of story-telling. This lends itself nicely to our literacy focus of narrative writing. We will also be giving students the opportunity to write and present speeches as we lead into the Parumoana Speech Competition at the end of the year.

Our maths focus will move from Statistics through to Measurement. There will also be the opportunity to discuss financial literacy with the ASB Getwise Team who visit us in the first half of the term. We are continuing with our languages programme and students will be swapping into either Italian, French, Spanish or sign language. Our Year 7 students will be working with Mr McManaway throughout the term to hone their Kapa Haka skills and knowledge. This gives us the opportunity to work with the Year 8's on items for their leavers dinner.

Athletics training dominates the first two weeks of the term as we prepare for School Athletics Day on Monday of Week 3. There will be other sporting and physical education opportunities later in the term with Beach Safety Education and a trip to the ASB Sports Arena during EOTC in Week 6.

Technicraft started 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.

#### Basketball

Last term, the syndicate participated in a highly successful sports programme run by Capital Zone Basketball. There was a cost of \$13 per student associated with the delivery of these 8 lessons, but KiwiSport funding covered this amount. I need to notify you of this for audit purposes, though.

#### EOTC Week

We have also been able to subsidise some of the costs associated with this term's EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) Week. Students will be participating in a Beach Safety programme at Titahi Bay and a Sports Day at the ASB stadium in Week 6. I need an indication of

your willingness to donate funds to cover the residual balance, before we finalise both bookings. A Google Form has been set up, advising the details of each activity and asking whether you are willing to donate. Please access the form and respond by clicking [here](#).

Responses are anonymised and will be collated over the course of next week. We will then advise you whether it is financially viable for us to proceed with both these activities, along with further information about each trip, consent forms and permission slips.

### Technicraft

Whilst I'm on the subject of financial viability, our Business Manager, Jean Hutchinson, has asked me to remind you about technicraft fees. These aren't a donation as such, they are fees associated with the supply of materials the students use whilst at technicraft. They aren't covered by any other sources of funding and the Ministry instructs us to pass the invoice we receive onto yourselves. Can you please check that your payment is up to date?

That's it from the team at Totara. If you have any questions about the above, please don't hesitate to contact me at [mhughes@adventure.school.nz](mailto:mhughes@adventure.school.nz)

Thanks and regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Hughes', written in a cursive style.

**Mark Hughes**