



Totara Syndicate Newsletter
Term 2, 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the second term of the year. The first of two winter terms, let's hope the good weather some of us experienced in the holidays holds for a while longer.

The following is a brief summary of what we have planned across the next few months. There are also links below to a couple of google forms. These will only take a couple of minutes to read and need to be looked at by yourselves before we get a couple of aspects of our programme underway this term.

Topic/Inquiry: We have a major focus on Science this term. Students will learn about fair tests, scientific procedures and experiments. They will be asked to conduct and report back on a science experiment of their choice. Their work will be presented at a Science Fair to be held in the Hall on Wednesday of the last week of the term. Students will also be attending a demonstration in the Hall - Richard Scholes and his Magical World of Crazy Science. The cost of the show is being covered by a PTNi grant.

Literacy: Our science focus offers a useful context for procedural writing this term. We will also reinforce surface features with set activities centred on punctuation, grammar and spelling. Reading activities will focus on close reading of non fiction texts and the building of precise vocabulary.

Maths: The statistics and measurement we covered off last term in maths will be revisited as we work our way through our science unit. Algebra will be our new focus in maths for term two.

Sport/PE: Cross-country training starts in the first week of the term. The whole school event takes place at the end of Week 4. Basketball is also underway this term and many kids have also signed up for Tough Guy and Girl, which will be held on the 24th of May this year.

Health/Hauora: We will be focusing on skills, attributes and behaviours that develop and sustain positive relationships/friendships. This unit of learning will be supported by Alison Koeck from Victoria University. Please click [here](#) to access more information and a form that you need to return if you don't want your child to participate in the programme.

Beyond 3pm: The school is setting up a Home Learning site this term that isn't compulsory, but will be useful for those students who would like to reinforce their learning in a home setting. We will be holding Learning Conversations on the 10th and 11th of May. There is a Parent Cyber Evening taking place on the 19th of May. More details on all of these events will be communicated to you via the Office.

Colleges 2023: Term 2 is usually the time when we start to get approached by a variety of Colleges about Open Days and Evenings. I will collate this information as I receive it and endeavour to pass this on to you as a single notice in the next few weeks. It isn't always possible to get information from all Colleges within this timeframe, so I apologise in advance if my attempt at one cohesive notice turns into a trickle of information.

There are lots of other things that students have an opportunity to participate in this term: from basketball and netball to code club, as well as a Matariki breakfast celebration in the last week of term. Feel free to contact me if you would like to know more.

Thanks and regards on behalf of the Totara Syndicate.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Hughes', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mark Hughes