



Tōtara Syndicate Newsletter – Term 3, 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The two weeks of term break certainly flew by and now we find ourselves back at school for the second of our two winter terms. The following is a brief overview of what we are up to over the course of Term Three and a few important dates to diarise.

Our main Inquiry for the term is on Politics and Government. Students will be looking at the electoral process, politics and the power of persuasion. You may register your child coming home and wanting to discuss “Hot Topics” such as the environment, housing, immigration, inequality or the economy. These topics have been deliberately chosen because of their complexity and although we will be discussing them in depth in class, we don’t expect to find one simple solution or answer. They will be used as a platform to develop critical thinking skills.

Our Literacy focus is on analysing complex and often conflicting sources of information, report and persuasive writing. Our Maths focus turns from Algebra to Measurement. Languages commence this week with French, Spanish, German and Japanese. The Kapa Haka performance group will be run by Mr MacManaway on a Wednesday afternoon with those students not participating in his classes working on other cultural activities across the Syndicate. Students will also be working through our Friendship Unit on Thursday afternoons, once they are back from Technicraft.

Important upcoming events to note are our second set of Learning Conversations taking place on Wednesday and Thursday of next week, Senior Swimming sports taking place on Wednesday the 9th of August, a visit to the Science Roadshow at Whitby Collegiate on Tuesday the 5th of September, and our Pizza and Pyjama Day fundraiser on Friday the 15th of September.

We will give more details about these upcoming events closer to the day. If there is anything else you would like to discuss or know about, please don’t hesitate to contact me or your child’s classroom teacher.

Thanks and regards on behalf of the Tōtara Syndicate.

Mark Hughes