

Tōtara Syndicate Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the second of our two winter terms — let's hope that the rain stops long enough for us to enjoy the new paths and landscaping that has been installed around the school. To follow is a brief summary of what we have planned over the coming months.

Topic/Inquiry:

With the Science Fair behind us, we are now moving on to the subject of Health and Hauora. We welcome St Johns to the syndicate from next week. They will be delivering their programme on Wellness and Wellbeing. We also have Pedal Ready who will be instructing students on Bike Skills and Road Safety. Both programmes come at no charge to the school or community. We will be commencing our own Health and Hauora Inquiry later in the term. You will receive more detailed information on this later next week.

Literacy:

Our genre focus moves to Narrative and then Persuasive Writing. We look specifically at language features, sentence structures, paragraphing and overall structure. We will also be drilling down on all stages of the writing process. Reading will centre on close reading of short stories and persuasive text, alongside the building of descriptive vocabulary.

Maths:

Our Maths Strand focus will be on Geometry. We will also continue to reinforce number knowledge and strategies in workshops held twice a week. I will be organising two teams to compete in the Mathswell Competition on the 19th of August.

Sport/PE:

Senior Swimming Sports will have already taken place by the time you get this newsletter. The successful participants will be heading to Parumoana Swimming later in the term. Winter Sports teams will continue with their competitions this term, with one of our netball teams heading to AIMS games in Week 8.

GENTLE REMINDERS

CHROMEBOOKS

There is limited availability of school supplied chromebooks for students. If your child has their own device for their own use, can they please bring it in fully charged every day. This will help us in the delivery of the digital components of our learning programme.

EARLY START ON THURSDAYS

Technicraft has already started up again for the term. Please make sure your child is at school by 8.30am on Thursdays so that we can leave at 8.45am for Brandon Intermediate. Also make sure they aren't wearing Crocs or open toe shoes.

Beyond 3pm:

Home Learning remains available for your child to access over the term. Whilst participation is optional, it provides a valuable way for students to reinforce their learning at home. The majority of Tōtara's home learning can be accessed via Google Classroom and will include links this term's Inquiry, reading activities, maths programmes and touch typing tutorials.

Fundraising and Senior Camp (2026):

The syndicate will be running a Pizza and PJ Day in Week 4. We will also be preparing for Stall Day to be held early in Term 4. Both events are raising funds to subsidise the cost of Senior Camp which takes place in Term 1 of next year. I will also be on the hunt for grants over the next few months and should give you an indication of additional costs of camp early next term.

As you can see there's lots on this term. We look forward discussing any of the above, as well as your child's progress at learning conversations in Week 5.

Thanks and regards on behalf of the Totara Syndicate.



Mark Hughes