

Tōtara Syndicate Newsletter

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SUMMER TERM

The springtime weather is typically changeable at the moment, but the sun's rays are still strong. Please ensure that your child comes to school with their school hat this term.

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term Four - eleven weeks that I am sure will just race by. There is plenty to get through before we break for the summer holidays. The following is a brief summary of what we have planned this Term.

Curriculum Focus, Sport and PE:

Our final inquiry of the year will take in environmental science - a study of the water cycle, catchment areas, water scarcity, pollution, and the importance of conservation. The unit will culminate with a trip to a local stream to test the health of the water and local environment.

We will be continuing with persuasive writing and expand into speeches in preparation for the Parumoana Speech Competition that is held in late November. We will also return to information reports as part of our environmental science unit. Structured literacy lessons remain a feature of our morning programme. Reading will centre on close reading of informative and persuasive text. Our Maths Strand focus will be on Algebra. We will also continue to reinforce number knowledge and strategies in workshops held twice a week.

Senior Athletics Day is scheduled for Tuesday of Week 2. We are busily reminding students how to run, jump and throw things. There will also be an opportunity for some students to participate in a girl's cricket festival on the 24th of October.

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 to this term's Inquiry, reading activities, maths programmes and touch typing tutorials.

Fundraising and Senior Camp (2026):

Pizza and PJ Day was a great success last term, helped in no small way by a donation of 40 pizzas from Domino's in the Whitby Mall. Our last fundraising endeavour will be Stall Day, held on Tuesday of Week 3. We have been unsuccessful with one of our grant applications, but are waiting to hear back from two other charity organisations.

I will send you out a separate notice to parents of Year 6s and 7s in due course. This will give an update on fundraising and grant applications, as well as a firmer indication of costs and notification of a camp information evening to be held later on this term.

So there is plenty to get on with on this term, although I have no doubt the term will race by and in a blink of an eye we will all soon be making plans for the holidays.

Thanks and regards on behalf of the Tōtara Syndicate.

Mark Hughes