

# Kakapo Syndicate

## Term Three, 2018



***Welcome back and a special welcome to students and families who are new to Kakapo or Ngaio School.***

### Thank You

Last term our syndicate visited the Island Bay Marine Centre. The children loved our visit and many were keen to go back. We were able to pick up sea creatures in tanks and look at them up close. Rooms 8 and 12 were fortunate to spend time rock pooling and used nets to lift sea creatures from the water. A big thank you to all the parents who were able to attend this trip. The Aquarium is open for families to visit every Sunday from 10am to 3pm.

*"I'm so pleased you had a good time. I can honestly say that both Victor and Eddie thought all your children (and adults) were really lovely and a credit to your school."* Judy from the Island Bay Marine Centre.

### Social Science Focus

We are travelling back in time with a "Time Travel" social science theme this term. Teachers have each selected a topic and planned programmes to meet the same learning outcomes across the team. Our children will be learning to:

- Identify differences between the past and present
- Demonstrate an understanding of how something once was

Last term children were asked to select their top two preferences from the seven topics offered by teachers in Kakapo:

- ❖ Growing Up in the Olden Days
- ❖ Life in the 1800s
- ❖ Art History: The Life of Artists
- ❖ Maritime Events
- ❖ History of Sport
- ❖ Pompeii and Ancient Rome
- ❖ Romanticism: Frankenstein, War, the Little Ice Age and More

Next week children will begin their 'Time Travel' learning programme which will take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. It has been wonderful to hear and see the children's enthusiasm for working collaboratively across our team.

On Monday 3 September 4.30-5.30pm families are invited to a 'Time Travel' Exhibition Evening. This exhibition will showcase the learning that has taken place over our collaborative 'Time Travel' learning focus.

### Arts Rotation

This term Year 4 has joined with Tui to participate in an Arts rotation. We do this every Monday afternoon. The children were given two options from dance, drama, choir, music, visual arts and wearable arts. Every child got either their first or second choice. The dance, wearable arts and choir groups will be performing as part of the Wellington Artsplash festival and there will be more communication to come on this. The visual arts group will also have their work displayed as part of this festival. On Monday 24 September, parents will be invited in to see the work that all groups have put in. We will update you when we have more information for this. So far the children are loving the sessions! If you have any questions please email [l.unsworth@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:l.unsworth@ngaio.school.nz) or Dan at [d.edmonds@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:d.edmonds@ngaio.school.nz).

The Arts (music, visual art, dance and drama) will continue to be integrated into Year 3 regular classroom programmes.

### Tui Visits

In our school newsletters this year have been invitations to visit the Year 5 and 6 Tui syndicate in action. These tours will continue in term 3 to provide parents with an opportunity to see how the Tui syndicate operates. Please come and have a look and remove some of the wonderings you may be having as children move through our school.

### National Standards

Many parents asked questions at the Three Way Conferences about how teachers assess now that National Standards have been removed from reporting to parents. The curriculum remains the same and the numerous ways teachers assess children are still in place. The only difference is that teachers no longer make a formal judgement call about whether a child is achieving 'below', 'at', or 'above' expectation. A useful analogy is to compare it with going to the dentist for a check up. The dentist still assesses teeth in the same ways they always have and responds to the dental care that the patient needs accordingly. However, the dentist no longer makes a global statement at the end of the consultation to tell the patient if their teeth are 'below', 'at', or 'above' expectation for their age group.

## Te Reo and Kapa Haka

Matua Alwyn will continue teaching Te Reo sessions in classrooms every second Thursday. This term to link in with our 'Time Travel' theme we will be learning traditional Maori games. Many children in Kakapo are involved in Kapa Haka and will be practising weekly for the upcoming St Brigids Festival on Saturday 15 September. More details about this will be in school newsletters closer to the Festival.

## Literacy

The best way to improve our literacy is by using literacy. Here are some suggestions for encouraging literacy at home:

- read aloud to a family member or to yourself
- write a play to perform with family members
- email a grandparent or friend
- send a letter to a relative or friend
- visit the library
- set yourself a list of books to read
- read magazines
- play scrabble
- wordfinds and crosswords

Teachers continue to open up the world of reading to children by introducing a broad range of books and authors at school. During our weekly visits to the school library and daily reading programmes children are exposed to a range of authors and text types (graphic novels, novels, picture books...). At home children are encouraged to read texts that they enjoy to themselves or someone else reads to them. Audio books are another option for children to listen to. Reading at home is a helpful way of lifting a child's reading mileage and should be enjoyable not a chore. If children are reluctant to read at home please don't force it. Reading to your child helps to develop comprehension, exposes new vocabulary and develops an interest in reading. Remember not all children grow into avid readers and this is okay. Reading is primarily about the function of decoding for meaning. Reading for enjoyment is a bonus.

*The following is a list of authors Kakapo children told us they enjoy:*

*David Walliams, Roald Dahl, Dav Pilkey, Enid Blyton, Michael Morpurgo, Jeff Kinney, Holly Webb, Kate Fawcett, E.B. White, Johanas Brown, J E Bright, R A Spratt, Lincoln Peirce, J K Rowling, Jacqueline Wilson, Andy Griffiths, Tom Gates, Frank Lampard, Sir Tony Robinson, Margaret Mahy, Joy Cowley, Paul Jennings...and of course books that parents recall from their own childhood.*

Our writing focus will have an emphasis on narrative texts in term three. When children write using the narrative text type they are writing stories using a setting, plot, characters, problems and a solution.

## Numeracy

Basic facts continues to be a major focus across the school and in our daily mathematics programmes. You can best help your child by revising basic facts at home. A useful website is <https://maths.prototec.co.nz/> to boost speed of recall. Across our team we continue to focus on addition and subtraction this term. We will also be exploring measurement. Children will be using units to calculate length and weight. This will lead into perimeter, area and volume for some children.

## Triathlon

In term four Kakapo syndicate will be holding our annual triathlon. Although it is called a triathlon (swim, cycle, run) we also offer a biathlon (swim, run) and an ultrathon which is a longer version of the triathlon. The cycle section requires children to bike twice around the lower courts. We are making families aware of this now to give plenty of time to practise riding a bicycle and tying shoes quickly without too much adult help. Children are able to select any swimming stroke or simply walk the length of the pool. The event is about active participation for everyone.

## STRIVE

STRIVE is an optional Year 3-6 home learning programme. At the beginning of the year each child received a STRIVE booklet that explains how STRIVE works and outlines all of the activities. The programme was designed to give children the opportunity to apply literacy and numeracy skills at home within authentic contexts for them. Most children collate their completed STRIVE activities in an exercise book or clearfile.

Teachers encourage children to share with the class completed STRIVE work to give other children ideas. We have received some spectacular STRIVE projects this year. To complete STRIVE and receive a certificate at our special STRIVE assembly children in Year 3 need to complete six activities or seven activities in Year 4.

In weeks three and four examples of completed STRIVE activities will be on display for children (and parents) to view and hopefully provide inspiration. Teachers have extra copies of the STRIVE booklet for those children who have misplaced their booklets.

## Cummings Park Library

Classes will be visiting Cummings Park library again in term three. If you are able to attend please contact your child's teacher.

Room 12	10am	24 August
Room 10	2pm	17 August
Room 9	10am	14 September
Room 5	10am	17 August
Room 6	2pm	3 August
Room 8	2pm	10 August

## Physical Education

Teachers have been continuing working with Sport Wellington to use the Sport Start education programme. This term we are focusing on target games.

## School Communication

The school newsletter is emailed home to families. Paper copies can be requested from the office. Our school website and Facebook page are updated regularly with photographs, children's work and reminders. All students across Ngaio have a Seesaw account as a way of sharing their learning. If you require support accessing your child's seesaw account please contact your child's teacher.

If you have a query please contact your child's class teacher. They are best equipped to answer your questions directly or refer you to the right person. Sarah Simpson is the team leader of Kakapo. Kirsten Reid is the Associate Principal who supervises Kowhai and Kakapo. Amanda Frater supervises Pohutukawa and Tui.

## Absences

If children are going to be late or away from school please email [absences@ngaio.school.nz](mailto:absences@ngaio.school.nz) and copy in your child's teacher to that email. The email should contain your child's name, room number, reason and period for absence or lateness. Please also remember to sign out your child at the office if they leave the school grounds between 9-3pm and to sign in if they arrive between these times.

## Messages

If you need to contact your child with an urgent message please notify the office to ensure the message is received rather than the class teacher.

### *The Kakapo Team*

*Sarah Simpson (team leader), Christina Oldridge, Lucy Unsworth, Karen Lathan, Tessa Willis, Dan Byrne and Sam Jenkins.*

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