

Kakapo Syndicate

Term Four, 2018



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

Time Travel

Mid term three we had an amazing turn out of families viewing our Time Travel Exhibition. Thank you for the wonderful feedback we received. The level of enthusiasm demonstrated by the children when working collaboratively across our team was rewarding for everyone involved. We asked the children for their feedback and the following are common responses as to what they found successful and enjoyable:

- Getting to choose what they were learning from seven different options
- Working with a different teacher
- Working with new people and making friends across the syndicate
- Learning with a purpose to present their work as an exhibition for a real audience
- The topic itself was high interest
- Learning with the support of the Year 4 children and devices

The Art of Maths

There are numerous links between maths and art - tessellations, symmetry, translations, reflections, illusions, plotting co-ordinates, mapping, spiral art, enlargements, 3D art, nets... Children tend to enjoy investigating and making art inspired by maths. In doing so they are exposed to thinking more creatively. In week six children will work with one of the seven teachers in our team to focus on a specific artwork based on maths. This will provide another opportunity to work with teachers and children from across our team.

Te Reo

Matua Alwyn continues to work with each class this term for a fortnightly 30 minute session. This term he will focus on Te Reo vocabulary involved with playing traditional Maori games. In our daily class programmes, Te Reo is integrated as much as possible eg, classroom commands, counting, date, praise and greetings. Classes begin each morning with a karakia.

Cummings Park Library

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

Room 5	Friday 30 November, 10am
Room 9	TBC
Room 10	Friday 9 November, 2pm
Room 12	Friday 9 November, 10am
Room 6	Friday 16 November, 2pm
Room 8	Friday 16 November, 10am

Numeracy

Classes will be revising number knowledge and will revisit addition, subtraction, multiplication this term. 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. Our strand focus is algebra in particular identifying patterns and writing simple formula equations.

<https://nzmaths.co.nz/math-our-house> provides ideas for using maths in the home.

Literacy

Extending a child's knowledge of words helps both reading and writing. As part of our daily literacy programmes children are exploring and using a wide range of new and unusual words. In classes we discuss antonyms and synonyms for words to encourage vocabulary development. Common prefixes are specifically taught to build connections between words. Opportunities for talking and listening are also planned into classroom programmes to help expose children to as many words as we can.

Parents can support reading at home by looking for alternatives to reading books.

Encourage your child to:

- Read recipes aloud
- Read to grandparents or younger cousins on the phone, skype, facetime
- Read instructions for games aloud
- Read together information about holiday locations or programmes
- Read time tables for transport, movies, sport events
- Read weather maps
- Read signs, notices, displays as you are out and about
- Read menus and estimate the cost of the meal....

Reading is not exclusive to just books. Text is all around us and becoming a literate citizen involves engaging with it. Not all children are book worms and this is okay - most children and adults enjoy being read to and this is a powerful way of engaging with text.

Term 4 Science Topic

Last term we asked the children what they would like to learn about in science. Questions about the human body were the most popular across the syndicate. So, as a result we have an exciting science unit planned about the human body. We have called our programme "Inside Out". This science unit will be focused around the key question: How does our body work and how does it work differently from other animals? The Clinic have kindly offered to support us with hands-on activities and workshops during term 4. If you have a science and/or medical background and would like to be involved please contact your child's class teacher.

STRIVE Assembly

Parents are invited to attend our STRIVE assembly Friday 7 December at 11.10am in Tui block. All children who completed STRIVE for 2018 will receive a certificate. This assembly is made special with a drama performance to showcase all of the wonderful STRIVE projects completed 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 by Friday 30 November.

Thank You

Kakapo teachers are proud of the syndicate wide learning programmes and opportunities we have provided this year. The rising cost of transporting children to venues around the city limited the number of trips we were able to include in our programme this year. Kakapo syndicate visited the Wellington Museum and Island Bay Marine Centre. On top of this we had trips to Cummings Park library, Year 4 swimming sports, Year 4-6 Arts Splash, St Brigid's Kapa Haka Festival, along with numerous sport related trips. Although we are fortunate to live in a city with a wealth of school trip options none of them would be possible without planning, organisation and support. We are grateful for all the offers of help throughout the year to make these trips possible. Thank you!

Athletics Day

The senior school athletics Years 4 - 6 will be held at Nairnville Park on Thursday 25 October from 9.30am to approximately 2pm. Parents are welcome to attend. The children will be competing in high jump, long jump, quoit and vortex throws, sprints and middle distance races as well as other fun events. In each event, there will be a competitive group for those keen to qualify for Northern Zone as well as a non-competitive group for participation and fun.

The junior school athletics Years 0 - 3 will be held at Ngaio School on Thursday 8 November from 9.15am to approximately 12pm. Parents are welcome to attend. Children will enjoy a range of physical activities throughout the morning. Due to the field being out of action, this year's activities will be modified to suit our space. Classes will rotate between activities, with each one lasting for approximately 20 minutes. A detailed newsletter will be going home to Year 3 children next week, with a class timetable of events and information about the PTA sausage sizzle.

Life Education

We are fortunate to have Harold the Giraffe visit our school with Charlotte Klemick an educator from Life Education. Classes will visit the Life Education trailer and receive two lessons targeting ideas about being part of team, resilience and how our feelings influence how we act. If you would like to know more about the Year 3 - 4 Life Education Programme, Charlotte is running a parent seminar Monday 5th November at 2:30pm in our staffroom.

Triathlon

The annual Kakapo triathlon is on Thursday 13 December using our school pool, astro turf and field. Children have the option of competing in the biathlon (swim, run), triathlon (swim, bike, run) or ultrathon (completing the triathlon twice). Please contact your child's teacher if you are available to help. We are especially seeking parents to check over bikes and supervise bike collection during the triathlon. If you are able to help marshall this event please contact your child's class teacher.

Headlice

Some families in Kakapo have reported finding headlice in their child's hair. Please take time to check your child's hair. The eggs are commonly found around the nape of your neck and around your ears.

Kakapo Aqua/Tri/Ultrathon 2018 Thursday 13th December Events starting at 9.30am



This is a **fun** event for all children to **enjoy** and **participate** in. The children will be grouped in their year group and by gender. They can **choose** which event they would like to enter out of:

- **Aquathlon** - Swim (2 lengths), Run (2x around the field)
- **Triathlon** - Swim (2 lengths), Bike (3x around the courts), Run (2x around the field)
- **Ultrathon** - Swim (4 lengths), Bike (6x around the courts), Run (4x around the field)



Important points:

- The children only do one event and will be asked by their teacher to select the event they will enter by Wednesday 5 December.
- Swimming - they can swim any stroke, run or walk in the pool.
- Biking - children must have a helmet, wear shoes and be able to ride confidently on a suitably sized bike.
- If your child doesn't have a bike and wants to compete in the triathlon or ultrathon please arrange to borrow a bike from someone else who is not in the same event as them. This needs to be organised by parents prior to the day.
- Please bring bikes to the transition area on the astro turf before 8.50am. The bikes can be picked up at lunchtime or after school depending on what suits your family.
- You are welcome to come and enjoy this event. For safety reasons it would be best if spectators stay in either the biking area on the bottom courts or on the field area rather than moving between the two events.
- Please let your child's teacher know if you are able to help on the day as a marshall by Wednesday 5 December. Thank you!



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 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. Messages emailed to teachers for children may not be received during teaching.

Hats

A reminder that children are required to wear a sunhat in terms one and four. Teachers and parents can support children become sunsmart citizens by modelling wearing a hat during outdoor school activities.

The Kakapo Team

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

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