

Advising an Absence

Please ensure the office is informed of your child's absence before 9.00am either by leaving a voice message on the phone or by emailing absences@ngaio.school.nz

Name, room number and reason for absence is required please.

Key Dates

Thursday 5th September	ICAS science test
Friday 6th September	Onesie Day - supporting Wellington Free Ambulance
Monday 9th September	Maori Language Week
Tuesday 10th September, 7.30pm	PTA meeting, staffroom
Thursday 12 September	Inter Zone Swimming
Tuesday 17 September	ICAS English test
Saturday 21st September	St Brigid's Kapa Haka Festival
Monday 23 September	Chinese Language Week
Monday - Friday, 23rd -27th September	School Photos - order envelopes coming home Friday 6th September
Wednesday 25th September, 7:00pm	Board of Trustees Meeting, staffroom
Friday 27th September, 3:00pm	Last Day of Term 3
Wednesday 23rd October, 7:00pm	Digital Technologies Curriculum Showcase - for all parents

Dear Parents and Caregivers

For many years now, schools have been trying to manage the use of mobile phones at school. Normally these are expected to be handed in or kept in the student's bag and not used during the school day. We understand that some families require their children to have a phone so they can contact them after school. We now have the Apple Watch and Spacetalk Kids Watches in the mix and some children are wearing these to school.



We have had incidents of children contacting their parents to be collected because they are sick but the teacher and office not knowing. This is concerning as the children should be talking to their teacher then contact with home, if required, is made through the school office. We would appreciate children leaving their watches at home, or if they are required for after school use, switching

them off (is that even possible? I'm feeling old!), or handing them into the teacher or the office for safe keeping. **We'd really appreciate you talking to your children about appropriate use of their phones - not during the school day.**

Toys at school are always a debatable topic. Generally we state 'no toys' as they inevitably cause issues. Please use common sense - soft toys for example are not appropriate for school and anything precious should definitely be kept at home. Traditionally school games such as knucklebones, elastics and marbles are an acceptable addition to school playtimes and we do turn a blind eye to trading cards until they cause trouble! The keyword is 'games'. If your child brings a toy to share in social game playing and the game is not causing issues, we pretty much allow it. For example, we currently have groups of children using Beyblades and trading cards, and while they are playing fairly we allow it. At times these games get out of hand and when that happens we step in and ask the children not to bring them for a while. Toys brought in for news should be kept in school bags or given to the teacher for safe keeping. Some teachers encourage children to bring a photo instead.



We appreciate your support in this - it may seem like mixed messaging but this has been the state of play for many, many years and the system works!

Mid year Achievement

I recently shared our mid-year data with the Board of Trustees. We give a snapshot of achievement in reading, writing and mathematics at the middle and end of the year. Teachers make an overall teacher judgement of each student's achievement level. An overall teacher judgment (OTJ) involves drawing on and applying the evidence gathered up to a particular point in time about a student's progress and achievement. This collated student data helps inform programmes and support for students going forward.

	Below curriculum expectation	At curriculum expectation	Above curriculum expectation
Reading	8.3%	38%	53.7%
Writing	8.1%	83.4%	8.5%
Mathematics	5.3%	75.2%	19.5%

These results are pleasing, with most students achieving at or above the curriculum expectation for the middle of the school year. You can see that reading is our greatest strength. On top of sound teaching, reading is supported well with our good resources and our amazing library. We also have a very successful Reading Recovery programme which is supporting acceleration for some year 2 children.

We are currently involved in writing professional development and as a result are marking writing samples with much more vigour and depth. There is a lot expected from our young writers - surface features including spelling and punctuation are just a small part of writing - writing samples are marked against 7 elements - ideas, structure and language, organisation, vocabulary, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling. The ability to use writing as an interactive tool and to create effective written texts is critical in enabling students to engage successfully with all areas of the curriculum. As students build their literacy knowledge, skills and attitudes through explicit instruction, they also use them in increasingly diverse contexts in a variety of learning areas. To build a solid foundation for using writing in different contexts, students need to master the underlying components or elements of effective writing. Effective writers are able to use these skills to develop texts for a variety of communicative purposes across the curriculum. Given the depth of these expectations we are pleased with how well the children are doing and expect continued improvement as the teachers learn more strategies for this deeper level of instruction.

In mathematics we are also ensuring students build on their knowledge and apply this to increasingly complex tasks. Teachers are assessing thoroughly to ensure their programmes provide the teaching to cover any gaps in learning before moving them to the next level. The curriculum levels go over 2 year

bands with overlaps at each end to allow for students making progress at differing rates. This means a child will have approximately two years of learning at each curriculum level.

Across the school we have a range of support in place so teachers can ensure the students have the help they need to make progress. Additional Literacy Support is provided by Sandra Traut, Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour (RTLb), Resource Teacher of Literacy (RTLit), Speech Language Therapist (SLT) and English as a Second Language funding (ESOL) can be applied for extra advice and support and the Reading Recovery programme offers intense support for some six year old children in reading. Some children have a formalised Individual Education Programme (IEP) so teachers, parents and support agencies can work together to support a child and monitor progress as a team. Teachers work to provide all children with the teaching support they need to make progress. We want all children to reach their potential.

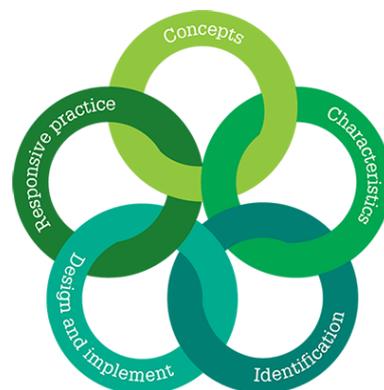
We have some great work underway around the provision of effective support for our Gifted and Talented students as well. Karen Lathan has taken on this work with some other teachers and will soon be introducing some identification information for teachers to use to ensure we are identifying and catering for this varied and diverse group of children.

Please feel welcome to make time to see me if you have any concerns or wish to discuss anything about school. The usual procedure is to talk to the teacher first, then the syndicate leader, then me, however I am always open to having conversations if for some reason the usual is not appropriate or there is follow up required.

See below for information about our Digital Technologies Curriculum Showcase coming up next term. We'd love to see you all there.

Ngā mihi nui

Raewyn Watson, Te Tumuaki



Scholastic Book Fair

We are pleased to report that we reached our goal which means the PTA can continue its financial commitment to the library in 2020!

I would like to thank all who made this 4 day event a success.

To Jessie as PTA chairperson for her huge support and also the support of the entire PTA team.

To the coordinators of the book shop, cafe, sausage sizzle, raffle and craft areas - Nicola Wilks, Vanessa Palmer, Angela Foster, Jessie Williams-Shigeeda and Cassandra Brandies - your extra time and effort was amazing.

To all the volunteers who gave their time during the week, on early mornings, late afternoons and on Sunday, including those who baked beautiful yummy goodies - you were all instrumental to our success. Thank you!

To Gusto Cioccolato, L'affare and Countdown for donated goods, and to all our raffle donors.

To the teachers who had to relocate for the week while we used their work room space and also teaching space on Sunday.

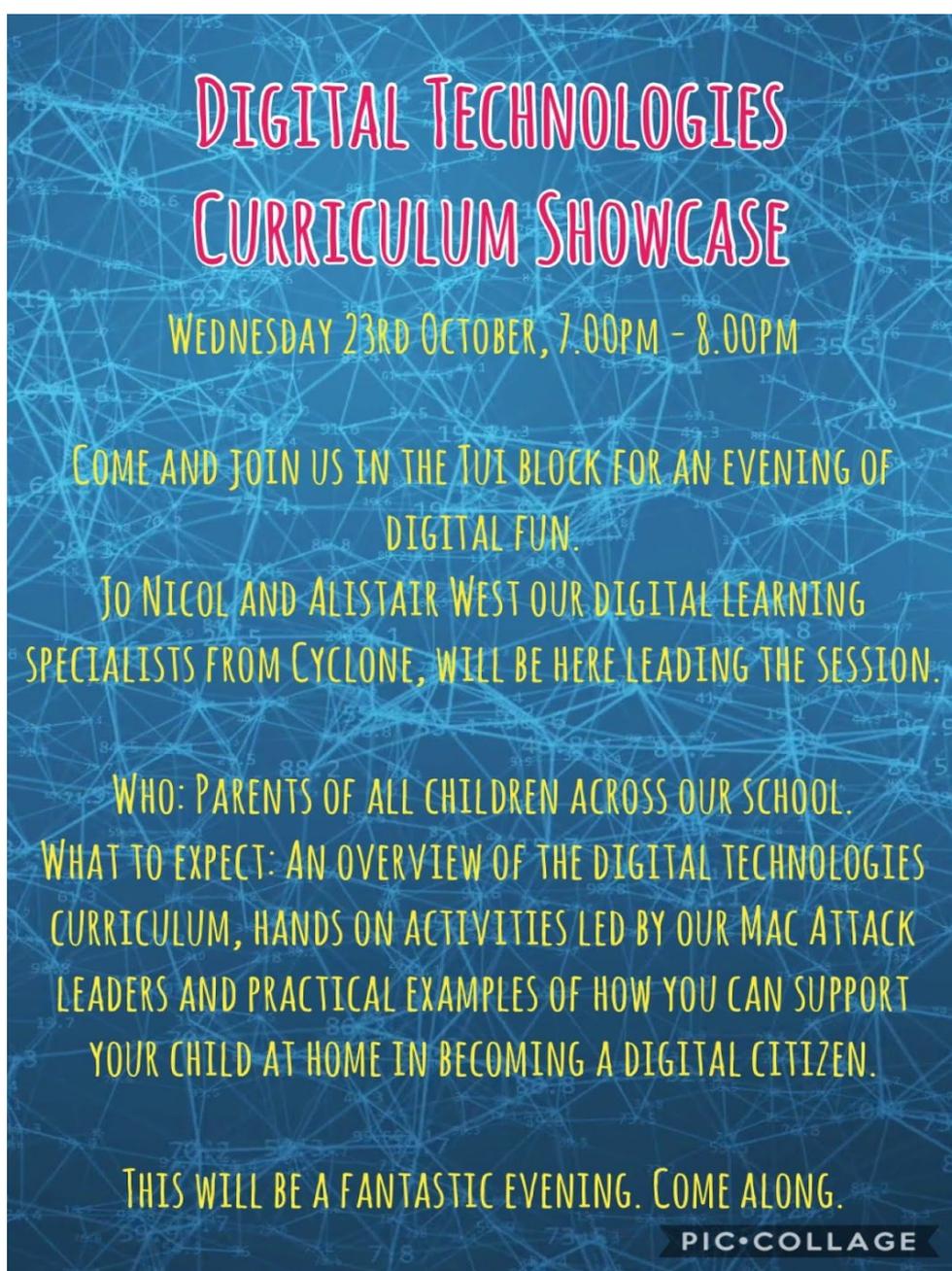
To Nicki and Kirsty in the office for their generous assistance.

To the Year 6 team of students who helped with painting banners, setting up books shop, taking sales, controlling class visits during the day and pushing all the bookcases and equipment back up the hill to the driveway for the truck collection - you were awesome! I was so proud of them all and I really appreciated their extra time and effort in and out of school time they gave over the last few weeks.

And finally to our community for coming to the fair and through buying books, supporting our magical Ngaio School Library.

Till next Ngaio School Book Week...

Rebecca Clouston

A digital-themed poster with a blue background and a network of white lines and nodes. The text is in various colors: red for the title, yellow for the date and details, and white for the closing statement. The text is centered and reads:

**DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
CURRICULUM SHOWCASE**

WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER, 7.00PM - 8.00PM

COME AND JOIN US IN THE TUI BLOCK FOR AN EVENING OF
DIGITAL FUN.

JO NICOL AND ALISTAIR WEST OUR DIGITAL LEARNING
SPECIALISTS FROM CYCLONE, WILL BE HERE LEADING THE SESSION.

WHO: PARENTS OF ALL CHILDREN ACROSS OUR SCHOOL.
WHAT TO EXPECT: AN OVERVIEW OF THE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
CURRICULUM, HANDS ON ACTIVITIES LED BY OUR MAC ATTACK
LEADERS AND PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT
YOUR CHILD AT HOME IN BECOMING A DIGITAL CITIZEN.

THIS WILL BE A FANTASTIC EVENING. COME ALONG.

PIC•COLLAGE

Daffodil Day

Thank you for your support of Daffodil Day. Nga Rangatahi o Ngaio organised a fabulous event supporting a great cause. Ngaio School raised \$403.50.

Onesie Day - 6th September

Please wear your onesie and bring a gold coin to support the Wellington Free Ambulance.

Are you a keen tennis player?

The 2019 Wellington Primary and Intermediate Schools Tournament is to be held on Tuesday 17th September for the girls and Wednesday 18th September for the boys at the Renouf Tennis Centre, 60 Brooklyn Road, Wellington. You need to be able to play and have your own equipment. See Mr Byrne if you are interested.



Community Notices

WEET-BIX TRYATHLON

Kilbirnie Park, Wellington

Sunday, 15 March 2020

If you are interested in registering as part of the Ngaio School team, please click on the following links. Note there are two events next year so check carefully if you are signing up for the morning or afternoon.

- The TRYathlon is all about giving it a TRY and is a rewarding and fun day out for you and your child.
- Participants need to be aged 7-15 years old on event day, and can complete the TRYathlon as an individual or in a team of two.
- To enter the TRYathlon visit www.tryathlon.co.nz/
- This year our school has created a School Group which you can join when you enter from home. Search for Ngaio School when prompted. By linking to our school group it will give us the chance to win some great prizes.
- The direct links to register into our school group are below. Please note there are two events on the same day (morning and afternoon)

Wellington Morning

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=35582&G=100424>

Wellington Afternoon

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=35583&G=100423>

Kelly Sports Summer Series Football & Netball Competition – REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Get your friends together and enter a team in our popular 5-a-side Football or our Netball Summer Series Leagues.

Played on Friday afternoons at Ian Galloway Park (Football) and Netball at Samuel Marsden (Karori) & Karori Normal School beginning 25 October 2019.

There is a break over Christmas then we start up again in term 1 2020.

It's a great way to maintain and improve your skills over the summer months.

For full details and to enrol your team visit www.getyourgameon.co.nz/kellysports email summerseries@kellysports.co.nz or call 04 972 7201.

Johnsonville Junior Softball Club - for ages 5-14. Register at <https://www.sporty.co.nz/jvillesc/> by 5th September. For information contact Sue on johnsonvillejuniorsoftball@gmail.com



St Benedict's Intermediate School
Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 17th September 2019
6-7pm

Developing our Children's Minds
Guiding our Children's Hearts



Why choose St Benedict's Intermediate School for your child?

- For our Special Catholic Character and school-wide EPIC Values
- Excellent academic achievement
- Our caring, supportive and inclusive family environment
- Challenging and motivating learning experiences
- Individuality and creativity are supported and nurtured
- Student leadership opportunities in abundance
- Students prepared well for college
- Not Zoned

All parents, whether existing or prospective, are warmly invited to attend our Year 7 & 8 Parent Information Evening on Tuesday 17th September from 6-7pm in the school's library. Nibbles and drinks served from 5:45pm.

Address: 50 Nicholson Road, Khandallah Phone: 479 6878
Email: office@st-benedicts.school.nz Website: www.st-benedicts.school.nz



WELLINGTON
BRICK SHOW
September 14th-15th
Lower Hutt Events Centre
30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt, Wellington

AMAZING LEGO® CREATIONS
9am-5pm
Saturday and Sunday

\$5 entry per person
Under 3s FREE
\$20 family pass
(2 adults, 3 children)

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