

Kahu Team

Year 7 & 8

Newsletter

Term 1, 2018

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Welcome

Welcome back to our Year 7 and 8 students, parents and teachers. A very special welcome to those who are new to Whenuapai School.

This newsletter is to orient you to what to expect this term. In addition, you can look forward to a brief weekly email with timely updates.

We have already had our first (very short) week, in which we met with some of our whānau and welcomed our Year 7s, including three new students. On Monday, we will be joined by our ten students who spent last week on the Hillary Outdoors experience in Tongariro National Park - the first of many fabulous opportunities our students will have this year. What an exciting start!

The Week Ahead

February 11th - 14th

Mon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Footsteps Dance commences for all Year 6-8 students.</i>
Tue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Tech commences for Year 8s. Remember to be at school before 8:30am</i>
Wed	
Thu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>P.E. classes commence - all students are expected to be in Sport Uniform.</i>• <i>Kapa Haka group's first meeting and practise. New members welcomed.</i>• <i>Music Lessons - Musiqhub 'Have a go' sessions in the Hall 8-9am and 3-4pm, and lessons commence.</i>
Fri	

Please scroll down to see important dates, notices, and reminders.

Notices and Reminders

Meet the Teacher Day - It was nice to meet with many of you last week to discuss your child. If we didn't meet with you, please feel free to email us to make a time. It is most valuable to have this discussion early in the year, especially for our Year 7s.

Brain Food - Usually around 10:00am. Please ensure a small healthy snack is included in your child's lunch box or a separate container. This is an addition to a morning tea snack. Some examples are fresh fruit or vegetables (pre-cut and peeled). No nuts please, as we are a nut free school.

Technology - Year 8s begin Technology on Tuesday. Our Year 7 students will begin this in Term 3.

Footsteps Dance - All students in Year 6-8 will participate in this programme in term 1. It comes at a cost of \$27. You should have received a notice about this by email. If not, you may access it here: <https://goo.gl/forms/r2AwF8g9cAY0BvVn1>

Seesaw - This year we are continuing to use Seesaw - a digital platform for students and families to share their learning. This is accessible via computer, tablet, and smartphones. We connected with some families last week. If you haven't already, you will receive a notice which gives you options for connecting. It is our goal to see 100% of our students with at least one family member connected.

Hats, water bottles and ice packs. We manage the sun and heat in a number of ways:

- Hats are compulsory for Term 1 and Term 4. No hat... no play out in the open (shaded areas only). Please check your child's hat and all uniform items are named, including shoes.
- Sunscreen - we have a limited supply of sunscreen in class for students who may have forgotten to apply in the morning, or need a top up.
- Ice packs. Our classrooms can also get very hot on summer afternoons. If you would like to send along a named ice pack, we are able to freeze these in the classroom each day, and give them out when it gets hot. We encourage you to take up this offer, especially if your child struggles to concentrate in hot conditions.
- Water bottles. We are happy for students to have water bottles in class.

Assemblies - We will have combined Year 4-8 assemblies fortnightly on Monday mornings. Our first will be in Week 3, on Monday 18th February. Assemblies will commence at 9:15am in the hall. Parents and whanau are welcome to attend.

Please scroll down to see notes about school and home learning, and important dates.

Term Dates

- 27th Feb - **PTA Family Fun Evening** - More info to come
- 12th April - **Term 1 ends**
- 13th - 28th April - **school holiday** - note that Easter falls during this period.
- 29th April - **Term 2 begins**

Learning this Term

Our first learning context is “Who We Are.” This is a broad inquiry into the nature of the self, our own beliefs and values, our personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health, human relationships, cultures, rights and responsibilities, and what it means to be human.

We will explore this context through a number of curriculum areas, such as:

- Mathematics - Using statistics as a means of understanding who we are.
- Art - Portraiture.
- Te Reo and Tikanga Māori - Pepeha, and concepts of Hauora.
- Health - Mindfulness as a way of promoting wellbeing and tuning in to who we are.
- Social Science - What is culture? Who are we as individuals, groups, nations, and humans?
- Science - Who are scientists? Fingerprints and forensics. The skeletal system.
- Literacy - Reading and writing about related topics.

Family involvement in learning

If you have any expertise you would like to share in any of these areas, or anything related to *Who We Are*, please get in touch. We would love to enrich this context by connecting with our parents and wider community.

More generally, if you have something you would like to offer or be involved with, please get in touch. Year 7 and 8s often say they want parents to back off at this age, but our experience tells a different story. We would love to talk to you about ways to get you involved, and there will be many opportunities for this throughout 2019.

Kahu Home Learning Expectations

Each week, we have a set of learning tasks that we expect all students to complete. These tasks are typically started and/or explained in class. Whilst many of the tasks will be completed in class when students use their time well, other tasks will require to students to do them, or finish them off, outside of school hours. We will provide further details of our system for this once our students get used to it.
