



Welcome back! We hope you've been able to enjoy the marvellous sunny weather we've had over the past couple of months.

#### Staff:

The Year 7/8 team consists of:

Jacinda Paice Rm1

Sam Broadmore Rm2 (Amanda Hood on Fridays)

Charles Daily Rm3

And a massive welcome to Rachael Laming in Rm 4

In addition to the teachers listed above we also continue with our capable learning assistants (previously known as teacher-aides), Karen Millar, Lorraine Boennic and Annie McGee, who continue to work with individual students or groups for support.

#### School Food

Please give careful consideration to what you send along with your children in their lunchboxes. School policy is no juice, please – only water and no lollies. We do have some children who are highly allergic to nuts so we request that children do not bring peanuts or cashew nuts to school. We are endeavouring to reduce our waste and litter throughout the school and would appreciate it if families could provide litterless lunches. It is important to name containers, as we continue to have many unclaimed lunch containers at the end of each day.

#### BYOD:

The bringing and using of personal devices has already kicked off. Children will be using their devices daily so please help your child to ensure their device is fully charged each night. We are super excited about the Towards Transformation Project that Seatoun School has been selected to be part of. More information will be shared at the **Digital Information Evening for parent and students (Monday 19th February @ 7pm in the School Hall)**.

#### Athletics

The school athletics day is on March 13th. We will be practising the skills of long jump, high jump, running, relays and vortex over the next few weeks every Monday, so please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear.

#### Y7/8 Leadership Camp

This year we have decided to take the whole syndicate away on a leadership and team bonding camp in Paekakiriki from the 20-22nd of March. We will need 12-13 parents to come away with us to help with supervision and to run programmes and activities with the students. Costs and further details will be communicated over the next week. This is in addition to EOTC week in Term 4. One of the Steeple Rock Challenges will be for the kids to raise the money for this trip away.

#### Integrated Studies for Term One

This term, we will be learning about digital citizenship and studies around The Wahine. They will learn how to safely manage their online profiles and find out about some of the potential issues that they are likely to find in the near future. While studying The Wahine, they will explore concepts around this unfortunate event including how communities worked together to save passengers, the science involved in the storm, and hear the stories from those who were there.

#### Enrichment

Every Friday the children engage in a full day enrichment program. They go to Rongotai College in the morning, where they rotate around music, hard materials, design, art, drama, Spanish and IT. Then in the afternoon, they come back to school and move on to: Music, computer programming, Art, fabrics technology (just Y8's), debating/green screen use and cooking.

#### Compulsory Home Learning

**Writing tasks:** Fortnightly writing tasks: Will be assigned every 2 weeks. We ask that you only help your child with proofreading and ideas to get started. However, it is important that it is the child's own work.

**Mathletics:** There is an expectation that every child will complete either at least 1000 points on Mathletics each week or an hour a week.

**The Steeple Rock Challenge (Formerly the TRUMP Challenge):** Is the 3rd and final piece to the Y7/8 home learning program. Every child will be issued with a Steeple Rock Challenge booklet. 5 challenges must be completed over the year. Each completed challenge must be presented at the end of each Term. At least 1 challenge needs to be completed each term.

#### Leadership Opportunities

This is a major part of what we offer at Y7/8. Some of this term's opportunities have already been outlined to the children and many have already applied for these positions. These are Junior Associate, fitness leader and conservation leader. Here is a quick list of this term's other opportunities: **Hui presenter (Y8 only), Librarian, art and kitchen monitor, House points and Yummy sticker monitor and School Rep for the "Starting School at 5" evening.** These are all authentic and meaningful opportunities for your child.

#### Organisational and Self-management Expectations

In order to be life-long learners and fully prepared for college we encourage the children to take responsibility for their learning. This means;

- Getting to school on time. (The school bell goes at 8:45)
- Managing their stationery, sports gear, bag, hat and device. (Label possessions)
- Being organised with time and manage deadlines.
- Coming to school with a great attitude and a willingness to try their best!

We are looking forward to working with you to continue to provide the best possible education for your child.

Regards, Charles, Jacinda, Rachael and Sam.