

**February 2019**

**Year 7 and 8 School Newsletter # 1 Information**

Welcome back! This term is going to be a cracker!

Staff:

The Year 7/8 team consists of:

Jacinda Paice Rm1, Sam Broadmore Rm2 (Amanda Hood on Friday's), Charles Daily Rm3, Rachael Laming in Rm4.

In addition to the teachers listed above, we also continue with our capable learning assistants, Karen Millar and Lorraine Boennic who work with individual students or groups for support. This year we also have Ruby Scott, a Victoria University Masters student. She will be based in Room 3.

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/chocolate.

**Litterless Lunches:** We are committed to reducing waste and litter throughout the school and would appreciate it if you could discuss with your child ways that they could make their lunches litterless. Our guidelines around this is no soft plastic waste (including resealable plastic bags). Alternatives could be beeswax wraps, hard - reusable plastic or glass containers or compostable paper towels.

BYOD:

Children will be using their devices daily so please help your child to ensure their device is fully charged each night. Please make sure it is clearly named and in a solid case, with a cover for the screen. More information will be shared at the **Y5-8 Programme and Digital Information Evening for parents and students (Tuesday 19th February from 6:30 - 8pm)**.

Athletics

The school athletics day is on March 11th. We will be practising the skills of long jump, high jump, running, relays and vortex over the next few weeks every Thursday, so please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear.

Y7/8 Leadership Camp

Our annual syndicate wide leadership and team bonding camp in Paekakiriki will be the 18th-20th 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, but it is likely to be around \$70 per student. 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 are really excited to undertake the "Mountains to Sea - Creating Kaitiaki for our rivers and harbours and coasts" programme. The aim of this programme is to engage our students to find out about their local coastal environment and to motivate them to design and undertake research projects that will lead to student led actions. There will be more communication around this as the term progresses.

Enrichment

Every Friday the children engage in a full day enrichment programme. They go to Rongotai College in the morning, where they rotate around music, science, hard materials, 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/environmental movie making, hard materials and cooking.

Compulsory Home-Learning

**All students will have a home-learning book that will need to be signed by a caregiver before Thursday each week, where they will be checked by a teacher.**

**Fortnightly task (2-3 hours):** Will be assigned every 2 weeks and will tie in with your child's classroom learning. We ask that you only help your child with brainstorming ideas to get started and proof-reading any written tasks.

**Maths Homelearning:** There is an expectation that every child will engage in 1 hour a week of maths practice. This may be Mathematics, problem-solving or other online learning activities. Teachers will set this up with students.

**Reading:** Students need to read for 20 - 30 mins at least 4 times a week. (discuss with your child what is best in your home)

**The Steeple Rock Challenge:** Steeple Rock Challenge booklets can be found on the [Seatoun School website](#). 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.