



Year 7/8 Newsletter Term 1, 2024

1 February 2024
Newsletter 1

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and whānau,

Welcome back everyone to the start of a new school year!

Staff

In the Year 7/8 team we have the following staff working full time or in a part-time capacity.

Sam Broadmore - classroom teacher & Team Leader	Room 17 (Monday - Thursday)
Gabrielle Meech- classroom teacher	Room 17 (Friday)
Charles Daily - classroom teacher	Room 16 (Monday - Friday)
Rachael Laming - classroom teacher	Room 15 (Monday - Friday)
Alison Roper - classroom teacher	Room 14
Matt Finnigan Associate Principal, Year 5-8	
Hazel Rostron-Wood - Teaching Assistant	

Term One Inquiry - Mountains to Sea

This year we will spend the first term focusing on our local environment. We will explore local fish, bird and plant species as well as look more broadly at marine reserves, the impact of humans and future environmental innovations. We will head to the pool and learn to snorkel before experiencing 2 open-water swims around our local coastline. One outside the reserve and one within it. We will also be looking at the properties of seaweed as a sustainable material and experimenting with its uses.

For Maths, Reading and Writing focuses please check the long-term plan.

Leadership Week:

In Week 7 we will once again be holding our leadership week. Last year students had the opportunity to organise and lead activities for junior students, work in a team to compete in the Masterchef Challenge, and push themselves at Adrenalin Forest. We have yet to finalise the activity schedule as we want student input before locking in the programme.

Home-Learning Programme

Home Learning is made up of three components.

1. Reading for 20 minutes, 4 times a week
2. Steeple Rock challenge which is compulsory in the Y7/8 syndicate. This is 5 challenges over the course of the year.
3. The third component is a 1hr activity where students investigate and respond to events around them. Beginning locally and becoming more broad as the term progresses. Specifics will be sent out each week to students.

Enrichment

Every Friday the children engage in a full-day enrichment programme. In the morning they have their school-based enrichment: Sphero coding, fabrics technology (just Y8's), debating/movie making, Art, cooking and EPRO 8 (just Y8's), Volleyball and badminton. Then in the afternoon, they go to Rongotai College where they rotate around music, science, hard materials, art, drama and Spanish. Each rotation is 5 weeks.

Leadership Opportunities

Throughout the year we will let the students know when applications are open. Application processes will vary. Some will require an email from the student telling us why they want the role and what skills they bring. Some will just be through an expression of interest.

This week applications for: Junior Associate, Fitness Leader, Food tech Monitor and Librarian are open!

Junior Associates (Y8 priority) All Year: (Apply to Mr B by email): 15 mins after lunch Mon - Thur working in a Y1/2 class, helping students with their learning.

Y3/4 Leaders (Y7 and 8) All Year: (Apply to Mr B by email) 15 mins after lunch Mon - Thur working in a Y3/4 class, helping students with their learning.

Fitness Leaders (Y7 and 8): All Year: (Apply to Mr B by email) Design and run fitness sessions for the syndicate on Mondays

PE Shed Monitor (Y7 and 8): Term by term - put name forward when asked - Running the PE shed at break times

Librarian (Y7 and 8): Assisting in the Library - show interest and listen for Mrs Bamber notice re this

Starting School at 5 speakers (Y8 priority): Term 1 and 3: Speaking to new parents about Seatoun School and what we offer. (1 evening)

Kindy coordinators (Y8 priority): All Year: Organise the kindy roster with Ms Kliffen

AV tech engineers for hui (Y8 priority): All Year: Run the AV gear during hui. Training done by Mr Haddock.

Food tech monitors (Y7 and 8): All year: 2-3 mins each day helping organise the Food Tech room. Run by Ms Miller. (Karen)

Enviro kid (Y7 and 8): All Year: Attending meetings once a week to work on school goals and initiatives to improve our environment (Ms Bamber)

Epro8 (Y7 and 8): Win a spot on the Epro8 team and compete against other teams in an engineering challenge.

Hui presenters (Y8 priority): 1 off: Get up on the mic, welcome the school and introduce the next items - No need to apply

Hui Performers: Multiple opportunities: Play or sing before a hui as people are walking in - Just let us know if you're interested

Lit Quiz (Y7 and 8): Term 1: Train for and attend the annual Lit Quiz and compete against other schools - Speak to Mrs Bamber

Kapa Haka Leaders: (Y7 and 8): All Year: Lead Kapa Haka sessions, help younger students and perform in front of the school or at festivals - We will ask for leaders during kapa haka sessions.

Talent Quest Organising Committee: Term 4: Organise and run the Student Talent Quest later in the year.

Ngā mihi,

The Year 7-8 Team.