

Senior School Newsletter Term 1, 2025



11 February 2025
Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are excited to share with you what is happening in our syndicate this term! Our students are engaging in various enriching learning experiences, and we can't wait to see the positive progress they will make.

Staff

It was a pleasure meeting parents and learners at our 'Meet the Teacher' day last week. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Our whānau-kura (home/school) partnership plays a huge part in helping us to do the very best job we can for our learners. Also, a big welcome to Kaylah Burke who will be teaching Room 16 this year! Eileen Mueller and Lucille Richardson will teach on Fridays in Rm 17 and Rm 14, respectively.

Curriculum

Our **inquiry topic** for the term is focused on **Innovation**. The students will explore the world of creative problem-solving by identifying and improving existing products. They will also study talented New Zealand innovators, learning how innovation has shaped our society and how they can apply their own innovative ideas in the future. This topic promises to inspire creativity and critical thinking, and we're excited to see what our students come up with.

In **Writing**, we are focusing on **creative story writing**. Students will explore different techniques to develop their writing skills, such as creating rich characters, intriguing plots, and compelling settings. We hope this will help them discover their voices and confidently express themselves. Our intensive Professional Development in the teaching of writing continues to improve our teaching of this subject and student achievement.

In **Mathematics**, we are taking a fresh approach with a new resource called **Maths No Problem**. This resource emphasizes problem-solving, critical thinking, and mastery of key concepts through a fun, interactive approach. We already see the benefits and look forward to seeing even more positive results as the term progresses.

This term, we are placing a strong focus on **Leadership**. Students will have opportunities to apply for meaningful responsibilities that will allow them to develop their leadership skills. A list of responsibilities has already been shared through "Hero", and students have started applying. Later in the term, **Leadership Week** (Week 9) will allow students to explore leadership in action further. They will participate in exciting activities such as visiting **Adrenaline Forest**, competing in the **Masterchef Challenge**, and designing and running activities for junior classes. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

Additionally, our other important topics this term include **Kiva**, which focuses on fostering kindness and empathy; **Pause, Breathe, Smile**, a program that supports students' well-being and mindfulness; and **Digital Citizenship**, where students will learn about responsible and safe online behaviour.

Enrichment

Every Friday the children engage in a full-day enrichment programme. The Y7/8 students go to Rongotai College in the afternoon, where they rotate around music, science, hard materials, art, drama and Health. In the morning, at Seatoun School, our students move around Art, fabrics technology (just Y8's), debating/movie making, cooking, PE, EPRO 8 and STEM.

Home-Learning Programme:

1. 20 minutes Reading x 4 times a week
2. 5 Steeple Rock challenges to be prepared and presented by the end of the year - compulsory
3. Finally, throughout the year, there may be tasks that need to be completed based on work that we're doing in class. But this will not be every week..

We are looking forward to a busy and productive term with your child, and we're excited about the growth and opportunities that await them. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or want more information.

Ngā Mihi

The Senior School Team.