

Intermediate Team Newsletter

Term 3, 2017

Dear parents, whānau and students,

We hope that you all had a great break in the holidays and managed to enjoy them despite some terrible weather.

We have another really exciting term ahead of us. We start off with learning for Maths Spectacular, a literacy focus on MacBeth and Shakespeare, and we look forward to developing our own dramatic interpretation of this to share with you at the end of the term. Our other main inquiry focus is a social science inquiry into enterprise and being part of a community – ‘Build a Business’. As usual we will be participating in the winter sports interschool tournament this term with a rugby team, football team and two netball teams. We will also take advantage of the Taranaki Arts Festival and go to two shows. This is also a busy term with starting to transition our Year 8 students to their respective high schools with visits from them, interviews etc.

There are two changes in learning for our students with the start of Term 3. On a Friday morning, Year 7 students will be doing Cybercitizenship with Jay, having completed their peer mediation (although they will still do peer mediation in break times). The other change is in languages. Year 7 students who have been learning French will now learn Japanese, and the year 8 students who had been learning Japanese will now learn French.

We are continuing to build on our collaborative practice and develop student independence in their learning. This will look different in different subject areas, and is personalised for individual students. They will be making choices about subject content and selecting learning steps that are appropriate for them with guidance from teachers. We believe in our students interacting with content and people in various ways, building a range of skills that make them successful members of our community. Another reason we organise learning this way is so that students work with different teachers and move between three classrooms to help prepare them for the high school model of learning. Students will participate in a range of learning - individual learning and goal setting, choices about guided exploration of content, inquiry research, and teaching groups that teach specific skills and knowledge. It is important that you regularly touch base with you child/ren to see who their teacher is and how they are managing their own learning. And as always, we welcome parents to discuss learning with us so please feel free to contact us at any time. Our email addresses are below.

Term 3 Learning

Maths	Geometry and Maths Spectacular, Ratios and Proportions
Literacy	MacBeth – comprehension, spelling rules and creative writing, speeches
Inquiry	Social Sciences – ‘Build a Business’ Economics and design technology
PE	Cross country, hockey skills and interschool winter sports tournament
Health	Social and emotional health, ‘Maia – confidence’, Keeping Ourselves Safe
Te Reo	Kakahu – clothing, and seasons
Languages	Japanese, French and VLN Language options

Camp Leigh

We are so impressed with how proactive students are being in their Workathon efforts which will reduce the camp cost for individuals. Our fundraisers last term earned us about \$2200 which will reduce the cost for each student by about \$30. It's always really positive to see those that do have ease with paying such a high camp fee still continue to support the group fundraisers that help all students. We hope to finalise our budget and let you know what the cost for camp is within the next couple of weeks. Our major fundraiser for Camp Leigh this term is tied into our Social Science 'Build a Business' inquiry. Students will work in groups to design, develop, market and sell a product at a Market Day in Week 9 and all profits from this will go to camp. We also hope to let you know which parents are coming on camp by Week 3 or 4 – as always we appreciate how lucky we are at Oakura School to have such a supportive community as so many parents have offered to come on camp with us.

Interschool Sports Tournament

We have five fixtures of interschool sports this term, three at home and two away. We have a rugby team, a football team, and two netball teams, although not every school we compete against will play two netball teams. Costs for buses for travel to the two schools will be funded by the school, and when we host our three schools, we will provide afternoon tea. To ensure a range of afternoon tea, can parents please support us by providing the following:

Rugby - sweet

Netball – savoury

Football – fruit

The dates and fixtures are as follows:

Thursday 3 Aug.	Toko School, at Toko, two netball teams	12:00 kick off
Wednesday 16 Aug.	Auroa School, at Oakura, one netball team	12:00 kick off
Wednesday 23 Aug.	St Josephs Stratford, at Oakura, one netball team	11:00 kick off
Wednesday 6 Sept.	Coastal School, at Coastal, no netball teams	12:30 kick off
TBC	Opunake School, at Oakura	

Information Evening

This year we invite current parents and Year 5 & 6 parents to a Year 7 & 8 Open Day to see learning in action on **Tuesday 1st August from 1:30 – 3:00pm**. This will be followed by the information evening on **Tuesday 8th August at 5:30pm**.

Maths Spectacular

Students have chosen their maths groups for geometry and investigative learning in preparation for Maths Spectacular (Monday 21 August to Wednesday 23 August), Week 5 of this term. Some students have chosen to learn about symmetry and will produce a tessellation, some students have chosen to learn about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and will develop a 3D construction, and the last group of students have chosen to do a mathematical investigation – which could be a research project, investigation into a mathematical theory or a statistical investigation. The entries for these are due by **Thursday 17th August**. We will also select a team of four Year 7 students and four Year 8 students to participate in the quiz on the afternoon of Wednesday 23 August.

Transition to High School

Some key dates for Year 8 students and their families.

Friday 28th July	NPGHS and NPBHS visit Oakura School
Tuesday 1st August	NPBHS Open Evening
Wednesday 2nd August	Spotswood College visit Oakura School
Wednesday 2nd August	NPGHS Open Evening
Wednesday 10th August	Spotswood College Open Evening
Tuesday 29th August	Interviews, at Oakura School. Appts. can be made through our school office.

Taranaki Arts Festival

We will travel by bus to TSB Showplace, both this and the cost of the show is covered by the Activity Fee.

Friday 25th August	An Awfully Big Adventure	1:00 pm
Wednesday 30th August	Anatomy of a Piano	10:00 am

Debating

Our Year 8 debating team is competing against Bell Block School next Tuesday morning in a semi-final. We wish Holly Stoddart, Lewis Thompson and Caeley Hattle all the best. Thanks to Lily Stoddart and Charlie Bridges for their hard work researching and being time keepers and chairpersons. We wish them the best of luck.

Technicraft

We still have some outstanding technicraft fees that need to be paid to our school office. The cost for our students to participate in Technicraft learning at Devon Intermediate is \$60 in total. This is \$25 for food technology, \$17.50 for metal, and \$17.50 for wood. Please pay these as soon as possible.

Careers Expo

Part of the year 7 & 8 curriculum is to learn about Careers and possible options and learning choices for students' futures. This year we are going to visit the Taranaki Careers Expo on **Monday 14th August**. All expenses have been paid for with the Activity Fee.

We look forward to a range of great learning this term. Please let us know if you'd like to play a more active part in our classrooms and learning and if there's anything you'd like to help with.

We envisage that students will need to talk to, and interview a range of business people and entrepreneurs in our community through their 'Build a Business' learning and in the successful development of their product. Please let us know if you are willing to be a contact person for this.

As always, please contact us at any time if you have any queries about our programs or learning.

Nga mihi,

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