

Kia ora/Greetings

Welcome to KNS

This week we welcomed two teachers from Saudi Arabia to our school with a powhiri. They will be working around the school learning about education and learning in New Zealand over the next six months.

Donation Scheme

Knighon Normal School took the opportunity to accept the government's offer of providing \$150 per student to go toward learning costs for 2020. This means that we can only ask for money from families for:

- stationery
- any extra activities (like music lessons or sports teams)
- buying a school hat
- a contribution to camp costs

This means that we won't be asking for parent donations this year. If you still wish to make a donation they will always be welcome.

Meet the Teacher Picnic

Thank you to the large number of parents who came along to our 'Meet the Teacher' evening. It was a great opportunity to have a chat in an informal environment. We look forward to having plenty of opportunities to connect throughout the year.

Thank you also to the parents who came to hear me talk about life at KNS. I have looked at requests from last year's parent survey and we will be holding information sessions about a range of topics throughout the year.

Getting Along

Another aspect of getting along is knowing what to do if things go wrong. Sometimes during life at school somebody can upset you with what they say or do. We talk to our children about using a strategy if they get upset or angry. This is using your 'WITS'.

W- Walk away

I- Ignore

T- Talk to someone about it

S- Seek help

Teacher Only Days this year

This year all schools in New Zealand have been given the opportunity to hold two teacher only days for curriculum development. We want to make sure we give you these dates with plenty of notice so you can organise child care for the day. The two dates that we have chosen are:

- **12th June** (Week 7, Term Two)
- **28th August** (Week 6, Term Three)

Online exchange

Last week a number of senior students were involved in online collaboration with Chinese teachers and students. As you may know Chinese students are unable to go to school due to the threat of the coronavirus. During our connection we shared what was special about NZ education and learning at KNS as well as learning a lot about what life is like in China at the moment..... What a great chance to learn about empathy and respect.



Reading Together Workshops

Do you want to know how you can help your children with reading? Come along to the Reading Together workshops.

Reading Together will help you to help your children to become readers who understand what they are reading. There are limited places.

See your teacher or Carmen Johnstone in Room 16 or cjohnstone@kns.ac.nz, for more information.

The dates for the 'Reading Together' Workshops are:

- February 26
- March 4th & 11th

Workshops are going to be held in the school Library, 5.30pm-6.30pm.



Weet-Bix Triathlon

Well done to the students who participated in the weet-bix triathlon on Sunday! 2,300 children competed Waikato wide and we are so proud to have Knighton children be apart of that.

Cultural Celebration

Every year in term one we celebrate our Cultural Diversity. We are a large school and we have about 52 different ethnicities at school. On 10th March, we will be holding our annual Cultural celebration which families and whanau are welcome to attend.

We hope as many families as possible can come to school wearing their national dress.

We are also hopeful that some families will be able to perform their national dance or even teach some of our students a dance or another aspect of their culture.



If interested, please contact Diane Cooper in the ELL centre.

There will be more information in next week's newsletter.

Hearing and Vision testing

Vision Hearing Technicians from Community and Southern Rural Health will be visiting our school on 17th March. The objective of the test is to identify previously undetected vision and hearing defects for students who have not previously been tested. But if any parents/caregivers **do not** want their child to be checked, or their child is currently under specialist care for a vision or hearing defect, they should let the school office know.

What tests are carried out?

Ears

Audiometry (hearing test)

Tympanometry – middle ear function test (only carried out when hearing test is not within a normal range)

Eyes

Long distance vision tests – not a complete visual examination, but a simple screening test

All of these checks are non-invasive, safe and should cause no discomfort.

Note: Please amend the Knighton School Term Dates flyer that went home with students last week.

Inter-school swimming - **26th March**

Day one Term Two - **28th April**

Back To School Costs

Work and Income has made a number of key changes to simplify the process for parents paying for their children's back to school costs. In many cases, these transactions can be approved via their contact centre service, which saves people having to come into their local office. Please inform parents about this service. The contact numbers are 0800 559 009 or 0800 552 002 for people receiving NZ Superannuation. Visit the Work and Income website for more information on back to school costs.

Please remember we are happy for you to pay for your child's stationery in instalments. Once the first payment is received, stationery will be issued - call at the office if you would like to organise this.



How much sleep do your children get each night? While there is no hard and fast rule, the general guide is toddlers **need** around 12 hours of sleep a night; **children** aged three to six – 10-12 hours; seven-12 years olds – 10-11 hours; and teenagers – around eight to nine hours.

Ngā mihi nui

Stuart Armistead
Principal