

Newsletter 1

7th February 2023

Tena koutou katoa

Nau mai hoki mai ki te kura. Welcome back to school everybody! As I mentioned in my community letter last week, I really hope everyone had some sort of a break over the last few months and got to spend time with loved ones.

We've had a great start to the new school year. The children have been settled and we're all looking forward to a wonderful year of learning. In the last week of January, our staff participated in two Professional Development days. We discussed the whakatauki, *Mā te whiritahi, ka whakatutuki ai ngā pūmanawa ā tāngata - Together weaving the realisation of potential*. This is our goal and our passion for our tamariki. There are many ways we, as adults, can help our children realise their potential, including helping them understand their identity, focusing on their strengths, and giving them life skills to deal effectively with frustration, anxiety, and going out of their 'comfort zone'.

Another goal of ours is to start the process of 'reconnecting' with our community. This term we will be having our **Whānau/Kaiako** (Family/Teacher) **Picnic** on Tuesday 21st February; community evening performances and lessons in **Fire Performance with Te Ahi Ora** in Week 9; and our annual **Cultural Festival** on Wednesday 5th April. More information around these community events will come out over the coming weeks.

Lastly, we have had a couple of staffing changes since our last newsletter late last year. Deb Wilson is now teaching at Koromatua School and has been replaced by Carol Morris for Term One. We will be appointing a permanent teacher for Akomanga 27 to start in term 2. Chanel Doyle, our Receptionist finished at the end of the year and has been replaced by Lorraine Hooper. We wish Deb and Chanel all the best for their new adventures and thank them for their contribution to our kura.

Playtime Visits

Enrolled pre-schoolers can attend Play Time sessions with their parents/caregivers. These sessions are held once a week for up to 10 weeks prior to starting school and will start tomorrow Wednesday 8th February 2:00 - 2:40pm



Cool Schools is a peer mediation programme developed by the Foundation for Peace Studies that has running at Knighton School for many years

Each year a team of children are trained in conflict resolution skills and are appointed as peer mediators within the school. Mediators are on duty in pairs in the playground every lunchtime, and are available for children to approach to help them resolve any conflicts they have been unable to sort out for themselves.

Mediators meet regularly with the coordinator for ongoing feedback and training. Their first training session will be tomorrow Wednesday 8th February

Health and Wellbeing

Please be mindful of the following messages concerning the health & wellbeing of the tamariki (children) at Knighton school.



NO NUTS - There are several children at Knighton who will have a *life threatening anaphylactic reaction* if they eat or touch peanuts and various other nuts or food that may have traces of nuts. These can be found in muesli bars, peanut butter, snack bars and other food products.

Any trace of nut oils left on your child's skin may be transferred to other children during play or class time and this may cause an anaphylactic reaction.

Our school policy around food and nutrition promotes a healthy food and drink environment for our children so we ask that:



NO SWEETS and **WATER ONLY** be sent to school.

A healthy food and drink environment helps support a young person's wellbeing (hauora), including behaviour, learning, concentration and energy, as well as their physical health. When students eat a nutritious diet, they find it easier to learn. It also helps establish positive behaviours for the future. Good nutrition is essential for the healthy growth and development of children and young people.

School Assemblies

Each area of the school hold regular weekly assemblies in the school hall to celebrate successes, share learning experiences and participate in waiata (singing). You are most welcome to attend these assemblies.

- Year 1 Friday 9:10am in Room 19
- Year 2 Monday 11:50am
- Years 3/4 Thursday 12:30pm
- Years 5/6 Friday 12:30pm (starting week 3)

Communication via APPs

School App, Dojo, Seesaw explained:



'SchoolappsNZ' - free. You can download and install 'SchoolappsNZ' free from the Google Play or App Store, then search Knighton Normal School.

- Alerts you of any school wide notices, including emergencies
- Easiest way to let us know if your child will not be at school - this is our preferred method of receiving absentee messages
- Subscribe to and receive timely alerts from different school groups, including sport registration information, practice and game changes
- View and add school events to your own phone calendar
- Links you to school newsletters, class newsletters and sports notices.



ClassDojo



Seesaw

ClassDojo and Seesaw are the main forms of communication between the teacher and the parent/caregiver. Your child's teacher can share individual or class:

- Messages
- Photos
- Examples of school work
- Learning resources

Do not use ClassDojo or Seesaw to let the teacher know your child won't be at school, please use 'SchoolappsNZ'

General School Reminders

- ALL toys are to remain at home please. This includes collectable cards.
- Knighton hats are the only hats to be worn at school so please no caps from home. Hats can be purchased at [myKindo](#) or at the school office.
- Our playground can get very muddy and slippery. Please ensure your child has a spare set of clothes kept in their school bag at all times so if accidents happen they can easily get changed.
- Please put your child's name on all belongings and all items of clothing, including footwear. In the swimming season (terms 1 and 4) underwear, togs and towels should also be named.

Online Kindo Shop

2023 Stationery Packs can be purchased online.

Our online shop is open 24/7 and this is our preferred method to receive payments. You can use this service (at no extra cost) to pay for all students' stationery, trips, and activities throughout the year. Register your family at our Kindo online shop at [mykindo.co.nz](#) using your email address and listing your *children's names*, with *their current room numbers*, as 'Members'. Your family login will be saved for any future payments. For more information see our website.



music house

Music Lessons at Knighton

Children have the opportunity to learn to play the guitar, ukulele, piano, drums or sing; individual, pair or group lessons during school hours. For information and enrolment details [musichouse.co.nz](#) or contact Sam Trenwith - 021 845 888

Andrew Campbell
Principal