



ADDRESS | 45 Knighton Road, Hamilton, 3216

PHONE | (07) 856 5399

FAX / ANSWERPHONE | (07) 856 5393

WEBSITE | www.kns.ac.nz

PRINCIPAL | Andrew Campbell PGDip. Org. Behaviour, B.Ed., Dip.T.

7 February 2023

Kia ora, talofa, nǐ hǎo, malo e lelei,

Welcome to Akomanga 28 for 2023! It has been a fantastic first four days as we settle back into the routines and structures of school.

PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Our school focus for Term 1 is 'Mahi Tahī - Getting Along.' This is important as we all settle into new spaces and friendships. 'Getting along' is a huge part of our year and will set everybody up to be successful. We are working on our classroom culture and learning what it means to be a learner in our space at this time.

CLASS DOJO

We use Class Dojo to communicate with parents and showcase our work in class. It's fantastic to see so many of you are already connected. A letter was sent home last week explaining how to join. For those of you that are not already connected to Class Dojo, please follow the instructions to download the app. On Dojo, students showcase their writing, special projects and the occasional piece of video work. You will also be able to comment and give feedback on their work.

LITERACY

Our focus is twofold in literacy. We are examining examples written by authors. Once we understand what they've done in their writing, we'll use that to inspire our own writing. Meanwhile, in reading, we are focussing on reading for comprehension (understanding). This involves learning about several different reading strategies and practising them on an appropriately levelled text.

MATHS

Our term starts with some in-class maths. We will learn some maths games before focussing on some of our basic facts to end the term. In Week 3, your child will be put in a maths class that suits their learning needs. We use the Prime maths programme in class.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We operate on an "Every Body Counts" philosophy. This is a philosophy where we focus on fundamental skills rather than games for fun. We each try to improve our skills in a variety of areas and then apply them to game situations. Our main areas of focus this first term are: swimming, to tie into our swimming festival; a range of team challenge activities that involve teamwork, thinking skills, and communication skills and later in the term we have athletics where our focus switches to running, jumping and throwing.

SWIMMING

We swim every Monday and Friday. It is a part of the New Zealand curriculum, and this year has shown how important it is for students to learn how to swim and to be safe around water. Please ensure that your child brings their swimwear. If they are not able to swim for any reason, they require a note or a message through the Dojo App.

HOMEWORK:

As long as your child is reading for about 20 minutes each night and working on learning or remembering their mathematics basic facts, I don't set extra homework.

SPARE CLOTHES

Please ensure that your child has a spare pair of named clothing in their bag throughout the year. There are many times that they may become muddy, wet or need a change for some other reason. This is important for terms 1 and 2, and even more so for terms 3 and 4.

GRADUATE TEACHERS

Knighton works closely with the University of Waikato and their teacher training programme. While not confirmed, we will most likely have a student or student teachers working with us throughout the first three terms. They will take on various parts of the teaching load as their placement progresses.

ALLERGIES

We have a number of students who have a range of allergies in our classroom including allergies to nuts, It is an important time to remind ourselves to keep our lunchboxes nut-free. If you could support us by sending nut-free lunches (including no Nutella or hazelnut spreads) that would be greatly appreciated.

WHAT'S ON WHEN

SWIMMING SPORTS

Friday 17 Mar, Week 7. 9 am - 12.30 pm.

We have our school swimming sports taking place at Boys High. This day will see our competitive swimmers take part in their races followed by all students taking part in our "Festival of swimming."

ATHLETICS

Week 6 and Week 7

Senior school students will be taking part in athletics where we focus on learning to run, jump, and throw. This will be done in our own class and students will rotate through a range of activities over the course of a couple of weeks. We then have our competitive athletics and festival of fun on Wednesday, 22nd March.



REMINDERS

- **MEDICATION:** A reminder that a consent form must be filled in and left at the office for any medication administered at school. All medication remains in the office for safekeeping during the day.
- **CELL PHONES:** We prefer children to leave cell phones at home, but understand that some children require a cell phone for safety reasons and to contact family members after school. Children must be responsible with their cell phones, using them appropriately and not during the school day.
- **LEAVE:** I have been given leave in Week 5 so I will not be in class teaching that week. My hope is that a reliever is found for the whole week.

A BIT ABOUT ME

<p>I am married to Jessica and we have 3 children. Katelyn (about to turn 19) has left school; Isaac (13) attends Hillcrest High, and Abigail (11) attends Berkley Normal Middle School</p>		<p><u>Favourite pastimes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hockey, cricket, reading, hiking, running, puzzles, fishing, and playing strategy games. <p><u>Favourite subjects:</u> Maths, science, and art</p>
<p><u>Favourite treat:</u> Chocolate <u>Favourite food:</u> Homemade burgers <u>Favourite drink:</u> Mac's feijoa, pear, and elderflower</p>		<p><u>Favourite holiday spot</u> Whangamata at my in-law's place, or camping at Matauri Bay in Northland.</p>

My door is always open and I am always pleased to have visits from family, so please, pop in and see me sometime!

Kind Regards

David Hannah

dhannah@kns.ac.nz