

7th March 2023

### Tena koutou katoa

This week we received thereport, "Attendance: Getting Back to School", by Te Ihuwaka Education Evaluation Centre. As you will be aware, attendance at NZ schools is lower than other comparable countries and attendance levels have been falling since 2015. At Knighton, the level of students attending regularly (90% or more) has steadily increased since Term 1 of last year and is continuing to do so this year. This is pleasing as we know that regular attendance significantly helps children with their learning. We are continuing to work proactively with families and whānau who are struggling to get their children to school regularly.

It is very important that children get to school on time ready for learning. The first bell goes at 8.55am and learning starts at 9.00am. Children tend to be more settled and ready for learning if they arrive at school before this time so they can set themselves up and reconnect with their teacher and friends. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

As we move into autumn, children will start bringing warmer clothing to school. Please talk to your children about placing their clothing in their bags if they need to take them off, and labelling them as well.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who managed to make it to our whānau picnic the other week. It was really nice to see so many families attend. As I've said before, we no longer take these kind of community events for granted.



**Do you want to know how you can help your children with reading?**

Our 'Reading Together' workshops will help your children to become readers who understand what they are reading.

Workshops will be held in our School Library on Wednesdays the 8th, 15th and 22nd of March from 5:30-6:30pm. There are limited places. See your child's teacher or Carmen Johnstone in Room 16, [cjohnstone@kns.ac.nz](mailto:cjohnstone@kns.ac.nz) for more information.

## Black & White Fundraiser

Last Friday's dress up day to raise funds for kura (schools) affected by Cyclone Gabrielle in the Hawke's Bay area was very successful. We raised a whopping **\$643** that will go directly to the kura.

Thank you to our student councillors for organising this event and to you all for your generous contributions.

## Sports

Knighton Junior **FOOTBALL** Club - Registration Day **SUNDAY 12th March; 2:00pm** at Knighton School. A registration form has gone home today with every student. N.B. this is a private club and we do not take registration forms or money at the school office.

**HOCKEY** - if your child is interested in playing Saturday hockey in a school team please let their teacher know or email [dhannah@kns.ac.nz](mailto:dhannah@kns.ac.nz)

## Mark your Calendar

**School will be closed on the following dates:**

24th April - Teacher only day  
25th April - ANZAC day  
16th June - Teacher only day



N.B. Term 2 starts on Wednesday 26th April

## Kapa Haka

At Knighton we are fortunate to have so many opportunities for our students to participate in a variety of cultural activities that align with our school values.

Mainstream Kapa Haka is tutored by Matua Te Ohomauri and Matua Te Taonga. Each Friday afternoon for 20 minutes, tamariki (children) will learn about waiata-a-ringa (action songs). They will work towards performances at the end of each term. Term 1 ~ cultural parade, Term 2 ~ Matariki, Term 3 ~ te wiki o te reo Māori, and Term 4 ~ end of year assemblies.

If your child is in a mainstream class and you would like them to participate in the weekly kapa haka session please return a signed permission form to your child's teacher. This form is [available from our website](#) or from the school office.

### Helpful guide to understanding Road Patrol calls at our crossings



At Knighton Normal School we run a 'staggered' calling system. Each patroller calls **"SIGNS OUT"** when their side of the road is clear.

- LEAD Patroller: says **"SIGNS OUT"**; places their sign out & raises their left arm
- When the other side of the road is clear the other team member: says **"SIGNS OUT"**; places their sign out & raises their left arm
- LEAD: **"CHECK"** - Both patrollers check both directions
- Other team member: **"CLEAR"** - Calls 'clear' once cars have stopped/slowed down
- LEAD **"CROSS NOW"** - Left arms are lowered whilst people cross
- Left arm raised again after last person has walked past them.
- LEAD **"SIGNS IN"** - both patrollers walk sign backwards, keeping eye on traffic

Fun in the pool on the Middle School Team Building Day



### Has your child lost their shoes, togs, towel, sweatshirt or other item of clothing?



Please come and look through the lost property outside Mrs Cowie's office. Tomorrow, if fine, it will be displayed on the courts.

**All unnamed belongings that are not claimed by the end of the day will go to a second hand shop.**

## Middle School Team Building Day

Highlights from some of the Middle School teachers  
Last Friday the Middle School held their annual team building morning. The children had fun working together with their classmates and getting to know the middle school teachers. There were lots of different activities, including an obstacle course expertly designed by Savannah and Hazel in Room 10, relays and Cat & Mouse which helped tamariki to focus on taking turns as well as developing strategies to win a game through teamwork and cooperative games.

*We were lucky to have hot, sunny weather, and the children loved cooling off in the pool! They loved the chance to get into teams of 5 and complete the 'Rubber Chicken Challenge'. Opportunities were given for teams to discuss strategy and trial their ideas.*  
Children had fun working together to get their team across a virtual river with hungry crocodiles lurking. As a team they used various equipment to move their team from one side to the other without falling off the apparatus. The children worked together to maneuver different sized balls, passing it to each other down the line using their feet only. There was loads of laughter as the children cheered each other on, showing outstanding sportsmanship.

### Community Notice:

For information about the **Te Miro MTB Club** Saturday Morning Kids Rides and the Waikato BOP Schools XC MTB Champs 2023 Ph/Text Heidi for more information - 027 341 2228 or contact by email [Heidi.lj.07@gmail.com](mailto:Heidi.lj.07@gmail.com) [www.temiromtbclub.co.nz](http://www.temiromtbclub.co.nz)

Ngā mihi nui  
Andrew Campbell  
Principal