

It's been a great start back to school this term. One of the many things I love about Knighton is the friendly faces of the children along with their warm, genuine natures as they greet me in the morning and ask how my holiday was. A value at Knighton Normal School is Turangawaewae - Belonging, and I feel this works both ways at our kura. We aspire to make all our students and whānau have a sense of belonging and I feel the students also give our staff a sense of belonging which is lovely.

As you will be aware, the school recently acquired the building at the back of our property that was used for Whaihanga for many years. As from next year, we will be creating a new Hauora Hub in the building. We are very excited about this project and the potential it has to make a difference in the lives of our children. We will get more information out about it later this term.

Last Friday, we had our first whole school Connections Time. This is a fifteen minute block, at the end of the children's break time, when the children stay out to play and the adults in the school come out to join and connect with them. It was so nice to see adults and children playing together. This is something we hope to continue with.



Focus on Attendance

In line with the Government's focus on attendance and recommendations from our recent Education Review Office visit, we are increasing our attention on the high student absence and lateness numbers at Knighton. Our future newsletters will be highlighting

the importance of attendance. Post COVID we have had so many mixed messages and now we want to focus on all of our tamariki attending all of the time (with a few exceptions). This is so that they can get the most out of their school experience and be the best that they can be.

It's important to make sure your tamariki are showing up to school every day. Good attendance is the key to success and a brighter future. It's everyone's responsibility to encourage positive attendance.

It was great to see that one day last week our attendance rate was just over 90% for the first time since March.

Ko Rata me ngā Tamariki a Tāne (Rata and the Children of Tane)

One day a man called Rata went into the ngāhere trying to find the biggest rakau to build a waka. After a lot of searching, he found a huge tōtara rākau and with all his mighty strength he chopped down the giant rākau. He would return in the ata...

Rata returned to the ngāhere and to his surprise the rākau was kia tū ano - standing again. Rata tried feeling for any marks where he had chopped down the rakau the day before engari (but) didn't find anything so he chopped it down again and would return the next ata...

Rata came back to the ngāhere and the rākau was upright AGAIN! He thought for a moment, and then he used his toki to chop it down again, this time he hid ki muri - behind a rock and saw all the manu and ngāngara looking at the fallen tōtara rakau. They began grabbing all the little wood bits that had fallen onto Papatūānuku from when Rata had chopped the rakau totara down. They put all the pieces back in place. Then Rata jumped out of his hiding place and said, "what's going on, that's supposed to be my rakau?" Kākāpo told Rata, "that's not your tree, it belongs to Tane Mahuta and you didn't ask before you chopped down the giant rakau.

Rata fell to the ground and held out his toki, he placed a fern down on the ground next to the tōtara and finally he understood that he had to ask Tane Mahuta before he chopped anything in the ngāhere down. All the manu said that they would help Rata build his waka, so he could travel to lots of places in the taiao.



Story Retold & Artwork by Ella Dudley A30



KNIGHTON SCHOOL HATS

During term 4 and term 1 Knighton hats must be worn when students are outdoors. You can be purchase at the office or via MyKindo <https://kindo.co.nz/> for \$10.00

Vision and Hearing Checks in School

Vision & Hearing Technicians will be visiting our school on **Monday 13 November**. The objective of the test is to identify previously undetected vision and hearing defects.

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 know.

The technicians will check children who have not completed vision and hearing checks as part of their Before School Check, and children absent from previous visits or who require retests or follow up.

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

SPORT

Knighton Normal School are the Term 3 year 5/6 winners of the Hamilton Kiwi Volley league. They worked hard to learn the volleyball skills during lunchtime training and took out the final convincingly. They showed determination and confidence on court, as well as great sportsmanship. Well done to Olivia, Tkeelar, Rylee, Atairangi, Harper, Maliyka-Jhae and Caiden.



Reminder:

Please return you Knighton Soccer Kit to the office with student and team names attached.



Lost Property

Please come and look through the lost property outside Mrs Cowie's office regularly.

Named items can be returned to children but unfortunately most of the clothing that is lost by children is unnamed.

All unnamed belongings that are not claimed are donated to a second hand shop.



If you have any spare pants, leggings or shorts with elasticated waists and in good condition we would appreciate donations to the office.

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



- Come along to the **Reading Together** workshops.
- Reading Together will help your children to become readers who understand what they are reading.
- Workshops will be held on Friday the 27th October, 3rd of November and 10th November from 9.30-10.30am. Workshops will be held at Knighton school. There are limited places. See your teacher or Carmen Johnstone (cjohnstone@kns.ac.nz) in Room 16, for more information.



Note your calendar

23 October - Labour Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

17 November - Teacher Only Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

15 December - 1.00pm - END OF TERM 4

1 February 2024 - 9.00am TERM 1 BEGINS

Ngā mihi nui

Andrew Campbell

Principal