



CLASS PHOTO 14/02/19 (Absent: Raphael Sharp, Ebony Manning)

Tōtara Term 2 Newsletter

May 2019

Welcome to Term 2!

Timetables have been finalised and all programmes are underway for Totara Year 7 and 8 class.

Subjects for Term 2 are:

- Maths
- History
- Science
- PE
- Art
- Health
- Hard Technology

Bell times remain the same as previously and are as follows:

8.55am	Form time/Roll
9.00am	LB1 A
10.00am	LB1 B
11.00am	Interval
11.20am	LB2
12.50pm	Lunch
1.30pm	LB3
3.00pm	Home time

SECONDARY INFORMATION

SECONDARY TEAM

While it is only Week 2, this term is already racing by and when I look at the calendar, there are so many opportunities ahead for our students. The time is definitely going to fly by.

Congratulations to those students who represented KAS at regional events during Term One – we received lots of positive reports about how well they represented our school. Thank you to all those parents that provided transport or support at those events as well. We are very proud of Jack Yr 9 and Julian's Yr 10 selection to attend the Area Schools' Nationals in Rotorua later this year.

We have had some staffing changes in both Primary and Secondary Teams – big thank you to Whaea Tina for the Food Tech and Soft Tech lessons she took

during Term 1. This term there are other new subjects on some students' timetables – a generic timetable is attached to this newsletter.

WELCOME to Chris Ralph who has now joined the Secondary Team. He is taking a myriad of classes and sharing his passion for history with our students.

ATTENDANCE: Thank you to the parents and caregivers who inform our school office immediately when their child is going to be absent due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances:

- phone school anytime as our absence message operates 24/7,
- email the school office kgrey@karamea.school.nz and your child's form teacher
- send a note via our SchoolStream app

It is also really important to inform the school and your child's Form teacher of planned absences with as much notice as possible. If your child is planning to be absent from school for longer than 5 days, then a letter/email to the principal is required.

With unjustifiable absences (according to the MOE attendance codes), it is your child's responsibility to catch up on their missed classwork and this may be done at home or in their break time. If your child is not present for assessments, teachers may not be able to offer further opportunities.

NOTE: Year 11 – 14 students have different assessment conditions under NCEA guidelines.

STUDENT WELLBEING: During the winter months as the days become shorter and colder, it is important for your child's wellbeing to ensure healthy eating, rehydration and plenty of rest/sleep (are they getting uninterrupted sleep by turning their cell phones off?).

Looking forward to another great term ahead

Michelle Maiava

mmaiava@karamea.school.nz

Here is a little about what is happening in individual subjects

LITERACY

Literacy is all about the integration of Science and Term 3's production "Alice in Wonderland".

There will be a specific focus on Reading this Term which will be based on the classic novel "Alice in Wonderland" Students will develop skills to clearly identify character traits and how to write

effective synopsis. This is to better prepare them for the production and for the expectations of the Year 9 curriculum.

Students will also be working on a term long topic of inquiry that integrates a range of curriculum subjects including Writing and Reading, Science, History and Art centred around the theme of "The Living World; Evolution and Adaptation. We will be considering essential questions focused around this topic and apply the questions to the learning that relate to the curriculum objectives at level 4.

Students will need to continue to demonstrate appropriate editing skills with spelling errors corrected, and the grammar that is appropriate.

Brett Mawson

MATHS

This Term Totara have started on their journey of deepening their understanding of patterns in Algebra. Moving forward the foci of the term is to revise Algebraic Equations and Expressions and then apply these to how algebra is used and interpreted when creating patterns, identifying relationships in patterns and how to graph these relationships.

Brett Mawson

HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCES

In Term 2, Totara students will be learning about the FIRST ENCOUNTERS (1642-1820) that took place between European (British, Spanish, French et cetera) and Maori. It has been 250 years since Captain James Cook arrived in this country and it is a great opportunity for us to look back at history to see, for

ourselves, what our nation was like in the former years and how events progressed. Students will be exploring ONE historical figure associated with these encounters and conducting an historical inquiry to look at the impact that person had on our history.

Chris Ralph

VISUAL ART

During the first half of Term 2 Totara will focus on observational drawing skills to show detailed scientific drawings of their selected creature and plant. This is integrated with the science programme.

As the term progresses students classes will start to use design elements to create 3 Dimensional props and/or costumes for Term 3's production.

Brett Mawson

PE

This term the class is focusing on communication and participation during our joined 7-8 and 9-10 PE sessions. We are exploring a variety of activities in which students in the older years are being given some leadership opportunities and where possible students with a passion for a specific sport are able to share some expertise with their peers. Each Monday students are experiencing a different physical activity/sport and assessing their personal participation levels and why.

During our individual Totara PE classes, we are focusing on specific motor skills with badminton as our current context. Students are enthusiastic and engaged and progress looks likely to be swift and extensive

Vicky Chandler

HEALTH

To tie in with our Monday PE sessions, health this term is based around self-belief, self-talk and their relationship with participation in sport and personal development and achievement. Already we have had some interesting class discussions and students will be able to monitor themselves and self-reflect in our practical settings.

Vicky Chandler

DRAMA

Drama last term saw Totara students go from strength to strength as they developed their Actor's Toolbox. Their use of voice, body and facial expressions all improved through their workshops and their learning culminated in a Puppet Show performance to Nikau class, who provided some lovely feedback for our Drama learners. It was wonderful to see each individual develop their own characters, voice and write their own scripts for the performance, and even better, to show such confidence and enjoyment during the performance. It was exciting and pleasing to see. This term the Drama continues, and we are combining forces with Mr Mawson and the Kahikatea English class. The focus for the drama lessons this term will be developing and understanding character and characterisations and learning about productions. We will be linking our learning with the opportunity to audition for our own school show, Alice in Wonderland, and developing an individual performance from characters in the play. While this term they are still looking at devising and developing characters, we are beginning to consider the idea of Page to Stage and making

characters come alive using our Actor's Tool kit from last term. We are really looking forward to combining our strengths with those of Kahikatea to continue to build our self-confidence and enjoyment of Drama.

Karlene Rainham

CHINESE/MANDARIN

Students have developed a large vocabulary last Term, and using role playing, drama and online Canvas tasks they have developed in confidence and now have a great vocabulary tool box from which to work from. They will be able to introduce themselves, give basic instructions, ask Mandarin speakers to repeat themselves and engage in meetings and greetings. They will be doing verbal assessments with their Chinese teacher, Miss Jessica Li, over the next couple of weeks. (ask your children to introduce her name in Mandarin and see for yourself how well they have done!) This term Mr Ralph will be facilitating the lessons with Ms Jessica Li, however I will continue to support their learning and look forward to seeing their progress in their second module this term. They have definitely surpassed my limited mandarin; I need to do more homework!! Please feel free to contact me or Mr Ralph should you have any questions or wish to sit in on one of our lessons to see how it works. It really is an impressive set up and the students have enjoyed it when Jessica shares glimpses of her real life in China, both out the window in Shenzhen, but especially her new dog, Stormy!!

Karlene Rainham

SCIENCE

This Term the Science strand is 'The Living World'. Specifically, students will broaden their awareness that New Zealand has native flora and fauna which have adapted to live and grow in specific isolated habitats. They will work towards producing a science journal that will demonstrate that they can recognise that there are life processes common to all living things and that these occur in different ways.

The learning goal for students is to:

- Explain how living things are suited to their habitat and how they respond to environmental changes, both natural and human-induced.
- Begin to group plants, animals, and other living things into science-based classifications.
- Explore how the groups of living things we have in the world have changed over long periods of time and appreciate that some living things in New Zealand are quite different from living things in other areas of the world.

Brett Mawson

TECHNOLOGY

I have been really impressed with the enthusiasm and skill being shown by Totara to date. There were some really good LED torches illuminating us last term. This term in Hard Materials Technology we will be working on wood-based projects. We will start with a small dragster racing car that will give the students an opportunity to practice through housing joints. This joint will then be constructed again in our main

project which is a small book shelf.

Niki Adams

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Secondary school can be stressful for some students. There is an increase in deadlines and work expectations as the students continue their education.

It is important for all students to look after their health and manage their time appropriately to minimize stress.

Each student has received a student diary to help with monitoring deadlines, progress and managing self.

Below are some tips for success this year:

- Set clear goals for what you hope to achieve this year, term, week, day.
- Write all assignments and deadlines in your diary.
- Ask questions when you do not understand
- Listen carefully in class and take on board feedback
- Let your teachers know if you will be absent for any reason
- Take responsibility to catch up with work if you fall behind
- Discuss topics with your peers and parents
- Explain your answers to others.
- Get outside in your spare time.
- Limit unnecessary time spent on devices.
- Snack on brain food.
- Stay well hydrated
- Gets lots of zzzzzzz's

Parents can help support students by having in depth discussions in

the evening regarding current subject topics.

DATES FOR THIS TERM:

Tuesday 14 May
WCSS Boys' Football
Tournament, Reefton

Wednesday 15 May
School Cross Country
BOT meeting

Thursday 16 May
Playhouse Theatre visit

Friday 24 May
BOT elections Nominations close

Monday 27 May
St Johns with Years 1 – 10

Friday 31 May
SECONDARY REPORTS GO HOME

Friday 7 June
Voting closes BOT Elections

Wednesday 12 June
WCSS Swimming sports
Big Art Tour TBC

Monday 17 June
Secondary EOTC Survival Day
TBC

Wednesday 19 June
Yrs 11 – 13 Careers Pathways
Roadshow, Westport
BOT meeting

Monday 1 – Friday 5 July
Literacy Week

Wednesday 3 July
Speeches TBC

OTHER INFORMATION

Teacher contact information:

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If you have any concerns or queries about things happening within the classrooms, please contact the appropriate teacher first and foremost.

We strive for positive communication between school, students and whanau so we are always happy to make an appointment to meet with parents and caregivers as needed.

Thanks for reading the Totara class newsletter. We are expecting wonderful achievements this year and will be sending out updates and newsletters every term.

Please see attached Totara weekly timetable.

We look forward to meeting with you throughout the year. Be sure to introduce yourselves to our new staff if you see them out and about!

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries or concerns.

Yours faithfully,

The Secondary Team

CLASS TIMETABLE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Form time (8.55-9am)	<i>TOTARA</i>	<i>TOTARA</i>	<i>TOTARA</i>	<i>TOTARA</i>	<i>TOTARA</i>
LB1 A (9-10am)	MATHS (BM) in Room 4	TECHNOLOGY (NA) in Hard Materials Room	MATHS (BM) in Room 4	7 & 8 (CR) in Room 4	7 & 8 (CR) in Room 4
LB1 B (10-11am)	HEALTH (VC) in Room 4	MATHS (BM) in Room 4	P.E. (VC) in Room 4	MATHS (BM) in Room 4	7 & 8 (CR) in Room 4
<i>Interval</i> (11-11.20am)					
LB2 (11.20-12.50pm)	P.E. (VC) in Room 5	P.E. (VC) in Room 4	7 & 8 (BM) in Room 4	7 & 8 (BM) in Room 4	7 & 8 (BM) in Room 4
<i>Lunch</i> (12.50-1.30pm)					
LB3 (1.30-3pm)	7 – 10 DRAMA (KR & BM) in Room 4	TECHNOLOGY (NA) in Hard Materials Room	CHINESE (CR) in Library / Computer Room	7 & 8 (CR) in Room 4	ART (BM) in Art Room
	2.30pm PB4L OR 2.15pm Celebration Assembly - LIBRARY				