



Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa – Welcome back to all our students who are returning as Year 4s and a warm welcome to those who are new to Te Rau o Te Rangi Syndicate. We hope you all had an enjoyable summer break with your whānau.

TERAUOTERANGI-OURTEAM

Check out our staff profiles in our school website - [click here](#)

During Term 1, Katherine Schimanski will be acting deputy principal 3 days a week (Weeks 1-6 Mon-Wed, Weeks 7-11 Thur-Fri). Lucy Brice will be teaching in Room 4 whilst Katherine is on deputy duties.

Aretha Harris will be acting Syndicate Leader for Katherine and Mandy Shaw will be covering her release every fortnight.

GETINTOUCH

If you have any questions or queries during the year, please get in touch with your child's class teacher. Unfortunately, within the red level restrictions, whānau and caregivers are not allowed in the classrooms. However, we aim to celebrate your child's work through Seesaw. We also have several platforms that we use to communicate with you all. We use Seesaw, email (see below) and Hero.

We encourage you to visit your child's HERO pages. Teachers will be updating the online goals throughout the year to allow you to see what your child is currently working on and to celebrate those recently achieved goals. All syndicate notices will also be posted on the HERO - Linc-ED App.

Teacher	Room	Email
Katherine Schimanski/Lucy Brice	4	k.schimanski@waikanae.school.nz l.brice@waikanae.school.nz
Aretha Harris Elayne Moore	22/23	a.harris@waikanae.school.nz e.moore@waikanae.school.nz
Natasha Nilsson	3	n.nilsson@waikanae.school.nz
Cat Clare	9	c.clare@waikanae.school.nz

ROUTINES

As students enter the exciting world of being in Year 3/4, we aim to build children's independence so they are able to take charge of their own learning and organisation. It is **REALLY** important that they are at school before the bell rings at 9.00am. This will give them time to develop their independence skills by unpacking their own bag and completing any morning jobs. Likewise, they should not be at school before 8.30am as the teachers need time to prepare and organise activities for the day ahead.

For the first few weeks, our learning focus is on setting classroom routines and assessing where the children are at.

CURRICULUM FOCUS



Reading – Reading together is a wonderful way of fostering literacy in young children. Daily reading has benefits that go way beyond childhood. Establishing the skills needed for reading is vital for work and everyday activities such as filling out forms and following written instructions. We strongly encourage children to read for at least 15 minutes each night. Some students may bring home readers home, however not all. As they become fluent in reading, we encourage them to read for pleasure. To be an independent reader they need to be able to borrow books from libraries and build a love of reading. Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children and opens up their imagination. It also improves empathy and it gives them an insight into the world and the views of others.

In class we focus on comprehension, predicting, vocabulary, reasoning and background knowledge amongst many other strategies so reading a book of their choice at home is highly recommended. Magazines, annuals, factual books, recipes, advertisements, flyers are all great texts for reading!



Chapter Chat - We read to the students every day during our morning tea 'Read and Feed' sessions. Students love these sessions and carrying out activities during the term based around the stories we read. We have started reading, 'The Wild Robot'.



Spelling – Spelling lessons will start after we have completed assessments. Each week the students will learn spelling rules and spelling patterns. We will also practise these daily in class through a range of activities and focused group work. We provide a structured programme, giving students the skills and strategies they need to read, spell and write confidently. Using evidence-based research, our aim is for our students to make connections, to become lifelong and confident literacy learners by using a multi-sensory approach and not just rely on the visual recall of words. This year we will be introducing students to the STEPsWeb programme which will complement our Spelling programme.



Maths – This term we will be looking at statistics, place value, addition and subtraction and algebra. We will be using Mathletics and tasks will be set that may be completed at home or at school. These will be connected to our current focus in class. If there are no tasks to complete, children can select tasks to complete or practise their basic facts through playing Mathletics live.



Inquiry – Our inquiry topic this term focuses on the big idea of 'Ko wai au?' - Who are we? We will focus on children understanding their own culture, where they live and how it feels to

belong somewhere. They will learn about themselves, how they think they learn best and how they can make informed choices to achieve and maintain well-being.

ZERO WASTE AT WAIKANAES SCHOOL

So many of you are on board already which is awesome! Our school continues to work towards reducing the amount of waste that we generate. Both students and staff can contribute to our zero waste goals by taking home any rubbish from their lunch boxes. Food scraps from lunches will be sent to our worm farm and compost bins, but all other waste will be put back into the students' lunch boxes and taken home. We encourage families to think of ways to send lunches to school that require as little packaging as possible. Together we can make a difference.



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

We aim to prepare students with critical 21st-century skills. Digital citizenship is about confident and positive engagement with digital technologies. By educating students about digital citizenship, they will have the opportunity to develop an understanding about the following concepts: digital and information literacy, internet safety, privacy and security.

Students in Year 3/4 learn to use chromebooks in clever and confident ways to be smart digital learners.

ACTIVITY FEES

This term's activity fees will cover:

Mathletics

StepsWeb

Stationery - Books Only

We are really looking forward to the year ahead and working alongside you all. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. You can email us directly or phone and leave a message at the office.

Ngā Mihi,

Katherine, Cat, Natasha, Elayne and Aretha