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PRINCIPAL | Stuart Armistead M.Ed. (Educational Leadership), B.Ed., Dip.T.

Kia ora parents, whanau and caregivers.

Welcome to Room 28. I am looking forward to working with the children and families this year! It will be a busy start to the year as we get to know each other and settle into new routines.

PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Our school focus for Term 1 is 'Mahi Tahī - Getting Along.' This is hugely important as we all settle into our new spaces and new friendships. So much has changed for our young people since last year, some have changed classes, teachers, areas of the school, and some have even changed schools. Getting along is a huge part of our year and will set everybody up to be successful. To me, the following whakatauki speaks to this aspect of our life at Knighton.

“E hara taku toa i te toa takitahi. Engari, he toa takatini - My strength is not that of a single warrior but that of many.”

CLASS DOJO

We will use Class Dojo to communicate with parents and showcase our work in class. Before I can set up your child on Class Dojo, I need permission from a parent or guardian. It's fantastic to see so many of you are already connected to Class Dojo. A letter has been sent home for those of you that are not already connected to Class Dojo.

On Dojo, students will 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

This term has a focus on writing, where we begin by trying to increase our writing fluency. This will happen through our quick writes and our 100-word challenge. We will also be developing our understanding of punctuation by looking at various sentence structures and trying to imitate them.

MATHS

Our term starts with some in-class maths, followed by testing before we get into our cross grouping classes. We will be working through PRIME where we have a focus on number knowledge and strategies.

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 for this first term will be swimming, to tie into our swimming festival, as well as throwing, jumping and running, tying in with our Athletics.

SWIMMING

We swim each Tuesday and Thursday. It is a part of the New Zealand curriculum, but it is also hugely important for students in a country surrounded by 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 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 term 1 and 2, and even more so for terms 3 and 4.

'Education Outside The Classroom'

In Term 4, our senior school students will take part in our Education Outside the Classroom. The costs are still to be confirmed. Payment options and more information will follow as it becomes available.

WHAT'S ON WHEN

MEET THE TEACHER

Tuesday 11th February, Week 2 5 pm – 8 pm.

Come along and enjoy a picnic dinner, games, and an opportunity to meet the principal, Stuart, followed by an opportunity to come in and view our classroom and ask any questions you may have about myself, the classroom or the learning we are undertaking.

SWIMMING SPORTS

Thursday 27 Feb, Week 4. 9 am – 1230 pm.

We have our school swimming sports taking place at Boys High. The day is broken into two parts – our competitive swimming races (Ostler and Thompson cups), followed by a celebration of our swimming where everyone gets in the water and takes part in moving through the water. We will be having trials for our competitive events during the first few weeks of term.



ATHLETICS

Tuesday, 17th March, Week 7. Approximately 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

Our competitive athletics day is on Tuesday 19 March. This is a culmination of our early terms focus on the skills of running, jumping and throwing. Students who have trialed and qualify for the finals will be taking part in their events throughout the day.



MY DUTY DAYS

Wednesday – Friday

100 – 130

- **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.

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

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