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Kia ora parents, whanau and caregivers.

Welcome to Room 28. To those of you returning to Room 28, thank you for leading the way; To those who are new, I can't wait to get to know you and learn with you; either way, I am looking forward to working with the children and families. 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.

"He mahi tahi tātou mō te oranga o te katoa - we must work together for the wellbeing of everyone."

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 our school. A letter has been sent home for those of you that are not already connected. 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. In Week 3 we begin cross grouping where our focus is on number knowledge and strategies. This will mostly be done through our PRIME resource.

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.

WHAT'S ON WHEN

MEET THE TEACHER

Wednesday 17th February, Week 3. 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

Friday 19th March, Week 7. 9 am - 12.30 pm. We have our school swimming sports taking place at Boys High. The day is broken into two parts - our competitive swimming races (including the 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, 23rd March, Week 8. Approximately 9.30 am - 2.00 pm Our competitive athletics day is on Tuesday 23rd March. This is a culmination of our earlier focus on the skills of running, jumping and throwing. Students who have trialled and qualified for the finals will be taking part in their events throughout the day.

- **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. I am happy to collect cell phones and hand them back at the end of the day.

My Family: I'm the second eldest of four children. I have been married for 13 years and have three children, all at different schools. Katelyn (16) is in her last year at high school, Isaac (11) is starting intermediate, and Abigail (9) is in her last year at Kington

What I'm reading at the moment: Just finished the Lord of the Rings trilogy, about to start 'Then' by Morris Gleitzman

Sports I'm playing at the moment: Hockey - I go to the National Masters Tournament from 28th Feb - 6 March; Running - I'm training to improve my 10km time and thinking about entering a half marathon in April

Favourite Movie: I don't really have a favourite movie, but I love watching movies about true stories

Favourite drink: Water, but sometimes you might see me sipping on a coke or a 'V' drink to put a bit of spring in my step.

Favourite food: Homemade hamburgers, or maybe fresh fish that I've caught on the boat dipped in a kewpie mayo and wasabi mix

MY DUTY DAYS

Wednesday - Friday 1.00 - 1.30

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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