

Newsletter 12

19 August 2025

Last week we had Te Wiki o Pāngarau / Maths Week. It was wonderful to see the children engaging in all the different maths activities throughout the school. A huge thank you to Jo Lelieveld for coordinating the week and to everyone who helped set up and run the activities.

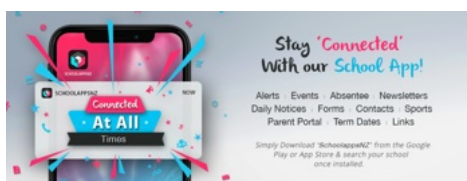
The Senior School held their Recitation Finals last Thursday. I'd like to congratulate all the finalists, place getters and our overall winner, Roma Praveen. Anything to do with public speaking requires courage and maitanga/confidence. This is one of our Knighton Way dispositions. Maiatanga is all about developing the mindset of giving things a go, not fearing failure, and enjoying the feeling of being out of your comfort zone.

This week Barb Cowie and I will be attending the annual Normal and Model Schools Association (NAMS) Conference in Dunedin. Knighton Normal School is one of twenty nine Normal and Model Schools throughout the country who are affiliated with universities who provide initial teacher education (teacher training) programmes. Initial Teacher Education is a government priority over the next few years so we'll be interested to see what, if any, changes are on the horizon.



Focus on Attendance

If your child/ren arrive at school late they need to go to the 'smiley window' to get a late slip to show their teacher so they can be added to the roll. This is very important to avoid the stress caused to caregivers receiving a text to say their child is absent.



Senior Recitation Finals

The 2025 senior school recitations were a chance for us to pick a text we liked and read it aloud to our classmates, using expression and confidence. Some titles included 'The Sofa Ate My Dad', 'Stinging Moon' and 'Haka'. The top year 5 and 6 from each class then went on to the finals.

We really enjoyed listening to the finalists, who all gave it their best shot. They made the recitations their own, which made it even better. The recitations were great and a big congratulations to the winners.

Year 6

Jye McLean

'Mr Peg' - 1st

Angad

'The Sofa Ate My Father' - 2nd

Hazel Herewini

'Mr Peg' - 3rd

Year 5

Abdul Haadi Muhammad

'The Sound Collector' - 1st

Harper King

'The Sound Collector' - 2nd

Sandali Rathnayaka

'The Sound Collector' - 3rd

Overall Winner

Roma Praveen

'The Sound Collector'



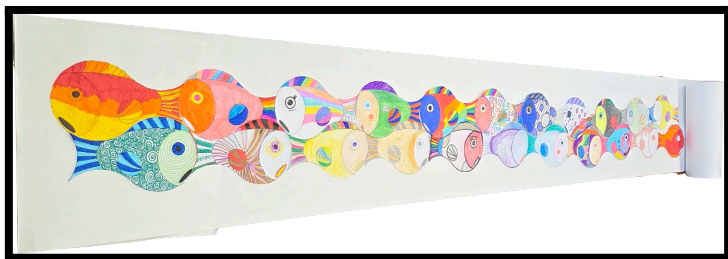
Back row: Myron, Muaad, Daniel, Mackenzie, Herman (guest judge), Kayla, Nikki, Teina, Nuzha, Heidi
Front row: Angad, Harper, Hazel, Jye, Roma, Abdul, Sandali



Medication

If your child requires medication during the school day it must be left at the office. We will ask you to sign a permission form which allows us to give medication at the necessary time.

**Students should not carry any medicines in their school bag*



Te Wiki o Pāngarau - Maths Week

On Wednesday we celebrated Te Wiki o Pāngarau. We did origami, building cups, the bee-bots, patterns, dominoes and much more. We loved the bee-bot because it was cool to watch the way they follow your commands. We also loved dominoes because it was cool to learn another game. In class we did lots of maths art. We turned numbers into animals and made tessellations too.

Congratulations to A12 for getting the closest estimate to the number of balls in the car with their estimate of 124 (there were 125 in the car - good guess).

Thank you to Mrs Leileveld so much for all the time and effort you put into organizing Te Wiki o Pangarau. The activities on Wednesday were so much fun and made learning maths feel exciting and interactive. We really appreciate the creativity in making everything so engaging. It's clear that everyone who helped cares a lot about our learning, and we're grateful for all the hard work you put into making this week special for us!

By Zain & Muaad Akomanga 5



Izayah Hansen-Ohlson - A5



Cohort Entry

We have a cohort entry policy for our new entrant students at our school. We believe this brings numerous benefits to our students and their families/whānau. Cohort entry refers to the practice of having children of a similar age group start school together at set intervals throughout the year. In this regard, we offer two entry points per term, specifically during weeks 1 and 6. This means your child will start school on the first entry date after they have turned five and they have been enrolled.

Our next cohort entry date is Monday, 6th October. If you have a child who is eligible to start on this date please complete an enrolment form at the office. They will be able to attend pre-school visits on a Wednesday afternoon from the 27th August to prepare for school.

All 2025 enrolments for Berkley Normal Middle School are due by 4.00pm on Friday 29 August 2025 - this includes both in-zone and out-of-zone enrolments.

Out-of-zone enrolments are welcomed but must be received at the office by 29 August to be eligible for the enrolment ballot.

Contact their school office: 856 6537

office@berkley.school.nz or www.berkley.school.nz



Note your calendar

20 Aug : 9:00 - 10:50am School cross country, Year 4, 5, 6

- 11:40am - 1:00pm Fun run - all students
(*ask your class teacher for exact time)

4 September - Interschool cross country

10 September - Board of Trustees election day

10 September - Hearing & Vision testing

8-12 Sept - Wiki o Te Reo Maori - Maori Language Week

**12 September - Ministry Accord Teacher Only Day
SCHOOL CLOSED**

17 September - New Board of Trustees take office

19 Sept - End of term 3 **School closed for the holidays**

6 October - 9:00am Term 4 begins

Ngā mihi nui

**Andrew Campbell
Principal**