

## Newsletter 2

25 February 2025

We're looking forward to our annual **Whānau Picnic** tonight starting at 5.00pm. This is an opportunity for our community to come together, have a family picnic, play some games, and visit your child's learning space and have an informal catch up with their kaiako/teacher. The school will have a BBQ running (including Halal) as our contribution to the picnic. We'd love to see you there.

I'd like to thank the community for supporting our school in our push to raise attendance this year. As you will be aware, this is a New Zealand wide focus, as we know that regular attendance helps every child with their learning at school. This year, our school wide attendance has been over 90% which is excellent. We want to keep this positive momentum going.

Next term we'll be having two Teacher Only Days. The first Teacher Only Day is on **Friday 9th May (end of week 2)**. This is a Ministry of Education Accord Day allocated to all schools for professional development in implementing the new curriculum. The second Teacher Only Day is on **Friday 30th May (end of week 5 just before King's Birthday Weekend)**. This is a Kahui Ako Teacher Only Day and will be run out of Hillcrest High School. Our staff will be joining the other schools in our Hillcrest Kahui Ako for a day of professional development, in particular around the Science of Learning. This Teacher Only Day will be made up at the end of the year as per Ministry requirements.

A reminder that we have swimming for all of term one and term four. We are lucky to have a heated swimming pool meaning children can access it for this amount of time. Swimming is an important part of our Health and Physical Education Curriculum and our expectation is all children participate in it unless there are genuine medical reasons. Thanks for your cooperation with this.



Come along and enjoy a picnic **tonight**, Tuesday 25th February from 5:00 - 6:30pm.  
**\*Bring your own food to share with your whānau**

### Calling All Builders! 🛠️🌱

We're looking for parents or caregivers with building experience who would be willing to volunteer their time to help us construct some items for our school garden. If you're handy with tools and keen to lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you!

Please get in touch with Danielle Brydon at: [dbrydon@kns.ac.nz](mailto:dbrydon@kns.ac.nz)



### Focus on attendance

Attendance continues to be a top priority for the government, which has set a target of 80% of students attending school for more than 90% of the term by 2030. To achieve this, schools need to aspire to reach an average daily attendance rate above 94%.

Please remember if your child is to be away from school please notify the school office before 9:00am each day by using one of the following options, stating your child's name, room number and reason for their absence:

- Send a message via our school App. This is our preferred method for receiving messages about a child's absence. This App is **free** to download. Simply download 'SchoolappsNZ' from the Google Play or App Store and search Knighton Normal School once installed
- Text **027 352 2089** or...
- Phone **856 5393** to leave a message

**ALL CHILDREN ARRIVING LATE NEED TO GO TO THE 'SMILEY WINDOW' TO GET A LATE SLIP, BEFORE GOING TO CLASS, SO THEY CAN BE ADDED TO THE ROLL**



## 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, 10th March. If you have a child who is eligible to start on this date please complete an enrolment form at the office. You can find all the entry dates for 2025 in this link to our website:

[Enrolments | Knighton Normal School](#)

THANK YOU



HILLCREST

Thank you to Sam Waddell, the owner of Four Square, Clyde Street, for generously donating food for children's lunches.

Each week he donates up to:

- 50 loaves of bread
- 10 kg of cheese
- Lots of fruit!

**Please support this business** to say thank you for their koha to our kura



## Lost Property

Please come and look through the lost property outside Mrs Cowie's office regularly. Named items can be returned to children but unfortunately most of the clothing and shoes that are lost by children are unnamed. All unnamed belongings that are not claimed are donated.

PLEASE name ALL your children's clothing and footwear.

## Vision & Hearing Checks

Vision & Hearing Technicians will be visiting our school on **Tuesday 11th March**. The objective of the test is to identify previously undetected vision and hearing defects.

If any parents/caregivers do not want their child to be checked, or their child is currently under specialist care for a vision or hearing defect, they should let the school know.

**The technicians will check children who have not completed vision and hearing checks as part of their Before School Check, and children absent from previous visits or who require retests or follow up.**

All of these checks are non-invasive, safe and should cause no discomfort.

 **Want to learn how to play inline hockey?**

Hamilton Inline Hockey Club and Quality Hockey are running **Learn to Play**.

This 6 week programme starts on March 6th and will run on Thursday's from 5:00pm - 6:00pm.

Total Cost for 6 sessions \$55 - and there are limited places available.

Please come 10-15 minutes early, ready to start on time. There will be helmets, skates & sticks for those that don't have any gear.

See here for more info and to register:

<https://www.hamiltoninline.co.nz/leagues/even>

## Note your calendar

**25 Feb - Whānau picnic - 5:00 - 6:30pm**

10 March - Cohort Entry Day

11 March - Hearing & Vision Testing

26 March - 2 April - Culture week

2 April - Cultural Parade

11 April - Term 1 ends - 3:00pm

28 April - Term 2 begins- 9:00am

9 May - Teacher Only Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

30 May - Teacher Only Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

2 June - King's Birthday - SCHOOL CLOSED

**Ngā mihi nui**

**Andrew Campbell**  
Principal