

TUI NEWSLETTER: Term One, 2017

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau,

Welcome to Ngaio for 2017. This letter is to provide you with information about our syndicate. We are part of a Year 5 and 6 syndicate made up of six classes. The teachers in this syndicate are Dan Byrne and Harriet Quin (Rm67), Jon Mackie (Rm9), Liz Blackwell and Sophia Gowans (Rm10), and Sarah Smart (Rm19). It promises to be an exciting year with many interesting and fun events along the way. Our syndicate is called Tui Syndicate. During your child's time in the syndicate many new challenges and opportunities become available to students. As seniors, we expect our Year 5 and 6 students to be leaders and role models for the rest of the school.

UP-COMING EVENTS:

Week 2	6 February 10 February	Waitangi Day Holiday Whakataua and Road Patrol Training
Week 3	13 -15 February 16 February 16 February	Year 5 People Savers Year 5 Arctic Challenge Tui Syndicate Meeting (see below for outline)
Week 4	21 February 21 and 22 February	Year 6 Camp Meeting Year 5 Beach Education Days
Week 5	27/28/29 27/28	Year 6 Bike Training Jon Mackie 3-Way Goal Setting Conferences
Week 6	6-7 March 12 March	3-Way Goal-Setting Conferences (Rooms 19, 10 and 67) Gala (Sunday)
Week 10	10 April – 14 April 15 April	Year 6 Camp Easter Friday

TUI TEACHERS:

Alongside the experienced staff of Dan Byrne, Sarah Smart, Liz Blackwell and Jon Mackie, this year we welcome Sophia Gowans and Harriet Quin to our team. Harriet joins us from Nelson and is working alongside Dan in Room 67. Sophia has been previously teaching in Scotland and is working in Room 10 with Liz Blackwell.

ABSENCES

If your child is going to be away from school (or late for school) can you please email absences@ngaio.school.nz to advise your child's name, room number, period of absence and

reason for absence. In cases where your child is going to be late - please also advise approx time you expect your child to be at school.

It would be a good idea to copy the email to your child's classroom teacher for their noting also.

When your child arrives late to school, it is imperative they are signed in at the office.

In cases where a child has to leave school before 3pm, it is necessary for an adult to come to the office to sign them out.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS:

These will take place on Thursday the 16th of February. The purpose of this meeting is to meet your child's teacher and also to meet other parents in your child's class. It is a chance for your child's teacher to explain how the learning environment is structured in their room/s. The evening will conclude by 7:10pm. The format is as follows....

5:30 pm - Kakapo syndicate hosts a syndicate information session while Tui syndicate has an open classroom session (informal meet the teacher drop in/students and parents look around the classroom).

6:00pm - shared dinner on the field - both syndicates.

6:30pm - Tui syndicate hosts a syndicate information session while Kakapo syndicate has an open classroom session (informal meet the teacher/look around the classroom).

Finishing 7:10pm

CLASS BLOGS/SEESAW:

Each class has a blog that has been created to share their learning journey with our friends and families. We will be posting photos, updates, children's work, videos and discussions. This is an engaging and interactive way for children to share their learning experiences and it is a great talking point for those children who 'can't remember' what they did at school. If you could please make an effort to check our blog on a regular basis and leave comments or ask questions this will inspire our children to continue their great learning. Please note that full names will not be used on the blog and all comments will be moderated by the teacher before being published. Students without 'photo permission' will not feature on class blogs. Please share the link with family and friends! We look forward to hearing from you. Additional to this your child will also have an online portfolio on Seesaw. The blog and Seesaw should be up and running by the end of Week 2.

SWIMMING TIMES:

Swimming and Gymnastics classes have begun for all students. Students have been divided into two groups and each group will alternate between gymnastics activities and swimming, for 30 minutes each.

Students are responsible for bringing their togs and being organised on the day of swimming lessons. Please note that it is highly important for all Tui students to participate in the swimming lessons so they are prepared for Camp and any other water-based activities over the course of the year.

Days of swimming:

Room 19 and Room 9 are on Wednesdays
Room 10 and 67 are on Thursdays

WE ARE A SUNSMART SCHOOL:

Students are required to wear a hat with a brim in the summer terms (Terms One and Four). Ngaio School Sun Hats can be purchased from the office. Teachers will role model this behaviour and we urge parents to do the same when they are on school grounds.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND LEADERSHIP:

Students are encouraged to take on responsibility around the school. They are now the role models for the rest of the school. The demonstration of appropriate behaviours and a higher level of resilience is expected and encouraged. Students in Tui are responsible for Road Patrol, and Year 6 students for ringing the bells and delivering sushi. Please help your child to be at school on time for these duties. We thank the students in advance for their help and contribution to the school. We were impressed with the punctuality and professionalism shown by our Road Patrollers on our first week back. There is a variety of areas where students in Tui can be involved in the school. Early in Term Two the Student Council and leadership groups will be announced, however, informally students can identify areas that they would like to work in to better the school and bring their ideas to us for discussion.

STRIVE Homework:

Strive Homework Challenge booklets will be available at the Tui parent information evening. This evening is **Thursday the 16th of February**, and they will be available from your child's classroom. If you can not attend this meeting they will be handed out to all participating students in class.

Students will be able to get their Strive Challenge booklets signed off after morning tea (10:50 am) on Fridays. Students need to show 'evidence' in the form of a journal or reflection – please refer to the information on the back of the Strive Challenge Booklet. Last year's uptake of STRIVE was brilliant and we hope to build on that success again this year.

THREE WAY GOAL SETTING CONFERENCES: Week 6 6-7 March

Bookings will soon be open for your child's goal setting conference. Teachers look forward to meeting with parents and students to set goals in reading, writing and maths and to discuss any other matters regarding your child's learning.

Please note: Jon Mackie will be on leave during Week 6. **Room 9 Goal Setting will therefore take place on Monday and Tuesday (27/28 February) in Week 5.** During Week 6, Charmaine Doole will be teaching in Room 9 as cover for Jon's leave. Charmaine is Room 9's usual release teacher, she has worked with most of the students before and knows them well.

YEAR 6 CAMP:

We will be holding a parent information meeting on **Thursday February 16th** from 7pm-8pm. This is being held directly after our Tui Syndicate Evening. This is a meeting for parents only at this time. Students will receive all information pertaining to camp in class sessions. At the meeting we will discuss such things as camp aims and objectives, activities, parent help

(including activity group leaders), accommodation, student groups, food, and general health and safety. If you are keen to put your name forward as a parent helper at camp this year, you will have the opportunity to do so on a google form which will be available online the following day.

For your calendars: we will travel up to camp on **Monday the 10th April** by bus, and return to Ngaio School on the afternoon of **Thursday April 13th**. Further information will follow.

YEAR 5 EOTC: (Education Outside the Classroom)

Year 5 students will be participating in a variety of activities this term that are focused on learning in our environment. It will also prove to be advantageous in helping to prepare the students for next year's camp. These activities will happen over the course of the term and information will be communicated in due course. On some of these trips we could be asking for parent volunteers, it would be great to see you enjoying these activities with the students. The activities are designed to test the students and to give them a chance to break out of their comfort zones.

SYNDICATE ASSEMBLIES and WAIATA:

Syndicate Assemblies are to be held on Fridays at 12pm, these start in Week 2. At 2.15pm Waiata will be with our Te Reo teacher Alwyn Rees. Student-led assemblies will begin later in the term. Parents and families are welcome to attend both Syndicate Assemblies and Waiata. These take place on the stage area during fine weather and in shared classrooms when the weather is doubtful.

LEARNING PROGRAMMES:

Writing:

Students will look at writing for a variety of audiences and purposes, across the curriculum. This term's focus will be on reinforcing aspects of the writing process, and in particular, brainstorming, re-working and developing vocabulary skills. Students will also be encouraged to draw on their knowledge of reading when constructing a piece of writing. Discussing writing from a reader's perspective and recognising what it is that helps it meet its purpose (e.g. to inform, entertain etc), is something you could do at home to help your child.

Reading:

Please encourage your child to read at home on a regular basis. Children of this age still enjoy being read to, so continue to do this as well. Students in Years 5 and 6 should be reading a broad range of books and other reading material (e.g. magazine and newspaper articles). Come and see your child's teacher if you are stuck for new titles or authors. This term's reading focus will be on reading comprehension skills with a particular focus on inferring, making connections to prior knowledge and building vocabulary knowledge.

Numeracy:

Students will continue to build their Numeracy Knowledge and Strategies. A focus on Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division and Ratios and Proportions will run throughout the year. In 'Strand' maths students will look at Measurement and Statistics. Each student will have an online IXL (Year 6) or Mathletics (Year 5) account to support the class maths programme. This is accessible at home and at school.

We look forward to working alongside our students, their families and whanau this term.

The Tui Team - Jon, Sarah, Liz, Sophia, Harriet and Dan.

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Room 10

Year 6