



Term One Newsletter 2010 - Year 7 & 8

Welcome to the 2010 school year. We hope that all our students and their families have had a great holiday and are ready for a new year of learning at St Heliers School. A special welcome to all the students who are new to St Heliers School and to the Year 7 & 8 team. Outlined below is some information regarding the school term in Year 7 & 8.

Year 7 & 8 Team

We take this opportunity to introduce you to our Y 7 & 8 teaching team.

Year 7

Room 21: Mr Rob Stickland

Room 25: Miss Anna Hutchinson

Year 8

Room 19: Miss Robin Burns

Room 20: Miss Jill Blake

The team leader is Miss Jill Blake.

Student Leaders

Student Leaders are a group of Year 8 students who, during their time at St Heliers, have upheld the school values with ease and have demonstrated leadership potential. Mr McCarthy is planning on announcing the first group of student leaders for 2010 at Citizenship Assembly on Friday 19th March. There is also the opportunity for further Year 8 students to become student leaders during the course of the year if their potential for leadership is realised.

Timetable

In Year 7 & 8 the students go to Tamaki Intermediate for technology classes (known as tech). This includes music, visual arts, food technology and hard materials. They are transported to Tamaki Intermediate by bus. Year 7 attends tech on Monday mornings and Year 8 attends tech on Thursday mornings. This is only switched on rare occasions such as the week of Year 8 camp.

German

Language learning is compulsory in Year 7 & 8 and currently at St Heliers School the students are learning German. German takes place in your child's classroom for 45 minutes on a Tuesday morning.

Sport and P.E.

Sport and P.E. lessons take place on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings. Students must be change into their P.E. uniform at school prior to lessons.

Topic

In topic, we are going to begin the year off by studying and researching about rainforests both in New Zealand and around the world. In this unit students will learn the features of rainforests, the variety of plants and animals which live there, how we use the rainforests for resources and most importantly how to protect these special places for future generations. This will be a very exciting unit as not only will there be the social studies aspect but we will also be incorporating science into it. The students will learn how plants grow, create energy as well as how they interact with the world around them. We are all very much looking forward to the learning and discussions that will take place around this topic.

Mathematics

In year 7 & 8 students are cross grouped for Mathematics. This means they will be mixing with students from their year level to create two classes that are more similar in ability. Cross grouping was trialled last year and was extremely successfully resulting in higher achievement levels. Cross grouping at this age allows for more extension and remedial learning to take place.

Homework

In year 7 & 8 the students are given homework to consolidate previous learning and to provide opportunities for extra learning practise. It is also invaluable preparation to develop sound study habits in preparation for high school.

In Year 8, homework is given out on a Friday. Spelling homework is due on Tuesday, while the remainder of the homework is due on Friday. Lengthy topic assignments are also part of our homework on occasion.

In Year 7, homework is given out on Monday and is due the following Tuesday, however, the testing of spelling words and any maths skills take place on Friday.

Waterwise and Aquapass

You will receive further newsletters about Waterwise (Year 8) and Aquapass (Year 7). Waterwise is a programme that teaches sailing of an optimist and kayaking skills. Aquapass is a prerequisite water safety programme. Waterwise and Aquapass requires parent help for these programme to run successfully. If you are interested in helping on a Tuesday afternoon please see your classroom teacher.

Camp Adair - Year 8

Camp Adair is an exciting and purposeful part of the Year 8 curriculum. It provides our students with wonderful opportunities to develop important life skills and to be challenged in a range of outdoor pursuits. If your child is in Year 8 you should have already started to receive camp newsletters. Please sign and return the camp consent form ASAP.

School Uniform

Please check that ALL items of your child's school uniform - including school shoes and school hat/cap are clearly marked with their full name. Parents are reminded that ALL girls hair should be pulled back using hair bands of a neutral or school uniform colour. A reminder that nail polish and make up are not allowed to be worn at school and that hat wearing is compulsory at morning tea, lunchtime and sports times this term.

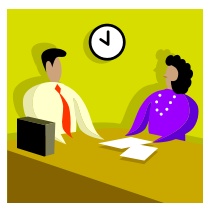
Cell Phones

Cell phones are not permitted at school unless you feel it is absolutely necessary for your child to have their phone due to circumstances such as afterschool collection. If you would like your child to have their phone at school please provide a note to your child's teacher. All cell phones need to be handed in between 8.30 and 8.50 and it is your child's responsibility to collect them at the end of the day.

Desperately Seeking Resources

Throughout the year, depending on particular subjects studied, teachers sometimes find they need extra resources of one kind or another.

This term, any unwanted books that would be suitable for our class library corners would be greatly appreciated.



Communications

If you have any queries, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance. If you feel you need to discuss the matter further, please make an appointment to see the Team Leader, Miss Blake. If you feel your concerns are still unresolved or you seek further advice after, please make an appointment with either Mrs Torrie, Mrs Palmer or Mr McCarthy.

We are all here to work co-operatively towards the best possible education for your child, so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Jill Blake, Robin Burns, Anna Hutchinson and Rob Stickland