



THINK TANK NEWSLETTER

Welcome from the Think Tank: Welcome to our students, especially new members to our learning community and those who are new to our school. We hope all students had a good long break and are now set to have a high-energy year and achieve fantastic results in learning. This year we welcome back Kate Vaughan, Nicole Ryan and Karyn Grace, Alison Coombridge and Steve Fennessy. **Term one is very busy. Please pay particular attention to dates listed at the bottom of the newsletter.**



As senior students of the school we expect exemplary behaviour from them. It is very important to support this attitude at home and we hope that you will make early contact with us if issues arise. We will too.

As with the rest of Bluestone School, we have a zero tolerance of bullying. Our key values of Honesty, Excellence, Aroha, Respect, and Tolerance are our big focus for values learning, and we support these within our curriculum work. We will operate class reward systems this year based on the school values.

Particular attention is paid to the students fine tuning their self management skills and we hope that you will support this at home.

Topic - Our beginning unit is based on a wide context and titled "Discovery and Innovation". It is an integrated unit that will link English and Social Sciences. Students will be developing understanding of the many contexts of making discoveries and innovations both personal and as groups, and in particular the concept of risk taking and persistence in problem solving.

We continue our work in Human Rights Education with the development of class charters, linking the Treaty of Waitangi, to hook in thinking about rights and responsibilities, and building a great team within the class and learning community.

Maths - focus will be in the addition and subtraction areas of numeracy. Please encourage regular learning of basic facts and tables at home. Maths badges, and the Mac Challenge programme will be used as extension.

Semis: Information Technology, Photography, French, Science and Drama/Dance, and will continue to run on Wednesday afternoons.

Technology- The programme will begin in week 3 on Monday for Year 7/8 students. Room 17/18 in the morning and Rooms 19/20/21 in the afternoons. Students will bus to and from the centre. If your child lives close to the centre, and goes to technology in the afternoon and wishes to be dismissed from there, **a note must be provided by parents.**

Year 7 students will have the opportunity to go sailing this term in week 4.

Year 8 students will be away to Hanmer on camp in week 9 of this term, from the 26th to 29th March.

Students will be involved in mountain biking, tree climbing, tramping, orienteering, bush skills, conservation and group challenges. We will also go to the hot pools. More information will be sent home very soon. We will be asking for parent volunteers for the camp soon.

Students who have opted to do fundraising will be able to collect chocolates on Thursday this week. If you are a new parent and want to opt into this please see Steve Fennessy at school.

Game Sense- This will be a continuing focus for the year in Physical Education and involves students learning strategies to apply in practical thinking ways to sports activities. They are very transferable across many sports. We will also operate fitness starting in week 2, and **students**



are encouraged to bring trainers for these sessions, as they will be very active. Sports will run on a Friday afternoon.

Stationery- Thanks to parents and caregivers for having students well organised with their books for the first day.

Homework- This term homework may be set alongside classroom activities, and will not be given out on a formal weekly basis. Students will have regular spelling. Daily reading and basic facts should be priority to practice and your child will appreciate you playing board games and cards with them or getting outside for a game together.

The Week That Was will continue to be a feature of the team, starting in Room 19. This is an area of Technology we really want to develop.

Bluestone Beatbox 88.3fm. We want to encourage all students to take the opportunity to be part of the radio station. It's a unique feature of Bluestone. Encourage your child to go on the roster.

Students wishing to attend '**Young Leaders' day in Christchurch** in term 2 will be selected after applying by letter this term. We look forward to many keen students seeking these opportunities, and we ask that parents and caregivers support their efforts to step up to leadership. Students will be given the opportunity to collect application letters toward the end of term one.

School Councillors will also be selected by the end of week 2, and we look forward to students being given opportunity to demonstrate leadership in building the culture of the pod. This is a very good opportunity for students to step up in a real way and contribute to the life of the school.

Swimming will take place this term at Century Pool in weeks 4-6. This year there will be focus on water survival as well as swimming technique. Please check dates below. If there are any parents who wish to help train our students please let us know soon.

Milo Cricket Challenge is under way for both the boys and girls teams. Selected students will be attending a coaching day soon, and we are hoping to do well this year... like every other year of course!

PAL's. Our Physical Activity Leaders will be selected and trained very soon. These students help provide valuable activities in the playground during lunchtimes and it's a great opportunity to step up for leadership.

Police Challenge: This event is run as physical fitness, agility and endurance challenges, and a team will be selected to represent the school in week 5 for 4 extremely agile and strong students.

Lexile: This will be an informal reading programme in the Think Tank this year and we will not run a weekly competition. Those students interested are welcome to carry on working through their awards.

Uniform - We ask parents to encourage students to wear their uniform with pride in their school. It is important to be good role models as the senior students. Uniform needs to be correct, including no jewellery apart from one set of studs, no makeup of any kind, and hair tied back neatly and off the face for both girls and boys if long. Please ensure ALL uniform items are named, including shoes and hats. Students are required to wear black school shoes, or trainers, or sandals. If your student wears the school shoe or sandal option, then we encourage them to bring a pair of trainers for fitness and game sense sessions. It is important for students to support their growing bodies sensibly. Skateboard / flat sole shoes are not part of the school uniform.

Lunches: Please ensure your child brings a healthy and adequate lunch to school to keep them fuelled up during the day. It is important to feed growing bodies and brains well.

Sleep: Please ensure your child has really good sleep every night and comes to school fresh and ready to learn. Holiday sleep patterns of being up too late can be difficult to break, but it makes all the difference to their learning.

Dates to Remember:

2nd February –information update sheets to go home and returned by end of week 1.

2nd February – fish and chip tea night at school at 6pm

2nd February - chocolate fundraiser starts

13th February – Technology starts for year 7/8 students.

24th Feb-March 9th Swimming programme at Century Pool.

24th February - bring your Dad to Breakfast

28th February Police Challenge

6th and 8th March - 3way Conferences.

21-25th March - Sailing year 7

26th-29th March Year 8 Camp - Hanmer.

5th April - Term one ends.

The teaching team are looking forward to the year, which promises to be very productive. Please feel free to make contact with your child's teacher if you have anything you wish to discuss.

Regards

Kate Vaughan, Karyn Grace, Nicole Ryan, Alison Coombridge, Steve Fennessy