

# Year 5-8 Syndicate News



Seatoun School  
9 February 2012  
Newsletter #1

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back everyone and an especially big welcome to our new students and their families to Seaton School and the Year 5-8 team! We hope that you all had a relaxing break. We are re-energised, enthusiastic and all set for focused teaching and learning with our students.

## Staff

We welcome Aaron Wright to the Year 5/6 team, and Tina Schmid returns to teach in Year 7/8.

### Year 7/8

- Tim Kong Room 1
- Sam Broadmore Room 2
- Tina Schmid Room 3

### Year 5/6

- Penny Joblin Room 18
- Aaron Wright Room 19
- Victoria Martin Room 20
- Marion Hair Room 21

## Contacts

- Sam sam.broadmore@seatoun.school.nz
- Tim tim.kong@seatoun.school.nz
- Tina tina.schmid@seatoun.school.nz
- Penny penny.joblin@seatoun.school.nz
- Aaron aaron.wright@seatoun.school.nz
- Victoria victoria.martin@seatoun.school.nz
- Marion marion.hair@seatoun.school.nz

Our Email is checked daily and we will return messages as soon as possible. We can be reached in class from 8.30-8.50am. Please send a message if you would like to arrange a meeting. Our set weekly school meetings include:

- Monday 8.10am - 8.30am Admin Meeting
- Tuesday 7.30am - 8.30am Leadership Meeting (Marion and Sam)
- Tuesday 3.10pm - 5.00pm Staff Meeting/Team Meeting
- Wednesday 3.10 - 4.30pm Y5/6 Team Meeting

## Teacher Release

Teachers are released for a variety of reasons:

- All teachers are provided with 8 classroom release days a year for meetings, testing, analysis, records etc.
- Teachers with responsibilities: Team leaders, Curriculum leaders eg sports, ICT, English
- Beginning (PRT) teachers have one day a week to assist with professional development and planning

### Weekly release teachers

- Gill Billingsley releases Sam on Wednesdays (Leadership)
- Deb McNaught releases Tim on Wednesdays (IT)
- Wendy Griffiths releases Marion on Fridays (Leadership)
- Jess Ellis releases Aaron on Wednesdays (PRT)

## Support/Enrichment

- Karen Millar, Alison Roper-Caldbeck and Jess Ellis provide support programmes for identified students. The use of their hours is reviewed regularly. Notices will be sent home if your child is involved in any Term 1 support programmes

### Our Programme

Our term plan is attached. Some important dates to note are school-wide testing this week, (Week 2) and in Week3, and PA Tests in Week 5. A parent information will be held on Thursday 1 March at 7.00pm.

### Kia Kaha (New Zealand Police Programme)

This police programme runs every two years, alternating with their Keeping Ourselves Safe programme.

### Swimming

Year 7/8-Term 2 ; Year 5/6-Term 1

### Enrichment:

The Year 7/8 Friday Rongotai College programme starts this week and provides students with a five week rotation in each of the following curriculum areas- Design, Art, Hard Materials, Drama, ICT, Music and German. Our school-based Friday Enrichment programme for all students will begin in Term 2 due to the building works.

### EOTC

Year 5/6: This year, being an even year, all students will take part in overnight stays at a marae and recreation centre.

Year 7: Students will be involved in an EOTC week based in and around Wellington

Year 8: Students will attend a camp in the Marlborough Sounds during the second week in December.

The cost of the Year 5/6 trip will be approximately \$140.00, the Year 7 EOTC week \$110.00, and the Year 8 camp \$250.00. This may be an opportunity for your child to begin earning money to help towards to this cost.

### Home Learning

The TRUMP Challenge programme begins Week 3/4. The TRUMP booklet will be sent home after being discussed with students at school. Please see your teacher if you have any queries about this home learning programme, or check out the school website for more details.

**Please note that as a minimum requirement, all students should be doing the following each week:**

- **Personal reading:** At least 15 minutes, 4 evenings a week
- **Spelling:** At least 5 minutes, 4 evenings a week, on the basic word lists (for those who have not met school targets)
- **Basic facts:** At least 5 minutes, 4 evenings a week.

In addition, Year 7/8 students may sometimes be required to complete work started at school. Students are helped to take responsibility for identifying what they need to learn/do and how they intend to achieve it. You can help your child by regularly asking them about this.

### **Personal Diaries for Year 7/8 students:**

Students should be using their personal diary to assist them in organising their time effectively by recording the tasks they need to complete each week, special events and out-of-school activities. They are expected to manage this independently, but are supported by reminders at school. You can support your child by:

- Ensuring that they have a diary, and checking it each week
- Discussing with them what they are currently working on at school, and when it is due
- Helping them plan to fit home learning in with their other commitments (and yours!!)

### School Choir/Band/Sports/Inter-House Sports Competitions

Students are actively encouraged to join a school sports team-the school sports information booklet will be sent home shortly. In addition, sports competitions will be run on two or three lunchtimes per week this year for Year 5-8 students. Our House Captains are currently organising teams for the Rounders competition starting in Week 3. Students can also audition for the band and volunteer to join the school choir.

### All students are actively encouraged to take responsibility for:

- Arriving at school before the 8.45 a.m. bell to ensure a good start to the day
- Wearing a school sunhat (named) and sunscreen, whenever they are outside
- Wearing appropriate footwear and clothing for daily PE and fitness- At this time of the year, in particular, it is highly recommended that older students bring a change of T-shirt.
- Checking that they have all they need for school each day and caring for their property, including clothing.

We look forward to working with you to do the very best job we can. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Marion, Sam, Tim, Tina, Penny, Aaron and Victoria

Teachers - Marion Hair, Penny Joblin, Aaron Wright, Victoria Martin,		TERM ONE										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
		3 Feb	6-10 Feb	13-17 Feb	20-24 Feb	27-2 Mar	5-9 Mar	12-16 Mar	19-23 Mar	26-30 Mar	2-6 April	I
<b>Events</b>		House games afternoon	School-wide tests	School-wide tests Swimming Mon	Swimming Mon	PA tests Swimming Mon Parent Evening Thurs	Swimming Mon Y5/6 Teacher release	Swimming Mon	Swimming Mon	Swimming Mon	Good Friday	
<b>Language</b>	❖ Oral	<b>Listening to Texts/Speaking using texts</b>		Oral recounts								
	❖ Written	Expressive Writing Factual writing:		Personal goals, Personal/Narrative Recounts Kia Kaha								
	❖ Reading	<b>Personal Reading</b> <b>Instructional Reading</b> <b>Shared Reading</b> Focus:		Selecting and reading independently for enjoyment and information Developing reading/comprehension skills: deeper/surface features and meanings in a range of texts (as per integrated/writing focus) Teacher and student reading Exploring perspective in fiction and non-fiction								
	❖ Spelling/ Grammar	<b>Testing</b> <b>Grammar/Word Study</b>		As per school-wide Spell write Lists 1 to 7 Extra- Commonly Misspelt words Formal teaching and needs-based learning re punctuation, spelling structures/phonics, vocabulary extension, grammar								
	❖ Visual	<b>Viewing/Presenting</b>		Static Images								
	❖ Handwriting	<b>Linking letters</b>		Ongoing personal goals re consistency of size, shape, space, slope, letter formation, linking, speed								
	❖ Taha Maori	<b>Te Reo</b>		Ongoing integrated learning of basic conversation, waiata								
<b>Mathematics</b>		<b>Testing</b>			<b>Statistics</b> Probability			<b>Number and Algebra</b> Developing knowledge and strategies of addition and subtraction/problem-solving				
		<b>Knowledge testing</b>		Ongoing testing and practice as per Numeracy Project/Ladder Tests, Bank tests, NEMP tests; X-file goals								
<b>Integrated Studies</b> Technology /Science Social Studies / Health		<b>Social Studies</b> <b>Health</b>				Kia Kaha		Heroes				
<b>The Arts</b>	❖ Performing Arts and Technology	Elements of music										
	❖ Visual Art	Elements of art										
<b>PE/ Health</b>	❖ Health and Physical Education	<b>PE</b>		Swimming /Small balls and Summer ball games /Cross-country training								
		<b>Fitness:</b>		Elements of fitness and practice towards personal goals								



9 February 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In 2011, we introduced a very successful web-based package called Mathletics to the Year 5-8 students. It was exceptionally well-received by students, and those students who consistently used it appear to have made significant gains in their mathematical expertise. We aim to continue to provide school-based mathematics programmes using this resource. Subscribing to Mathletics will entitle students to 24-hour web access, and a variety of fun and challenging maths activities, aimed at children of all learning abilities.

Mathletics caters for those children needing remedial work, consolidation of learning or for those needing extra challenges and extension work. Tasks are set at the required level for each child and are designed to be completed independently, at home and at school. Once tasks are completed, they are instantly marked and the children receive feedback on their progress. As parents, you can also have access to their account to view their progress and achievements on Mathletics, and you can choose to receive emailed reports each week.

For Year 3-6 children, the Mathletics programme will be linked with the Trump Challenge. It will be classed as a challenge completed, if the child engages in the set activities for the required time. For Year 7/8 children it will be the basis for basic facts/number knowledge homework, to be completed each week.

At Seatoun School, we are offering a subsidised price for the programme. As an indication, a normal one-year subscription to this site costs a parent \$99 per child. However, when joined as a school it costs \$30 per child. We are offering it to you at \$15 per child for a full year. We strongly encourage each child to take this excellent opportunity to participate in a fun and engaging programme. This cost will be added to your child's invoice, along with the voluntary donation and the activity fee unless you specify by Friday 17 February, through email to the office admin staff, that you do not wish your child to participate in Mathletics. If the cost is a difficulty but you would like your child to participate in this programme, please contact us to discuss options.

Any questions feel free to contact Catherine or Susan or have a look at the website yourselves on: [www.mathletics.co.nz](http://www.mathletics.co.nz).

Thank you

Susan Kliffen and Catherine Miller