**Senior Syndicate Newsletter**

30/1/19

To the students and families of the Senior Syndicate.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou, we would like to warmly welcome you to the Senior Syndicate (Wawatahia Te Waheke). We hope you have had a lovely break and are ready for a terrific year in 2019.

**Transition Action Plan**

In guiding students to manage themselves across the Syndicate, we have formulated a Transition Action Plan to follow. In order to manage this system, teachers will not be available to meet with parents from 8.45 – 8.55, when the bell goes. If you would like to meet with any of the team, please feel free to meet outside of these times. Andrew Spencer will be available to relay any information to the team during this time.

**G.R.O.W**

This year as an extension of the Growth Mindset learning that started in 2018 we are delving into the acronym

**G R O W**

G = Gratitude

R = Respect and Kindness

O = Optimism

W = Working together

This is a new concept that will blend with the Growth Mindset development and will eventually become our School Values. It relates closely to the current Key Competencies we teach.

In 2019 the staff are working with the Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour (RTLB), starting our journey to become a PB4L school (Positive Behaviour for Learning).

Term one focus is on showing respect and kindness to others and our environment.

**Sunhats**

During terms 1 and 4 sunhats are compulsory. Caps are only to be worn during PE. Students without hats will need to sit in our library during break times.

**‘Building Partnerships’ Interviews will run on the 25th and 26th of February**

This is a valuable opportunity for parents, students and teachers to meet together to discuss expectations, goals and any concerns that you may have for 2018.

In order for teachers and parents to prepare for these interviews, at the start of 2019, we will be sending out a child information survey. These surveys will be a good starting point for our teachers to get to know your child/ children.

**Philosophy**

The philosophy for the Senior School is for school to be an exciting, interesting and challenging environment and for your child to have as much fun as possible during the learning process! We work alongside our students to encourage self-regulated learning.

This year at Fernside there are many exciting things to look forward to and many opportunities to be involved in. The Senior School are composite classes of Year 5/6-6/7 and 7/8 classes and we will be working collaboratively together throughout the year. Families are encouraged to be involved as much as possible in their child’s final years at primary school.

A key part of senior school life is students taking responsibility for their behaviour and schoolwork. This will be emphasised every day to all students.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and to introduce ourselves as your child’s teachers for this year.

Lisa Bunton

I was born in Auckland and moved to Christchurch as a teenager. I have a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning from the University of Canterbury. I have been teaching for 9 years and this is my Sixth year as senior syndicate team leader. This year I have been appointed the in-school leadership position for the Community of Learning. In my role, I will be working on transitioning to high school, Cultural Responsiveness and Acceleration in Mathematics in the senior school. I enjoy exercise, reading and spending time with my family and traveling. I am passionate about teaching and learning and look forward to working with the students in the senior school this year. I have classroom release on Tuesday’s, and Andrew Spencer will take Kōrau Tahi for one block during this time.

Jane Leopold

I have been teaching for 22 years, the last 16 at Fernside School. Before this, I taught at Ohoka and Banks Avenue School. I am trained with a Bachelor of Education and Diploma of Teaching. This year I am the Hub leader, in charge of the Wheki Block, working under Lisa Bunton. I will also work as the Music Specialist on a Thursday for the Junior and Middle Syndicate.   I live on 10 acres, running a Shetland Pony Stud and enjoy reading, dancing, travel and music.  I really enjoy teaching and enjoy the collaborative nature of the Senior School.

Vicki Brookes

My passion is Literacy and Art, and I am looking forward to enhancing these areas of learning at Fernside School this year. I have had a mixed few years, taking a year off in 2017, and relieved at Waitakiri School, which gave me a perspective on teaching from a different angle. Last year I was in the Middle Syndicate, teaching younger children. This I enjoyed too. All these changes have given me a better insight into the development of children, and I look forward to working with different team members this year to continue this growth.

My other passions are swimming and walking. Last year I participated in the Swim part of the Wanaka Challenge and this is a goal for this year too. I am so looking forward to the collaborativeness and inspiration of working with a new team and new students. Here's to a wonderful 2019

Mitchell Bailey

I am Canterbury born and bred, I graduated from the University of Canterbury with a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (Primary), where I specialised in Mathematics and health. I am currently in my fourth year as a teacher and love the atmosphere here at Fernside School. I enjoy running, reading, and playing sports, especially tennis, rugby and touch of which I have played and refereed at a National level. I look forward to meeting and working with both you and your children. Any queries please come and see me.

Philippe McMurdo

I have lived in Waitaha (Canterbury) all of my life and I love this area. I had done a lot of different things before earning my Post Graduate Diploma in Teaching from NZGSE in 2017 (and since!). Among them are: working as a youth-worker at Rangiora High School, earning a Diploma in Jazz Composition and Arranging (CPIT/UC), playing solo jazz for cafes and restaurants, building, cabinetry, tiling and laminate floor laying and most recently earning my level 2 certificate in Te Reo Māori. Teaching pulls it all together, drawing on all of my experiences and knowledge that I have used in life so far; making the learning as relevant as possible. As well as being a dedicated husband of 6 years, I am also an extremely proud father of 2 awesome boys whom I lovingly call Ngā-ringa-pukumahi (Busy-hands) and Ātiutiu (Wanderer). Of the professions and experiences, I have had, I love teaching the most and having the privilege of making a difference to peoples’ lives. Ngā mihi.

He ngahere kei roto I te kākano – An entire forest is inside a seed.

Annabel Wilson

I love being outdoors – playing sport, on the farm, in the garden, tramping in our mountains or reading a book in a hammock! I enjoy being with people and getting people into physical activity and sport. I work part time at the School as a specialist PE Teacher, and sports coordinator for Years 5 – 8. I also provide teaching support (including ART) in the Senior Syndicate. If you need any information regarding sporting events please contact your child’s homeroom teacher, otherwise I will be responding to emails on Tuesdays and Fridays.

**Core Learning**

As a collaborative team we work together to plan, teach, assess and report ensuring all students are achieving their potential and are challenged, engaged and excited in their learning. There is a demand for excellence from all students. In order to achieve these goals, we will interchange across all four homerooms for mathematics this year and between paired classrooms for Literacy. Teachers will then work in pairs to teach their targeted group of students. In Literacy Mrs Leopold will teach alongside Mrs Brookes and Mr McMurdo, Mr Bailey will work alongside Mrs Bunton. Students will be placed with the teachers that best fit their learning needs and can shift across classrooms if needed. Topic subjects will be taught by all teachers.

**Swimming Starts Wednesday**

All students will need their togs and towel every day. There will be opportunities for lunchtime swims as well. If your child is unable to swim due to a medical or personal issue could you please email and let us know.

**Technology**

For Year 7/8 -Technology will start the 1st of February. If you would like your child to make his/her own way to technology this year you will need to let us know this week via email or a signed note. If there are any medical conditions that requires your child to take special medication could you also please let us know so that we can advise the Rangiora Technology teachers. If your child needs special medication, you will need to fill in a consent form at Rangiora Borough and they will keep it secure in their school office. To ensure safety at technology we ask you that students:

* + Wear shoes that cover the whole foot, preferably leather or vinyl
  + Tie long hair back
  + Not wear jewellery or loose clothing
  + Wear sun block and hat in terms 1 and 4
  + Not wear nail polish or make-up

Tech fees (Year 7/8 students only) this year are $65.00 per student for the year. These are payable to Fernside school in term one.

**Recycling**

This year we continue to ask students to take home any lunch and morning tea rubbish that they may have. We are using our worm and bokashi buckets to collect food scraps and turn them into compost, and we want to recycle where we can. We want to reduce the amount of rubbish bins in our school and the amount of waste that it creates. This is a great opportunity to get your child involved in making his or her own lunch as taking responsibility for removing all rubbish before he/she packs it for the next day.

**Homework**

There will be changes to homework this year. Please look out for an update in week 3.

**Activity Fee**

Technology year 7/8 only $65.00 (fee for whole year)

Maths buddy $26.00 (fee for whole year)

Golf: $ 5.50

Swimming Sports: $6.50

Art Trip: To be confirmed

**Maths Buddy**

This is an online digital learning tool that is used as a supplementary form of revision for our students. It gives students the opportunity to have step by step instruction on knowledge construction and strategies to solve equations. Maths buddy is a optional this year, however we highly recommend this programme to support your child’s mathematical learning at home. Please email Lisa Bunton if you do not wish for your child to have access to maths buddy by the 15th of February. [Lisa.bunton@fernside.school.nz](mailto:Lisa.bunton@fernside.school.nz)

The cost is $26.00 for the whole year and will be added to term one’s activity fee.

Thank you

Communication between home and school is very important. If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact one of us, or drop in before or after school to arrange an appointment or send us an email. A syndicate newsletter will be sent out at the beginning of each term then weekly updates after this. Whole School newsletters come out every 3 weeks.

Yours Sincerely

Lisa Bunton / Jane Leopold / Mitchell Bailey / Phillip McMurdo / Vicki Brookes / Annabel Wilson.

Senior School Teachers