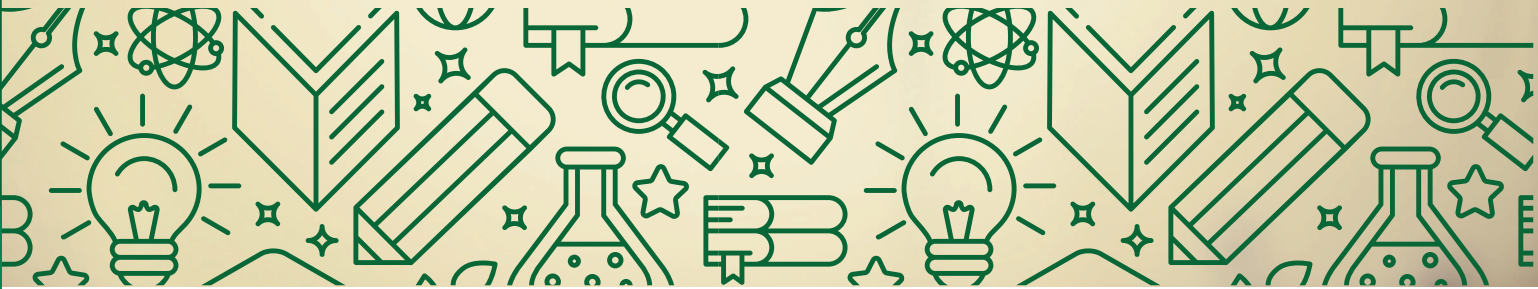




Westburn School
Te Kura O Hereora



YEARS 7 & 8

INFORMATION BOOKLET



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Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders

At Westburn we are very proud to be a Years 1-8 full primary school and have established a positive model for Years 7&8 education. Being Westburn School students already, our Years 7&8 students are provided with a smooth social and academic transition to intermediate years schooling. Students are placed in a class with peers they know and teachers who are aware of their needs and strengths.

The Smithfield Project, research carried out over seven years in the 1990s, highlighted the importance of students feeling connected to their school and family in order for achievement to improve – this is one of the 'added values' Westburn School can provide for your child's education. Research also shows that the fewer transitions a student experiences in their education, the more successful they are at school.

Westburn provides a variety of opportunities for students in a caring community

At intermediate level we offer an extensive range of social, sporting, cultural and leadership opportunities for students; our Years 7&8 students regularly excel in a wide range of pursuits.

Being a senior student in a full primary school provides an opportunity for intermediate aged students to practise their leadership and social skills in an environment where they are known, supported and have connection. We offer leadership opportunities for those students who might not have this chance at a larger school. (Our students have a 95% chance of undertaking a leadership position at Years 7&8, which is excellent preparation for secondary school).

"To me, being a member of team 4 gives a sense of responsibility and leadership. Along with all the fun activities and great opportunities comes the commitment to helping younger children and leading them to success."

(Year 8 student, 2018)



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Leadership & responsibilities

Whanonga tika (citizenship) is embraced and developed at Westburn in a number of ways. Our senior students are role models and ambassadors both within and beyond the school. We offer a range of service and leadership opportunities which build a culture of 'giving back' serving our community and growing a sense of citizenship here at Westburn.

Students are encouraged to take on service roles in and around the school which support staff and students alike, such as: road patrol; wet day monitors; librarians; office support; physical activity leaders; whanaungatanga team; and many more. We also have teams which work to inform, such as the media crew, and those who look after our environment such as the enviro team and recycling crew.

Roles more focused on 'leadership' include positions on the student council and house leaders team. These groups of students develop management skills as they organise sports activities, fundraising events, fun days such as mufti days & discos, and run school assemblies.

All students participate in a leadership programme at the end of Year 6 to prepare them to take on these roles. An intensive course developed around the book 'The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens' by Stephen Covey, follows on from this experience in Year 7. The formal applications process for all positions takes place in the first month of each year. Service and leadership at Westburn are recognised and celebrated-Today's learners, Tomorrow's leaders.

Engaging and challenging experiences

We offer opportunities for students to engage in a variety of activities over their two years in our Intermediate team. While curriculum remains focussed on literacy and mathematics, programmes are varied and ensure in-depth coverage of science, social studies, music, Phys Ed, and technology.

Student achievement – Past and present

- Sam Doughty (Head Boy at Burnside High School, 2013)
- Emily Moon (Head Girl at Burnside High School, 2014)
- Theo Moolenaar (Scholarship to Singapore Music Symposium)
- Logan Glasson (Scholarship to Waterloo University, Canada)
- Justine Lee (Dux of Burnside High School, 2017)
- Carlos Garcia Knight (Winter Olympics snowboarding representative, 2018)

Honours

In Years 7&8 we celebrate the achievements of our students. In addition to our team's Community Time and Principal's awards, we have a house system, badge system and end of year award system. Students love these and the cups and trophies awarded each year are highly coveted.

"I like that we can apply for responsible positions in the school. I am a Playground Activity Leader and really enjoy being involved in activities with the younger students." (Year 8 student 2018)

ESOL/Learning support

As our recent ERO report testifies, teachers ably support the learning needs of students who do not have English as their first language. They provide opportunities for students from similar cultures to work together and support one another in their learning. Furthermore we have a specialist ESOL teacher who works with individual students and groups and who also liaises with families to ensure they and their children are well supported during their time at Westburn School. Our ESOL department also includes a dedicated ESOL teacher aide and two Bilingual Support Workers (Mandarin Chinese).

Languages

Students in Years 3-6 learn Mandarin Chinese during their time at Westburn School. We believe that older students benefit from being introduced more formally to a number of different languages prior to entering secondary school, including German, Japanese, French and Spanish. These programmes are taught by languages teachers from Burnside High School and involve one term's tuition in each language over the course of two years. This provides our students a 'taster' or introduction to languages which they may choose to study at secondary school.

Year 8 graduation

Recognition of achievement and contribution to Westburn is a focus of our Graduation Week where we celebrate our Year 8 students. This begins with dinner and a dance & concludes with a very special prize giving assembly and fun day out.

Extension Programmes

In response to student abilities and needs, extension programmes are provided in a range of learning areas to ensure that students' thinking and achievement are stretched and challenged. In addition to classroom differentiation and withdrawal programmes, other opportunities include:

- Specialist Sports (WASP);
- Specialist Music (SMP);
- ICAS/UNSW assessments;
- Otago Current Events/Spelling competitions; and
- Cantamath

Sporting and cultural opportunities

In Years 7&8 we expose all of our students to a variety of sporting, cultural and community experiences. As an example during Koru Games, regardless of experience, all students have the opportunity to participate in activities such as volleyball, badminton, lawn bowls, tennis and table tennis as well as more traditional sports. There are also opportunities to participate in zone and Canterbury competitions including cross country, swimming, winter sports, water polo, triathlon and duathlon. Some of the other highlights are outlined below.

Year 7 ski trip

For many students this is a highlight of their year. Held in Term 3, the students spend a day skiing or snowboarding at one of our local ski fields. We have used both Mt Hutt and Porters ski fields in the past.

Boyle River camp

At Westburn we offer many opportunities for outdoor education. A highlight for Year 8 students is the week they spend in Lewis Pass undertaking a variety of thrilling pursuits including rafting, climbing, ropes courses and camping outdoors.

Kapa haka

As those who have attended Cultural Festival would attest, our kapa haka group, bolstered by our excellent reputation for singing, is rapidly growing in strength. All senior students are part of our performance group and are trained weekly by professional kapa haka tutors. We participate in the Christchurch Cultural Festival every second year.

Aquatics week

As part of our PE curriculum we provide real context opportunities for our students to develop water safety skills. Year 7 students take part in an aquatics experience during Term 1. Activities can include sailing, beach education, surfing and a visit to the Quail Island conservation area. This week is a wonderful, and thoroughly kiwi experience.

School production

Every second year we present a major production where students with strengths in the arts have the opportunity to showcase their talents. As you'd expect of a school with strength in music and performance, our productions are not to be missed.

Buddies

Our Years 7&8 students are buddied with junior classes. They meet together regularly, completing activities and providing a 'big brother/ big sister' experience. Our senior students form close bonds with their buddies.

Unique experiences

We aim to ensure that our students experience a range of unique experiences during their time in our intermediate team. Recent events have included The Great Race and Open for Business.



*“Being part of the senior school allowed me to join a bunch of different things ranging from School Council, Literacy Quiz, Chess Club, and so much more. It has been a wonderful experience and along with my friends it really gave me a boost forward in learning.”
(Year 8 student 2018)*

Westburn Advanced Sports Programme (WASP)

Students with high levels of skill in sport are invited to apply for admission to the Westburn Advanced Sport Programme (WASP). This programme aims to promote excellence in physical education, encourage and spread good practice within sports, and develop a visible sports ethos throughout the school and local community which will inspire students. Each year experienced sports trainers are employed to run these weekly, before-school sessions and mentor our students.

Science & technology

All Years 7&8 students attend a weekly specialist technology programme at Kirkwood Intermediate School. Technologies studied include plastics, wood/metal work, electronics, soft materials and food. At Westburn we place importance on science. In this regard we are very lucky to have a teacher who has completed a Royal Society Science Fellowship.

Specialist Music Programme (SMP)

Westburn School offers a unique opportunity for musically talented students that opens new pathways into secondary and tertiary study. The Specialist Music Programme (SMP) is a joint initiative between Westburn School, Burnside High School, the University of Canterbury and Ara, which aims to provide musical tuition for students with exceptional musical talent. Auditions for the programme are held annually for students in Years 5-8. Please see the SMP page on our school's website for more information.

Curriculum delivery

At Westburn we deliver a high quality academic education. The feedback and acknowledgement we receive from local secondary schools clearly shows that our students are well prepared to meet the challenges of secondary school and beyond.

Westburn School is a community of learners where the partnership between home and school ensures that our students receive the best learning opportunities available. We encourage our students to not only develop academically and culturally, but also as independent and competent self-managers.



Quality learning

We believe in placing emphasis on the core elements of literacy and numeracy to provide a strong foundation for future learning.

At Westburn, students are not only taught the skills and knowledge required for 21st century learning but also how to learn and become critical thinkers.

Our staff are able to personalise learning to meet the needs of the individual learner. ESOL and learning support are available from experienced practitioners.

Diverse curriculum

In Years 7&8 we focus on developing the key competencies of the New Zealand Curriculum and ensure that all areas of the curriculum are covered including English, mathematics, statistics, science, technology, social sciences, health & physical education, the arts, and languages. At Westburn we use a wide range of curriculum delivery methods including cooperative learning, inquiry learning, eLearning and ability groupings when appropriate.

Quality teaching

The experienced and talented teachers in our intermediate team are enthusiastic, energetic and creative. They use their varied skills to deliver stimulating programmes for our emerging adolescents. They work to ensure that teaching and learning is exciting, challenging and innovative. Their passion inspires and challenges the students.

“When I reached Westburn’s senior school, I was amazed at how much fun school could be! This is a fantastic school with great teachers, a friendly environment and many leadership opportunities.” (Year 8 student 2018)

For more detailed information

As 21st century, environmentally conscious school, we encourage the use of digital forms of communication. Please visit our informative and user-friendly website www.westburn.school.nz to access more information on: zoning, enrolments, school fees, reporting, homework, international student programmes, ESOL and community groups.

At Westburn we run an open door policy where teachers actively encourage families to take part in their child’s education. If you would like to tour our school or visit any of our classrooms you are most welcome to contact our principal/tumuaki via the school office to arrange a suitable time.

*“I like being a senior because you get to be a role model for all the younger children.
It is something that you wouldn’t get if you went to an intermediate”
(Year 8 student 2018)*





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