

30th January 2017

Turepo Learning Team Newsletter – Term 1

Dear Parents / Caregivers

A warm hello and welcome back to Term 1. We hope you all had a good break and enjoyed family time over the holidays.

For some of you this is the first time you have had a student at Ashgrove, others the first time you have had a student in the senior school, while for some this will be your last year as an Ashgrove parent. In the senior school we aim to develop independent learners who are well prepared for high school, and to this end cannot stress enough the importance of the relationship between parents, students and teachers in achieving this goal.

Staffing this year – Judith Hayman is in Turepo 1 (previously Room 14) for the first month while Nigel Seaton is on bereavement leave. Next door is Charlotte Pearce in Turepo 2, Pam Batchelor remains in Turepo 3 (Room 16) and in Turepo 4 is Bri Millwood, as Megan Cherry is still on maternity leave until the middle of the year.

Activity Week - As we are not having a senior camp this year we are having an Activity Week at the end of February. On Monday 27th February we are going to Blue Skies in Kaiapoi for the day, where the Year 7's will do the climbing wall and Year 8's will be doing abseiling, as well as other activities. Tuesday 28th all classes have a session of bowls at the Rangiora Bowling club, plus other team building challenges in Ashgrove Park. On Wednesday 1st March we are biking the Rakahuri track in the morning, and have a Top Team competition at school in the afternoon. While students will still attend normal Tech classes on Thursday 2nd March, at school they will be having an indoor bowls tournament in the hall. We finish the week on Friday 3rd March with a tramp up Mt Grey – which we hope many parents will join us for!

Sport - Shortly notices with information about what is happening this term at Ashgrove will be sent home. Basketball on Friday nights, Football on Monday nights, Hockey etc and slips need to be returned if your child is to participate in these.

Our Year 7/8 boys cricket team will be playing their first round game next week, the boys play Woodend at Woodend and we wish them luck in their game. The girls team with a bye in the first round will not be playing until after the 17th February. A notice will be coming home for the parents of the players with more information.

Starting next week we have swimming sports at Dudley Pool. Tuesday 7th and Tuesday 14th are practice afternoons, while the school sports are on Wednesday 22nd February. For all sessions at Dudley Pool the senior pupils will be released from the pool at 3.00pm to go home. There is a permission slip with this newsletter for your child to bike to the pool (supervised by teachers and parents). Those who do not have a bike will have to walk with a teacher. If you can help on any of these days please indicate on the permission slip, which must be returned to the class teacher by **this Friday 3rd February**, as the first practice is straight after Waitangi Day.

We are also having 4 weeks coaching in Lawn Bowls, 2 sessions at school and 2 at the local Bowling Club. We hope to have teams compete in the Koru Games in bowls later in the year. North Canterbury sport coaching continues on the Thursday of alternate weeks.

Meet the Teacher - On Monday 6th March we are having a short meeting in the hall for interested parents, with all teachers to explain our programme for the year. Following this there will be a chance for you to meet your homeroom teacher if necessary. If a longer time is required then another date can be arranged. Please note these are not goal setting interviews, as goals will have already been set and sent home by this time.

Technology - All classes begin Technology **this Thursday 2nd February**. Turepo 1 and Turepo 2 have morning Tech classes and students are expected at Rangiora Borough School by 8.45am. They will be brought back to Ashgrove at 11.30am by bus to resume normal classes. A senior management staff member will be on this bus. Turepo 3 and Turepo 4 have normal morning classes at school, then an early lunch leaving Ashgrove at 12.10pm by bus to Rangiora Borough for afternoon Tech classes. Afternoon students are released from Rangiora Borough at 3.00pm. The bus will transport scooters for students where necessary. The cost for Term 1 and 2 Technology is \$29 and is paid directly to Rangiora Borough School.

Homework - All classes will have a hometask sheet. This is due at the end of the term and is based on a Star value. This term it is around Respect and Responsibility. Many of the tasks are Star tasks.

Maths Buddy - We are continuing using this worthwhile programme in our classroom maths and as part of expected homework. All students will be provided with a log in and can access the activities, revision sheets and lessons at school and at home 24/7. Attached is a sheet showing how parents can access their own child's results in Maths Buddy. The cost this year is \$27.00 subscription from 1st February – 31st January 2018. Please pay on Wrap It Up asap. Students who do not pay by the end of Term 1 will be denied access.

Curriculum – This term our Topic is based on self identity – Where do we come from? “Rangiora – Our town, Canterbury – Our province, New Zealand – Our country”. Students will have an activity matrix and task sheets to work on independently. Some work will be done on devices, other work in their books. Please encourage your child to talk about what they are doing at school and what they are learning. With regards to use of devices, BYOD is encouraged as each homeroom have only enough devices to share between pupils.

We are very aware of the financial pressures some families are under for school activities. During the year our team has the following activities with approximate costs to make it easier to plan for payments. From time to time there may be smaller amounts e.g a performance, but major expenses are:

Term 1 –	Stationary \$32.00	Term 3 –	Swim \$15.00
	Maths Buddy \$27.00		Ski Day (optional) \$65.00
	Activity week \$30.00		Koru Games \$40.00
Term 2 -	Winter sport bus \$37.00	Term 4 –	Sailing \$20.00
			Adrenalin Forest \$22.00 (Year 8 only)
			Leavers Semi –formal \$10.00 (Year 8 only)

A reminder about drink bottles and sunhats for this hot term, and correct uniform does **not** include nailpolish, jewellery, wrist bands, skate-shoes, brightly coloured headbands / hair ties or ballerina slip-on shoes. Also cellphones brought to school, must be handed in to teachers at the beginning of the day.

As seniors our Turepo students are role models for the rest of the school and as such it is important their manners and uniform reflect this. Each student is given a Turepo badge to identify them as a senior student and pupils accept responsibilities such as School Councillors, House captains, librarians, road patrol, etc. Students can earn bars based on the school values and when they have consistently shown these values through tasks and behaviour they can earn the Ashgrove Star. Each student will receive a STAR booklet to record this information in.

Phone calls to classrooms – School policy is that during class time pupils and teachers will not be interrupted by phone calls to the class unless it is an emergency. Office staff will take a message and pass these to the classroom teacher at the next break.

Last, but not least...

Remember to keep an eye on the fortnightly school newsletter. It will keep you up to date on what's going on, and coming up.

We look forward to a productive term with your children.

Kind regards

TUREPO LEARNING TEAM

Pam Batchelor, Judith Hayman, Bri Millward, Charlotte Pearce and Nigel Seaton