

Kowhai [Specialist] Newsletter - Term 1 - 2022



Welcome to ANI - The specialist teachers are ready for 2022!

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Kia ora koutou.

We hope this newsletter finds you well after a great holiday break. The Kowhai whanau (specialist team) are extremely happy to be back for the 2022 school year and are excited for the journey ahead. We want our learners to explore and develop creative ideas, find solutions to intriguing problems, and have memorable learning experiences throughout their time in the specialist learning areas.

We understand that our students have many different expectations and feelings at the start of the school year. The Kowhai (specialist) team is ready to deliver a program that nurtures and excites every student in our care with strategies that cater to their unique interests, needs and abilities.

We take pride in keeping you updated every step of the way, be it directly through the students, school apps, our online learning platform or our webpage.

THE KOWHAI (SPECIALIST) TEAM

Our team comprises seven of the most passionate and skilled teachers in these areas. You can read more about each of us in the ANI Webpage -

<https://ani.school.nz/who-we-are/our-staff/> or contact us below by email

Brooke Tuialii - Food & Soft technology - btuialii@ani.school.nz

Eugene Marshall - Music - emarshall@ani.school.nz

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Jacob Markham - Digital & Hard Technology - jmarkham@ani.school.nz

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Carlos Kucera - Team Leader - Sports - ckucera@ani.school.nz

THE SPECIALIST PROGRAMME (Year 7 and Year 8)

Our Specialist programme was developed to meet the standards of the New Zealand Curriculum and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary years Programme framework nurturing a multitude of different skills. It is based around a hands-on and practical approach, where students have ample freedom to be creative and take risks. Below you can read a sample of what our students will be learning in Term 1 at both year levels:

Food and soft technology:

The year 7 students will start the term developing their basic skills in food technology, learning the techniques of cutting different types of ingredients and organising the learning environment (our Kitchen-Maker Space- Lab). They will also learn processes and basic skills with soft materials (planning, sewing and creating with fabric). Y8 students will develop more complex skills by building on what they learnt last year. They will take some techniques to a deeper level (such as cooking skills and being able to understand ways of using the ingredients and techniques), learning about cultural aspects of how we make our meals, how a professional kitchen is organised, cooking with a variety of nutrients and learning how to adapt and use these in a cooking process. We will be sure to include variations of complexity for our students with high food technology skills and knowledge in their respective tasks. A fun and interactive term ahead!

Digital and Hard technology:

Students are going to explore a variety of creative processes and develop their knowledge about Digital Identity. The design process (where students plan, create and present) will be explored using digital technology and hard materials developing their knowledge and skills.

Year 7 students will start with basic hard material materials (wood, plastic and cardboard), the required techniques such as cutting, sawing, hammering and learning to use tools in our Maker Space - Lab. They also will be exploring the possibilities of digital planning software.

Year 8 students will be involved in more complex aspects of the design process which include turning their skills into projects. The aim of this learning area is to develop techniques so they can create a product that uses previous skill set and knowledge. They will build an understanding of their project's relevance making sure the product includes a digital technology component and hard materials (these are accessible in

our Lab). Learning is practical-based with opportunities to emphasise safety and skills for life. They will utilise a range of software and design techniques to ensure they have dynamic learning experiences throughout the term.

Science:

Science refers to a system of acquiring knowledge. This system uses observation and experimentation to describe natural phenomena. As it is an inquiry based subject where students conduct experiments and do research.

The theme for Term 1 is "How we organise ourselves". Year 7's will be exploring the properties of matter. Students will conduct experiments based on Physical and Chemical change, Mass, Density, Volume, Oobleck's experiment, Endothermic and Exothermic reactions.

Year 8's will be investigating the Organisation of the Living World. They will be researching their identity in the living world which justifies the theme "Who we are". Students will study the core concepts and perform hands-on experiments based on Photosynthesis, Body Systems, Genetics and Ecosystem.

The Arts:

This year our students will learn to express themselves through both the performing and creative arts. In term 1, the year 7 students will study the key elements of art and design: Line, shape, value, space, texture, and colour. Through research and experimentation they will learn to apply these elements using a variety of materials and techniques. Meanwhile our year 8 students will continue to build on their learning from last year through several mixed-media art projects. Students will develop their own characters around a concept, before developing a full 3D sculpture from clay. This experience will nurture their creativity and also refine their understanding of shape, form, proportion, and balance.

Health and PE:

For this term, students will be learning multiple concepts, games and ideas through fitness and physical activities. Our Year 8 students also have Health as a learning subject, where they are going to understand elements of physiology, kinesiology and body movement. We will be exploring different possibilities of using their body and space to organise these student's skills in different ways for both year levels. They will also learn and explore different types of games on the court, field and swimming pool. Students will be able to participate and develop their knowledge and skills through a variety of sports, games and other outdoor activities.

Music:

Our students will explore the four pillars of music - rhythm, pitch, timbre and dynamics. With these foundational skills they will be able to perform in ensembles and understand how sounds can be organised in time. In term one our Year 7 and Year 8 students will reflect on how music can emerge from noise, regulated by the forces of rhythm and meter. Singing and playing on instruments will be a central feature of every single class. Students will not only explore aural skills and theory, but also perform existing music and even compose their own.

In addition to classroom music, all students are welcome to participate in musical ensembles that include the choir, orchestra, rock band, and vocal ensemble.

Membership in some of these ensembles is by audition - these auditions will take place during the first week of the term - students and parents will be advised if any student needs to bring their instrument to school.

As mentioned previously, we are always available for students and parents. If you have any questions or want to touch base regarding any aspect of their learning, please send team leader Carlos Kucera an email at any time (ckucera@ani.school.nz), or any specialist teacher- their emails are listed above.

Nga mihi nui,

The Kowhai team.