Kowhai - Specialist Newsletter - Term 2 - 2022

*Photo collage - Beren Allen

Welcome to ANI - The specialist teachers are ready for Term 2!

⚠ CLICK HERE TO WATCH OUR WELCOME TO TERM 2 VIDEO* ⚠

*Video creator and editior - Beren Allen

Kia ora koutou.

We are happy to be back for our Term 2 under the new Covid-19 orange light settings. We are delighted that all programmes will continue on school sites and we are going to be able to build some great learning outcomes with our students. The Kowhai whanau (specialist team)are excited to continue our practical learning experiences and problem based programmes. We want our students to be able to develop their creativity, organisational skills and learn through an exciting journey at ANI. Our aim is for our learners to have great memories and learning experiences during their time with the Specialist team.

The Kowhai (specialist) team will continue to deliver a program that nurtures and excites every student in our care with strategies that cater to their needs and abilities; focusing on a future-focused approach to learning.

The Kowhai team is using HERO this year. This will allow our parent community to navigate with our students through their learning journey.

We are also extremely excited to announce that our Specialist area will have one more learning programme attached to it - our very own STEAM programme of learning. The STEAM lessons will start at the beginning of Term 2. This will happen with Mr Carlos during the students Specialist day.

THE KOWHAI (SPECIALIST) TEAM

Our team comprises of seven of the most passionate and skilled teachers in their respective areas. You can read more about each of them on 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**
Beren Allen - Visual arts and Drama **- ballen@ani.school.nz**
Jacob Markham - Design & Hard Technology **- jmarkham@ani.school.nz**
Thomas Jones - Physical Education **- tjones@ani.school.nz**
Neeti Siras- Science **- nsiras@ani.school.nz**
Carlos Kucera - Team Leader - STEAM **- ckucera@ani.school.nz**

THE SPECIALIST PROGRAMME (Year 7 and Year 8)

During Term 2 our Specialist programme is 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 with projects and classes focusing on tactile skills. Students have the opportunity to develop their creativity and take risks during their learning.
Below you can read a sample of what our students will be learning in Term 2 in our Specialist programmes:

Food and Soft Materials technology:

This term year 7 students will start developing their basic skills in food technology, learning techniques of cutting different types of ingredients and organising the learning environment (our Kitchen-Maker Space- Lab). They will also learn 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 higher level (such as cooking skills and being able to understand ways of using the ingredients). Students will be learning about cultural aspects of food and how various cultures create 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 food technology skills and knowledge in a variety of tasks. A fun and interactive term ahead!

Design & Hard Materials technology:

During Term 2, our students are going to explore the Design Process and develop their knowledge of problem-solving and Hard Materials. The design process (where students plan, create, and present) will be explored using mainly hard materials, but also digital technology to develop their knowledge and skills during our lessons.

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-Hub. They will also be learning and following the design process during class challenges.

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 skillsets and knowledge. They will build on their hard material skills by exploring ways to join wood in preparation for an upcoming project later in the year.

Science:

Our Science programme is ready for term 2.

Science refers to a system of acquiring knowledge. Thus, it is an inquiry-based subject where students conduct experiments and do research.

Within the theme"Who we are", during this coming term, Year 7's will be exploring the Living World. The focus will be on Life Processes, Life cycles, Cell structure and cell types, human body systems. Hands-on experiments will include model making, wet mount and slide preparation are planned to happen.

The theme for Year 8's is "Where are we in place and time"and "How we express ourselves". Therefore, they will be investigating Planet Earth and Beyond. They will be researching and understanding the composition of our Atmosphere, Solar and Lunar eclipse, Rocks and Rock cycle, Types of clouds and Inner planets of the solar system. Students will study the core concepts and perform hands-on experiments based on chocolate rocks, model of an astronaut lander, clouds in a jar.

The Arts:

This term the year 7 students will hit the ground running with a crash course in art-making. Each lesson will focus on developing practical knowledge to improve their skills in sketching, painting, photography, design, and sculpture. This will be their chance to try new tools, learn new techniques, and take some creative risks in a safe environment. To round off the term, they will develop their story-telling capabilities through devising and performing drama in groups.

As for the year 8 students, they will be focusing on how to bring their own ideas to life. Through the study of other artists, students will learn to express their emotions, ideas, values, cultures, and beliefs through art. By the end of the term, they will have

experimented with a range of mediums such as abstract watercolour painting, oil pastel landscapes, clay sculptures, devised drama, and film-making.

PE:

For this term, students will be learning about spatial awareness and positioning through physical activities and specific net games. Our Year 8 students will also be exploring space, body and movement but through the medium of team sports, mainly involving balls, such as volleyball and football. We will be exploring different possibilities of using their body and space to organise these students' skills in different ways for both year levels. They will also learn and explore different types of collaborative and team games on the court and field. Students will be able to participate in and develop their knowledge and skills through a variety of sports, games and other outdoor activities.

Music:

Term 2's IB Themes are "Who We Are" and "How We Express Ourselves". Our students will be exploring the elements of music (rhythm, pitch, dynamics, form, timbre, etc.) in specific relation to how they conspire to express meaning in ways unique to music. We will be looking at the human as an inherently musical being and singing and body percussion as the foundation for all other kinds of music.

In ideal conformity with the IB theme of "How We Organise Ourselves", year 8 students will be looking at the organisation of musical structures and patterns. They will learn that organisation can be social, spatial, and specific to music… temporal! There will be a heavy focus on composing and performing music in groups.

Also in Term 2 we are excited to bring back a number of school ensembles. Joining the orchestra this term will be the vocal ensemble, rock bands, choir, and percussion ensemble. With the COVID framework in orange light, these activities will be safe to

perform indoors (with considerations being made for distancing and other safety practices). Auditions for some of these groups are already underway, with information on the others due in the first two weeks of term.

STEAM:

In term 2 we are very excited to announce a new programme called STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Arts). This programme of learning will commence as part of our specialist programme this term. It will be taught by a specialist teacher, Mr Carlos, who will approach these subjects as an integrated programme of work rather than separate and discrete areas of learning. As the teacher of STEAM, Mr Carlos has developed a number of "interdependent" learning units based on real-world applications for this new programme. STEAM will combine the learning that students experienced across other specialist areas in addition to their classroom learning opportunities. Learning is **student-centred** and **project-based.**

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

- Student-centred learning involves a strong component of Digital Outcomes, Designing, and Web Development; also future-focused learning and meaningful content. Students will also be able to plan and start executing projects with higher levels of arts, hard materials or a mix of these. Students will be able to choose new pathways for their learning journey.
- Project-based means students take responsibility to design a project by taking a problem-based learning approach. Students will research and find solutions to the posed problems. Software and web solutions used in the real world of Engineering will be applied to our students' learning (Eg. Kgis).

WHAT SKILLS WILL THEY LEARN?

- Digital Citizenship

- Data controlling
- Digital technologies/Coding
- Planning and Designing
- Project management
- Web development
- Practical Mathematical Knowledge
- Financial Literacy

In these projects, and throughout STEAM lessons, students will have the opportunity to develop their digital skills and the knowledge related to it, including computational thinking and understanding of the digital world. Students will further develop a solution focused approach to learning through these programmes. In addition to this, our students will be taking part in our fun and exciting weekly STEAM challenge. If they can solve the problem they will earn valuable house points.

Ultimately, our learners will have the opportunity to build projects that may have a digital, art or hard materials component to them. We know they will thoroughly enjoy their STEAM experiences and please encourage them to share their outcome with you.

We are always available for students and our parents/caregivers community. If you have any questions or want to have a chat about any aspect of your child/children's learning journey, please send an email at any time (ckucera@ani.school.nz) to our Specialist Team Leader (Carlos Kucera), or any specialist teacher as needed. Their emails are listed above.

Nga mihi nui,

The Kowhai team.