



ADDRESS | 45 Knighton Road, Hamilton, 3216

PHONE | (07) 856 5399

FAX / ANSWERPHONE | (07) 856 5393

WEBSITE | www.kns.ac.nz

PRINCIPAL | Andrew Campbell PGDip. Org. Behaviour, B.Ed., Dip.T.

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Kia ora, talofa, nǐ hǎo, malo e lelei,

Welcome to Akomanga 28 for 2026!

PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Our school focus for Term 1 is 'Mahi Tahī - Getting Along.' This is important as we all settle into new spaces and friendships. 'Getting along' is a huge part of our year and will set everybody up to be successful. In these first few weeks, we are developing our classroom culture and learning what it means to be a learner in our space at this time.

CLASS DOJO

We use Class Dojo to communicate with parents and showcase our work in class. It's fantastic to see so many of you are already signed up. If you aren't yet, please email me to get connected.

On Dojo, students share their writing, special projects, and the occasional video, and you will also be able to comment and give feedback.

LITERACY

We will be using a structured literacy approach. Structured literacy includes daily practice of key skills. It introduces new reading and writing concepts, and it allows students to refresh and retain skills and learning from earlier sessions. We will work on fluency, spelling, and mastering our handwriting. We will also develop our oral language skills, vocabulary, and comprehension of texts.

MATHS

Our senior school has recently changed to Oxford Maths. This is a system that better allows us to work in our own classroom spaces. It is a structured maths program that is targeted at a range of ability levels.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We operate on an "Every Body Counts" philosophy. This is a philosophy where we focus on fundamental skills rather than games. We each try to improve our skills in a variety of areas and then apply them to game situations. Our main areas of focus this first term are swimming, to tie into our swimming festival, and a range of team challenge activities that involve teamwork, thinking skills, and communication skills.

SWIMMING

We swim every Monday and Wednesday. It is a part of the New Zealand curriculum, and students need to learn how to swim and be safe around water. Please ensure that your child brings their swimwear. If they are not able to swim for a medical reason, they require a note or a message through the Dojo App.

HOMEWORK:

As long as your child is reading for about 20 minutes each night and is working on learning or remembering their mathematics facts, I don't set extra homework.

SPARE CLOTHES

Please ensure that your child has a spare pair of named clothing in their bag throughout the year. There are many times that they may become muddy, wet, or need a change for some other reason. This is important for terms 1 and 4, and even more so for terms 2 and 3.

ALLERGIES

We have several students who have a range of allergies in our school and our classroom, and Knighton is a nut-free school. If you could support us by sending nut-free lunches (including no Nutella or hazelnut spreads) that would be greatly appreciated.

WHAT'S ON WHEN

SWIMMING SPORTS

Wednesday 25 Feb, Week 4. 9 am - 1.00 pm.

We have our school swimming sports taking place at Hamilton Boys' High School. This day will see our competitive swimmers take part in their races, followed by all students taking part in our "Festival of Swimming." Feel free to come along and watch your tamariki take up their challenge.

REMINDERS

- **MEDICATION:** A reminder that a consent form must be filled in and left at the office for any medication administered at school. All medication remains in the office for safekeeping during the day.
- **CELL PHONES:** We prefer children to leave cell phones at home, but understand that some children require a cell phone for safety reasons and to contact family members after school. Children should hand their phones to the teacher or the office. They should not be using them during the school day.
- **LEAVE:** I have been given leave in Week 4, so I will not be in class teaching that week. We have a reliever, Matua Vin, who will be taking over my classes for the duration of that week.

A BIT ABOUT ME

<p>I am married to Jessica, and we have 3 children. Katelyn (about to turn 22) has left school and is working full time; Isaac (16) and Abigail (14) attend Hillcrest High. Their afternoon sports keep mr busy!</p>		<p><u>Favourite pastimes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hockey, cricket, reading, hiking, running, puzzles, fishing, and playing strategy games. <p><u>Favourite subjects:</u> Maths, science, and art</p>
<p><u>Favourite treat:</u> Chocolate, <u>Favourite food:</u> Homemade burgers <u>Favourite drink:</u> Mac's feijoa, pear, and elderflower</p>		<p><u>Favourite holiday spot</u> Whangamata at my in-law's place, hiking the Great Walks, or camping.</p>

My door is always open, and I am always pleased to have visits from family, so please, pop in and see me sometime!

Kind Regards

David Hannah

dhannah@kns.ac.nz