



**KNIGHTON  
NORMAL SCHOOL**

ADDRESS | 45 Knighton Road, Hamilton, 3216

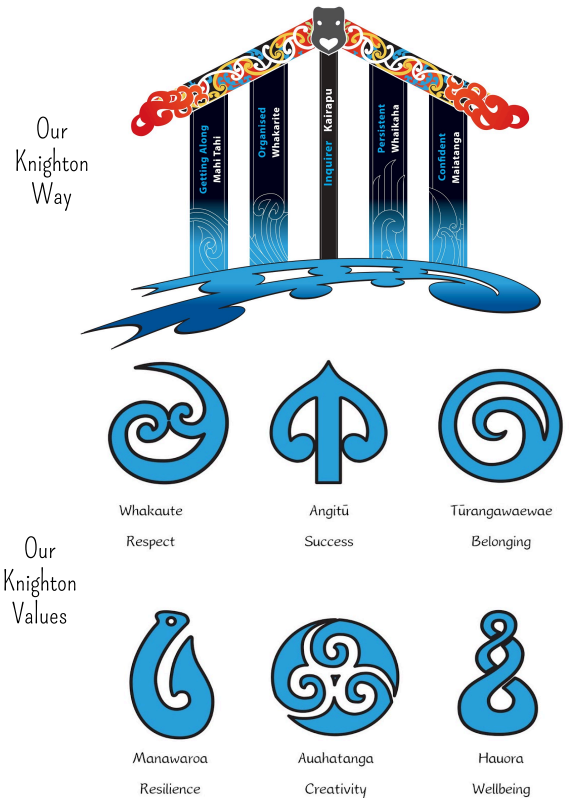
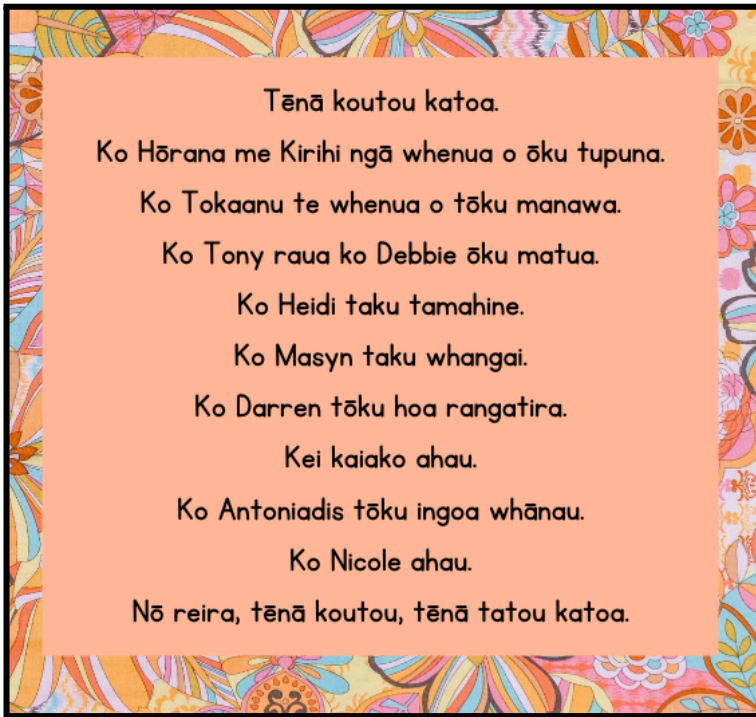
PHONE | (07) 856 5399

WEBSITE | [www.kns.ac.nz](http://www.kns.ac.nz)

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

4 February, 2026,

Tēnā koutou e te whānau, nau mai haere mai ki te Akomanga Rima!



I am so looking forward to this year with your tamariki. We have lots of great learning (ako) and fun planned, and I can't wait to see your children grow as learners, leaders, and members of our akomanga (classroom).

We will be spending time getting to know each other—who we are and where we are from. We will learn about different cultures in the lead-up to the Cultural Parade; we have so many represented in our akomanga, which is very exciting. We will also learn about managing ourselves (stop, think, do) and our emotions through mindfulness and gratefulness, as well as how to work successfully within a team. We are also lucky to be learning NZSL (NZ Sign Language) throughout the year, both from Hannah (a Learning Assistant in our akomanga) and through Ko Taku Reo (Deaf Education Services).

A key way of teaching and learning for my programme is dramatic inquiry. We will be looking into the history of New Zealand (Aotearoa) and using drama to unpack all the awesome thinking we will be doing. An inquiry focus for this term will be looking at Kupe and Te Wheke, tying it into the art of Hundertwasser.

We will also be learning about pōwhiri and marae in preparation for our marae noho (sleepover) at Kirikiriroa Marae this term. Kirikiriroa Marae is the marae at the back of our kura, which is accessed from Wairere Drive. I am passionate about te reo and te ao Māori and have completed a lot of professional learning to fill my kete. We immerse ourselves daily in te reo Māori in various ways.



Pānui (reading) and tuhituhi (writing) will be taught daily, often being incorporated into our other learning. Children will work with me, with each other, and on their own to develop their literacy skills. Some children will attend the Literacy Centre and some will attend the English Language Learners Hub, depending on their learning needs. We will be using structured literacy in the classroom as well.

This year we will be using the Oxford Maths programme as a base for our learning in pāngarau. In the senior kura, we cross-group for pāngarau each afternoon starting in Week 3. Tamariki are placed in groups that challenge their thinking, extend their understanding of maths concepts, and encourage them to work both independently and collaboratively to solve number and word problems.

We sometimes use Chromebooks and iPads to support our learning. Each child in the senior school has their own login for the school network. They can share the things they are doing with you on Google Drive by logging in at home too. Tamariki must have completed their Digital Technology Values form before they will be allowed to use a device at kura.



I use Seesaw regularly to share the great things we are doing in the classroom and to send messages or announcements. If you are not already linked to the Akomanga Rima Seesaw, please email me at [nantoniadis@kns.ac.nz](mailto:nantoniadis@kns.ac.nz) and I will send you a link. The site is safe, secure, and private; it is only accessible to our whānau. If you do not want your child's photo or work shared on the site, or if you have questions, please come talk with me or flick me an email. I am happy to alleviate any concerns you may have. It is very important that you are connected to this, as we try to share information in a timely manner, and Seesaw is often the quickest way to get information to you.

This term we will be doing swimming and athletics as part of our physical education programme. There are many sports opportunities in the senior school, so our senior tamariki are encouraged to listen to the notices so they can get involved. These opportunities include the arts groups I run in our classroom during break times—drama, choir, and art. These are open to all (except drama, which is for Years 4–6), including the members of A5.

## EXTRA NOTICES

- **School hat:** School hats are compulsory during term 1 and 4. If your child does not bring a school hat they will be unable to play in the sun, which can include class PE time. The New Zealand sun is too hot and dangerous to be in without being sunsmart. I encourage the children to slip, slop, slap, seek and wrap.
- **Kindo:** To avoid office queues, and to ensure your payments are accounted for correctly, we encourage all families to pay school costs online through our Kindo shop. If you do not already have a Kindo account, go to [www.mykindo.co.nz](http://www.mykindo.co.nz) or via the link on our school website.
- **Swimming:** Our swimming days are Monday and Wednesday, please ensure your children bring their togs on these days. Swimming is **not optional** as it is a part of our New Zealand Curriculum, and it is important for our 'kiwi kids' to be water wise when living so close to waterways like rivers, beaches and swimming pools. Please provide a note, Seesaw message or email if your child is unable to swim on any particular day.
- **Library:** We visit the library on some Wednesdays, usually when Mrs Morris is in the akomanga for the day.
- **Change of clothes:** Please help ensure your child has a change of clothes in their bag every day, just in case they are needed after messy (but fun) play! This is especially important in the winter months.
- **Medication:** A reminder that a consent form must be filled in and left at the school office for any medication administered at school. A consent form can be downloaded from our website or collected from the office. All medication remains in the office for safekeeping during the day.



- **Stationery:** Thank you to those who have paid for stationery already. If you would like to organise a payment plan please don't hesitate to contact the office to work something out - they are more than happy to do this as we understand this can be a very expensive time of year.
- **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. If children do bring a cellphone to school this needs to be handed into the office or kaiako until the end of the day.
- **Late:** If your child is late please ensure they report straight to the Smiley Face door to get a late slip, even if they arrive just after the bell. If your child is absent please be sure to inform the school. Also remember, from 9:15 am the only unlocked entry into the school is the front gate on Knighton Road.
- **Toys:** we do not allow toys at school. Unfortunately they can cause issues in the playground, so it is best to leave the cool things at home
- **Term Calendar:** The school term calendar will be sent home soon. If you are wanting to access this online, along with copies of the fortnightly newsletter sent home every second week, please visit [www.kns.ac.nz](http://www.kns.ac.nz)

I check my emails and Seesaw throughout the day, but I cannot guarantee I will see a message before 3:00 pm if things get busy. Please message or email me with any questions, concerns, or to share great things your children are doing at [nantoniadis@kns.ac.nz](mailto:nantoniadis@kns.ac.nz). However, **if it is urgent, it is best to contact the office and they will relay the message.**

Thank you in advance for all your support and help in 2026.  
Nga mihi nui, Nicole Antoniadis (Ms A or Whaea Nicole)



Below are some things I would love your help with. You only need to fill in what you know and leave the rest blank. Please choose one pepeha space or template to fill in and fill in the family tree. It will be used in our daily te reo Māori lessons. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you in advance.

If you know your child's pepeha please write it here and send back in, or email it to me.

If you do not know your child's pepeha, but know they have one, please complete this or the one below

# Tōku Pepeha

Use this information to fill in a draft of your pepeha:

Tōku Pepeha (My Pepeha)

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku maunga (mountain).

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku awa/roto/moana (river, lake or sea).

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku waka (canoe).

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku iwi (tribe).

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku hapū (sub-tribe).

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku marae.

No \_\_\_\_\_ ahau / Kei \_\_\_\_\_ tōku kainga inaianei (I am from/I am now from).

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku kura (school).

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku ingoa whānau (family name).

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku matua (father).

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku whaea (mother).

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku ingoa (your name).

Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

Or here is an alternative version, in particular for those who are non-Māori and have whānau from other wonderful places.

## Te Reo Māori

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ te maunga ki tōku taha

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ ngā wai ka rere ki tōku taha

Nō \_\_\_\_\_ ōku tūpuna

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku wāhi whānau

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku wāhi tupu

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku kāinga noho

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ tōku kura

## English

The mountain by my side

The waters that flow near me

Where my ancestors are from

My birth place

Where I grew up

Where I live

My school

Please fill these in with your tamaiti as it will be helpful in the weeks to come :)

# Tōku Whakapapa

