

Title 2019 Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term 1

Friday, 22 February 2019

Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term1

Our Vision: We are a community who learn and grow together.

Our Values: Be Responsible, Show Respect, Have Resilience.

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Whanau

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019. We hope you all have had a great holiday and that your child is settling back into school routines.

This year we have a number of Teacher Aides working in the Middle Syndicate who support our students. We also welcome the new families/whanau and their child into our syndicate.

Years 3 and 4 Classes

Room 8 Dave McNabb
Room 9 Jessie Austin
Room 10 Sam McGavin (Team Leader)
Room 11 Paul Wehipeihana (Team Leader)
Room 12 Calvina Deng
Room 13 Alayne Sharp
Room 14 Helen Winchcombe

Classroom Release Teacher for:

All classes - Michelle McKee.
Room 9 - Anna Skepetaris
Room 12 - Mel Corby

Within the Middle Syndicate, we cater for the individual learning needs of each child within the classroom. We still, however, work as a whole syndicate fostering unity. This is by working co-cooperatively on many learning activities together.

We recognise for some of our parents there is still some anxiety around having Years 3 and 4 mixed classes. We assure you we work to meet ALL students needs at the stage they are at. Please come and talk to us if you have any concerns.

For all our students there are new routines and expectations to learn which will help to support them with their learning. Here is a brief outline of this term so that you can continue to help and support your child at home.

Our School Values:

Be Responsible:

Engaged - Right thing, Right time, Right place.
Independent - on my own.

Considerate - your actions affect others.
Think about others.

Show Respect

Respect yourself.
Respect others.
Respect the environment.

Have Resilience.

Courage - be brave.
Perseverance - keep going.
Self belief - I can do it.
Taking risks - being prepared to learn and give new things ago.

School Key Competencies:

Managing Self – Considerate Me:

Encouraging the students to develop a greater degree of independence. This involves them taking greater responsibility for their routines, behaviour, belongings, and ultimately their learning.

Participation and Contributing - Collaborative Me:

Encouraging the students to participate in some of the many extra activities offered at school.

Relating to Others - Friendly Me:

Encouraging the students to be caring and relate well to others. This involves them being considerate and cooperative with one another.

Thinking -Thinking Me:

Encouraging the students to develop the ability to think in new ways to expand their thinking. This includes getting them to be creative thinkers, critical thinkers and be able to know how and when to use thinking tools.

Using Language, symbols and text - Communicative Me:

Encouraging the students to be able to use a range of tools to assist them with their learning. This includes being able to talk and listen to others, make meaning from different texts and use technology effectively.

Classroom Programmes

Inquiry

This term our focus is 'Communities'. The students will explore and develop their understanding of communities in a range of different contexts.

Inquiry Skill Focus: Questioning, finding and sorting information

Thinking Skill Focus: Critical (Explaining, justifying, describing etc)

Inquiry-based learning is an approach in which students have ownership of their learning. It follows the JOURNEY process which is listed below.

Jumping in:	finding out what children already know, think and feel about the topic.
On our way:	finding out/sorting information - developing the child's curiosity and further questioning.
Understanding:	sorting out/examining and combining information.
Reflecting:	making inferences, creating new ideas, extending and challenging the child's thinking
Now what:	how can the students use the information they have found out.
Evaluate:	help students to make links with their learning and the world around them.
Yahoo:	celebrating success, being proud of what I have achieved with my thinking and learning.

Literacy

We believe that students learn to read and write by Reading and Writing. They also need to see the purpose of why they are reading, and who and what they are writing for. In reading, the students will be moving from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn'. This includes comprehension strategies such as inferring, summarising, and evaluating.

In writing, they will be exploring deeper features such as adding detail, choosing precise words, planning and organising their ideas, and revising and editing. Part of their writing programme will include spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Throughout this term the students will be writing for a variety of purposes using different genres and styles.

Some of the specific skills that will be taught are:

- Planning and organising their ideas before they start writing.
- Structuring their writing appropriately, knowing what the purpose for writing is.
- Developing and elaborating on their ideas.
- Continuing to develop sentence structure, such as writing short and long sentences as well as using a variety of sentence openers.
- Developing and using paragraphs to group their ideas.
- Editing and revising their writing to ensure it is accurate.
- Adding descriptive detail to enhance their ideas
- Read and use words from the Essential spelling lists 1-8.

Mathematics

Our focus for the term will be exploring different strategies that the students use to solve number problems related to Number and Algebra: Addition and Subtraction. It will continue to focus on developing the student's understanding of their Number Knowledge specifically looking at:

- Number Identification of numerals up to 1000 and beyond
- Place and total value of numbers
- Identifying fractions of different parts
- Basic Facts

Alongside this learning, the students will also be involved in exploring different learning ideas and activities related to Measurement and Statistics:

- Mapping and interpreting maps
- Measuring Distance
- Co-ordinates
- Graphing
- Statistical investigation

Home Learning

We appreciate that home learning is personal for each child's and their family's needs.

Our main priority of our school is to encourage the life long love of reading. We encourage you to discuss with your child the book they are reading.

For students who wish to inquire in other areas of their learning – there is an on-going **PRIDE** Challenge for them to think about.

The **PRIDE** Challenge promotes the idea that learning is not an individual task, but involves doing things with others, including with the learner's family. It allows students and their families to "think smarter" about their home learning and involves students in tasks both at school and in the wider community. This reflects the idea of key competencies involving learning anytime, anywhere, with anyone.

For more ideas/information – please see your child's classroom teacher.

Sports and Fitness

This focus for this term is ball skills – throwing, catching, dribbling and bouncing. As part of the regular classroom programme the students need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear so that they can participate fully.

If your child is unable to participate, a note from home is required.

Syndicate Assembly

Syndicate and singing assemblies are generally held fortnightly on Monday at 11.45am. The next Middles Assembly will be on Monday 4 March.

Classrooms

In the Middle Syndicate the students are allowed to enter the classrooms at 8.30am.

Correspondence

In the Middle Syndicate, the students are encouraged to manage themselves and their learning. All of our newsletters, notices and general communication are distributed directly to you through Signmee. If you are not receiving school notices please ensure the office has your up to date email address.

To inform our parents of their child's learning across the curriculum, we use the student journal tool Seesaw. Your child throughout the year will upload different pieces of their learning for you to view and comment on.

Clothing

Please ensure that all clothing, including sun hats, is clearly named as often there is a large amount of unclaimed items in cloak rooms and lost property. Brimmed sun hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4. If your child does not have their hat at school during these terms, when they participate in outdoor activities they will be required to stay in the shaded areas of the school. When outside students are required to have shoes on at all times.

Participating and Contributing – COMMITMENT

If your child chooses an activity to participate in, then we expect a commitment from them for the rest of that term.

Digital Devices

Thank you for all your support as we get in the digital citizenship agreements and get chromebooks up and running in the classrooms. We recognise that a lot of you have bought your child a chromebook and we will integrate them into the class programme over the term.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your child's classroom teacher.

Regards

***Paul Wehipeihana, Alayne Sharp, Helen Winchcombe, Calvina Deng, Sam McGavin,
Dave McNabb and Jessie Austin.***

Signature: **[Optional]**