

Title 2019 Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term 2

Wednesday, 8 May 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Whanau

Middle Syndicate Newsletter - Term 2

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

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

We hope you and your child had a relaxing break and are now ready for another term's work. We welcome Xiaoyu Zhai from Victoria University of Wellington who is working along Helen Winchcombe in Room 14 for the first six weeks of this term. Here is a brief outline of this term so that you can continue to help and support your child at home.

Across the curriculum, we in the Middle Syndicate continue to encourage the students to develop the following skills:

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 co-operative 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.

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.

Classroom Programmes

Inquiry

This term our focus continues to be '**Communities - Taking Action**' Inquiry-based learning is an approach in which students have ownership of their learning. The students will continue to explore and develop their understanding of communities in a range of different contexts.

- What are communities? Focus on developing students ability to ask questions
- How can we get our students to build a wider understanding of what communities are?
- What are some of the social actions we can focus on that relate to our topic of communities?
- How can our actions have a positive impact on and within the communities we live in?
- What are some of the things we can do to have a positive impact on our community?

Inquiry Skill Focus: Questioning, finding and sorting information

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

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'. Our focus is developing student's understanding of texts through a range of approaches. This includes developing the following comprehension strategies:

- Asking questions
- Inferring
- Predicting
- Summarising
- Identifying the main ideas
- Making connections
- 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 exploring a range of ideas related to personalised writing including the following:

- Identify what is the main purpose of our writing? Why do we write? What are we trying to achieve when we write?
- How can we build a more personalised approach into our writing programmes?
- Goal setting, giving the students choice and voice, identifying the skills of writing they want to improve on and the types of writing they can do to help them achieve these goals.
- Identifying strengths and weaknesses as writers, reflecting on what we can do to improve ourselves as writers.
- Understanding the purpose of writing, what are we trying to achieve when we write? Audience - Who are we writing for? What does this mean for our writing.
- Looking at what our next steps in writing are.

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: Multiplication and Division** 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 **Geometry and Measurement:**

- Length
- Area
- Mass
- Volume and capacity
- Position and orientation
- Transformation

Home Learning

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

The main priority of our school is to encourage a ***lifelong love of reading***. We encourage you to discuss with your child the book they are reading.

For students who wish to inquire into 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

Weeks 1-3: Cross Country training: (Monday, Thursday and Friday) with our Middle School Cross Country event on Thursday 16 May.

The Middle Syndicate Cross Country Event will be held: Thursday May 16th starting at 11am. Parents are welcome to attend.

The Years 4 - 8 Interschool Cross Country Event will be held: Tuesday May 28.

The Years 4 - 8 Interzone Cross Country Event will be held: Tuesday 18 June.

Weeks 5- 6: Swimming. (More information detailing the times that classes are swimming will be emailed out to you.)

Weeks: 7 - 10: Large Ball Skills – (Football skills): Focussing on passing, dribbling.

To get the most out of these activities, it is really important that students come prepared with appropriate clothes/footwear.

Please make sure that all footwear and clothing is clearly named. As the winter weather approaches, we encourage students to have a change of clothes in their bag. If your child is unable to participate, a note from home is required. If students wish to bring along slippers to school to wear during the day, then they are more than welcome.

Enviro school news!

In the Easter holidays, a small group of students and whanau came together for two mornings to get the school vegetable garden beds ready for planting. This wasn't an easy task, as there was a lot of grass and roots to be removed. Thank you to the families who gave up some of their holiday time to help.

The Enviro group (as well as some classes) will be growing seedlings and planting these over the course of this term. As our school topic this term is 'Community in Action', we are planning to donate a large portion of our harvest to a local organisation that supplies lunches to schools.

We would love to have some parent volunteers to help keep the garden pest and weed free, or if anyone has gardening supplies which they are happy to donate, we are more than willing to take these off your hands.

Please email enviro@waterloo.school.nz if you can help in any way.

Nga mihi,
Miss Winchcombe & Miss Austin

Syndicate Assembly

Middle Syndicate assemblies are held fortnightly on Mondays at 11.45am - 12.30 pm. The following are the dates for this term:

- Monday 20 May
- **Monday 3 June (Queen's Birthday holiday) - No Assembly**
- Monday 17 June
- Monday 1 July

Celebration of the Arts assembly will be held Thursday 4 July 9.15am - 10.30am. More details to come.

Classrooms

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

Correspondence

In the Middle Syndicate, our 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.

Seesaw: 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. We encourage you to view your child's Seesaw folder and make positive comments about their learning.

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. It is fantastic to see so many students participating in the following school activities: Kapa Teina, Ukulele, Drums, Mini Ball, Guitar, Singing and Netball.

Thank you for your continuing support of our classroom programmes. Please keep encouraging your child to learn and improve their:

- Spelling
- Basic Facts
- Reading

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.***