

Title 2019 Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term 3

Friday, 26 July 2019

Middles Syndicate Newsletter Term 3, 2018

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

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

We hope you and your child had a relaxing break and are now ready for another term's work. We welcome Dave Haste to the Middle Syndicate. Dave will be teaching in Room 13 for the rest of this year.

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:

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 - Communicator 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

The learning for the students this term will focus on 'Indigenous Languages'. Inquiry-based learning is an approach in which students have ownership of their learning. The students will explore and develop their understanding of what Indigenous Languages are in a range of different contexts. We will be using the following questions as a guide through our inquiry process.

- How do we communicate?
- Why have languages evolved?
- Do we protect/value languages?
- What different languages do we speak in our classroom?
- How do we use language in our everyday lives?

Through the inquiry process we will be encouraging the students to think, ask questions, make connections and draw conclusions around their chosen topic focus.

Towards the end of the term the students will be having a showcase to celebrate what they have been learning across the term. More information will follow closer to the time.

Literacy

We believe that students learn to read and write through the act of Reading and Writing. They also need to see the purpose of why they are reading and writing, and who they are writing for. In reading, the students will be moving from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn'.

Our focus is developing students' 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 continue to explore 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.

With our focus for this year being personalised writing throughout this term, the students will be exploring a range of ideas related to the following:

- What is the main purpose of our writing? Why do we write? What are we trying to achieve when we write? Who are we writing for? What does this mean for our writing?
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

In mathematics, we try to teach strategies through real-world problems. This term our strategy focus is around Fractions, Proportions and Ratios.

As the students look at problems we reinforce and develop their understanding of number sense (place value, basic facts and groups)

We will also use the areas of Geometry, Statistics, Algebra and Measurement to also explore how numbers work.

School Value

This term we will be focusing on the value of Respect.

- Showing kindness and respecting others through their actions and words.
- Encouraging the students to take risks, show persistence, make mistakes and learn from them as part of their journey as a learner and a person.
- We want our students to think for themselves and approach learning with a positive attitude and Growth Mindset

We will explicitly teach skills relating to showing respect throughout the term.

We will still continue to focus on our other school values 'Being Responsible and Having Resilience'.

Health and Physical Education

This term we are going to focus on developing the following fundamental skills:

Weeks 1-3: Gymnastics

- Balance
- Spring
- Landings

Weeks 4-7: Big and small ball skills

- Catching & throwing
- Kicking
- Teamwork

Weeks 8-10: Athletics

- Throwing
- Running
- Jumping

To get the most out of these activities, it is really important that the students come prepared with appropriate clothes/footwear. If students wish to bring along slippers to school to wear during the day, then they are more than welcome. Please make sure that all footwear is clearly named. As the winter weather approaches, we encourage students to have a change of clothes in their bag.

Syndicate Assemblies

Syndicate Assemblies are held **Monday at 11.45am fortnightly**. The following are the dates for the term:

- Monday 29 July
- Monday 12 August - Singing
- Monday 26 August
- Monday 9 September - Singing
- Monday 23 September

Celebration of the Arts is an assembly where the students in the Middle Syndicate have the opportunity to showcase their talents in areas that they are learning, such as musical, singing, dancing, gymnastics, karate, etc. The students who perform at this assembly need to belong to a club, dance academy, learn music tuition etc. Dates will be confirmed later in the term.

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, Tini Ball, Guitar, Singing and Netball, Eco Warriors, Chinese Language Club and Woollies.

Home Learning

We appreciate that home learning is personal for every 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.

Correspondence

In the Middle Syndicate, the students are encouraged to manage themselves and their learning. All of our newsletters, notices and general communication will be emailed directly out to you through Signmee. Please ensure the office has your up to date email address, please check this regularly.

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.

Kind regards

Paul Wehipeihana, Sam McGavin, Dave McNabb, Calvina Deng, Helen Winchcombe, Jessie Austin and Dave Haste.