

Title

2022 Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term 2

Friday, 6 May 2022

## **Middle Syndicate Newsletter**

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

We hope you and your child/ren had a relaxing break and are now ready for another term's work. Within the Middle Syndicate, we aim to personalise the individual learning needs of each child within the classroom. We still, however, work as a whole syndicate fostering unity, by working collaboratively on many learning activities together. Please come and talk to your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions.

We welcome Susannah Black to the Middle Syndicate who will be doing classroom release for the teachers.

Here is a brief outline of this term so that you can continue to help and support your child at home with their learning and thinking.

### **Our School Values:**

#### ***Be Responsible/Kia Takohanga:***

- *Engaged - Right thing, Right time, Right place.*
- *Independent - on my own.*
- *Considerate - your actions affect others.*
- *Think about others.*

#### ***Show Respect/Kia Manawaroa:***

- *Respect yourself.*
- *Respect others.*
- *Respect the environment.*

#### ***Have Resilience/Kia Ngana:***

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

### **Active Learner Traits:**

We continue to explicitly teach skills relating to our school values throughout the term and we will be aiming to explicitly teach and link these to our Active Learner Traits:

- **Managing self - Managing me**
- *Encouraging students to develop a greater degree of independence. This involves them taking greater responsibility for their routines, behaviour, belongings, and ultimately their learning.*
- **Relating to others - Connecting me**
- *Encouraging students to be caring and relate well to others. This involves them being considerate and cooperative with one another.*
- **Thinking - Thinking me**
- *Encouraging 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.*
- **Participating and Contributing - Collaborating me**
- *Encouraging students to participate in some of the many extra activities offered at school and to be actively involved in their learning in the classroom.*
- **Using Language, symbols and text - Communicating me**
- *Encouraging 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**

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

This term, our focus will explore the students' understanding of **Taha Hinengaro (mental and emotional wellbeing)** through the continuation of **Te Whare Tapa Whā**.

The students' learning will focus on the following;

- **Zones of Regulation** - unpacking our understanding and knowledge of the Zones of Regulation. These are strategies that help a child recognise and regulate their own emotions, to support them at school and be ready for learning.

- Helping them to look after their taha hinengaro by doing things that make them happy, thereby strengthening their connections with themselves, others and environment.

Through this programme, the students will continue to explore and develop their understanding and use of positive health mind skills that will help support them to be confident and connected, actively involved, life long learners.

### Literacy

**Some students** will be taking a structured literacy approach in their reading programme to build the strongest foundations for reading and spelling. We will focus on phonics (the sounds letters make, blending sounds etc) and phonological awareness (ability to hear and manipulate sounds. E.g. Identifying rhyming words, identifying sounds they hear in a word and isolating sounds).

**In reading**, the students need to see the purpose of why they are reading, and who and what they are writing for. They will be moving from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn'. This includes focusing on developing the child's understanding of texts (fiction and nonfiction) through a range of approaches including the following:

- *Questioning - building comprehension skills and understanding as they read.*
- *Predicting*
- *Finding and summarising information*
- *Inferring*
- *Making connections*
- *Identifying main ideas in the text*
- *Evaluating.*

**In writing**, 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?*
- *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.*
- *Spelling, punctuation and grammar*

### **Library Times**

#### **Days and Times the Middle Syndicate classes go to the Library**

The students are allowed to get out **three books** when they visit the library.

Room 8: Thursday 9:30-10:00 am

Room 9: Monday 10.30-11.00am

Room 10: Thursday 12:30-1.00 pm

Room 11: Wednesday 10:30-11.00 am

Room 12: Tuesday 11:30-12:00 pm

Room 13: Monday 2:00 - 2.30 pm

Room 14: Thursday 10:30-11.00 am

### Mathematics

In mathematics, we try to teach strategies through real-world problems. This term, we will be focusing on the following areas:

- ***Multiplication and Division*** - throughout the term
- ***Statistics*** - students will be able to understand the different ways in which we collect and display data for statistical purposes based on actions as the result of an investigation.
- ***Measurement: students will be able to use different ways to estimate and measure using length, along with how, why and when directions are used in different contexts.***

As students look at problems we aim to:

- *Reinforce and develop their understanding of number sense (place value, basic facts and groups)*
- *Encourage them to share, explain and justify their thinking using the appropriate mathematical language in different contexts.*
- *Look for opportunities to link the strands to number and algebra and explain how they link together.*

### Home Learning

We appreciate that home learning is personal for each child and the needs of their family.

Our main priority of our school is to encourage the **life-long love of reading**. Students are expected to read at home everyday and are encouraged to choose books that will challenge them. This may vary depending on the ability of your child's reading. Please come and ask your child's teacher if you have any other questions.

As parents, you can help your child by;

- Listening to your child read to check they are stopping at full stops
- Scanning words carefully
- Ask questions to engage your child to think, use 'how' and 'why' to start your questions.
- Make predictions about what you think might happen in the text.
- Summarise the key ideas with your child (ask what "happened in the story" in the order that they happened).
- Encourage your child to talk about what they have been reading and some of the things they have learnt.

Home learning activities are needs based. If you are seeking home learning opportunities, have a conversation with your child's teacher.

### **Health and Physical Education**

This focus for this term will involve the following:

Catching and throwing - We will be practising our catching and throwing skills and using these skills to help us play different games such as Turbo Touch, Basketball, Netball and Football.

**The Middle School Cross Country Event will be held: Tuesday May 10 starting at 11am. Parents are welcome to attend.**

**Weeks 5 and 6:** Swimming. (More information detailing the times that classes are swimming has been emailed through signmee)

As part of the regular classroom programme the **students need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear** so that they can participate fully, give things a go and show resilience throughout these sessions. If your child is unable to participate, a note from home is required.

### **Classrooms**

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

### **Syndicate Assemblies**

Syndicate Assemblies are an opportunity for all the Middle School classes to come together to celebrate the different learning opportunities that are happening across the syndicate.

We are planning on having two syndicate assemblies this term. The dates for these assemblies are:

**Monday 23 May - 12:15-1pm**

**Monday 20 June - 12:15-1pm**

### **Correspondence**

**School Newsletters:** All of our newsletters, notices and general communications 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.

### **Clothing**

**Please ensure that all clothing is named.** When outside students are required to have shoes on at all times for their own safety.

### **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.

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

Regards,

**Paul Wehipeihana, Sam McGavin, Jessie Austin, Dave Haste, Kate Winiana, Julie-Ann Kamal and Omri Elyashiv**