

Title 2023 Middle Syndicate Newsletter - Term 3

Friday, 21 July 2023

## **Middles Syndicate Newsletter Term 3, 2023**

***Our Vision: Empowering Active Learners***

***Our Values: Show Respect ( Kia Manawaroa )***

***Be Responsible ( Kia Ngana )***

***Have Resilience ( Kia Takohanga )***

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Whānau,

We welcome Chris Cowman (Mr. C) who will be teaching in Room 10 into the Middle Syndicate.

We hope you and your child/ren had a relaxing break and are now ready for another term's work. 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.

### **Active Learner Traits**

At school, we continue to integrate our Active Learner Traits into our school values, teaching and learning programmes. We aim to ensure the students have the opportunity to self-reflect on them regularly throughout the term.

This term, our focus will be: ***Collaborating Me ( Team Work )***

- *Taking turns with a friend, sharing ideas*
- *Listening to others and responding appropriately*
- *Contributing and encouraging others in a group or class while taking on different roles*
- *Understanding that others may have a different opinion to me*

### **Classroom Programmes**

#### **Inquiry**

Inquiry-based learning is an approach in which students have ownership of their learning. Through the inquiry process we will be encouraging the students to think, ask questions, make connections and draw conclusions around their chosen topic.

This term, our focus will encourage the students to ***investigate local and global communities and consider challenges and opportunities through the lens of citizenship***. The students' learning will focus on developing citizenship by building skills for active involvement in our community.

- Citizenship involves people working together to make positive differences to society in which they live: locally, nationally and globally.
- Students who grow up being global citizens are more often tolerant and respectful of others, celebrate differences, foster equity and inclusion and strive to make a positive change in the world.
- Global citizenship is about encouraging people to develop knowledge, skills and values they need to engage with the world, and the belief that we can all make a difference.

#### **Literacy**

In **Phonological Awareness**, the students will continue learning the skills of hearing and manipulating sounds, e.g. Identifying rhyming words, identifying sounds they hear in a word, and isolating sounds.

In **Reading**, as a school, our focus is to continue developing our understanding of how best to use decodable and authentic texts to support the students' knowledge and skills in reading. The students need to see the purpose of why they are reading, along with having the opportunity to develop their understanding of texts (fiction and nonfiction). This is done through a range of approaches including:

- *Questioning - building comprehension skills and understanding as they read.*
- *Predicting, inferring, making connections and evaluating*
- *Finding and summarising information*
- *Identifying main ideas in the text*

In **Writing**, the students will explore 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?
- Identifying strengths and weaknesses as writers, reflecting on what we can do to improve ourselves as writers.
- Looking at types of sentences and what a sentence must include (e.g. punctuation, subject, verbs, use of conjunctions).
- Handwriting - focusing on the correct formation of letters, shape and size.

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.

### **Library Times**

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

The students are allowed to get out **3 books** when they visit the library.

Room 8: Wednesday 9:05 - 9:30 am

Room 9: Friday 9:30 - 10:00 am

Room 10: Wednesday 9:30 - 10:00 am

Room 11: Wednesday 10:30 - 11:00 am

Room 12: Wednesday 10:10 - 10:30 am

Room 13: Monday 2:00-2:30 pm

Room 14: Friday 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:

- **Fractions, Proportions and Ratios** - throughout the term
- **Geometry - students will explore the the following:**
- *Properties of 2/3 Dimensional shapes*
- *Identifying different angles*
- *Quarter turn and half turn used in different contexts*

### **School Values**

This term we will continue to reflect and focus on the values across our teaching and learning programmes of:

- **Show Respect ( Kia Manawaroa )**
- **Be Responsible ( Kia Ngana )**
- **Have Resilience ( Kia Takohanga )**

We will continue to explicitly teach skills relating to these values throughout the term and we will be aiming to explicitly teach and link these to our Active Learner Traits. We are a PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) school. We support students to develop the skills and strategies they need to encourage positive behaviour and take ownership of their actions.

We want our ākonga (learners) to always consider the following:

- *Make good choices about their learning*
- *Be honest, treat people the way you would want them to treat you*
- *Listen and follow instructions*
- *Always try their best and grow themselves as people and learners.*
- *Emphasize the importance of using manners and being kind, thereby helping our students to become good people who are caring and contribute positively all the time.*

Please support us by reinforcing these values with your child at home.

### **Health and Physical Education**

#### **Physical Education**

This term's focus is on developing the students skills in a range of areas.

This includes:

- Weeks 2-4: Gymnastics skills.

- Week 5: Dance and Movement skills

Within Gymnastics, students will focus on improving the quality of their movement to help them produce posture and extension. They plan and perform sequences of actions, develop flow and changes in speed and direction.

All students will have the opportunity to develop their cricket skills with a trained club instructor.

### Clothing

Please ensure your child comes to school prepared for the different learning activities with the appropriate clothes and footwear (named).

As we move into Winter, it is advised that your child brings a spare change of clothes that they can leave in their school bag and get changed if they need to.

If parents wish to purchase school clothing (optional), then you are welcome to visit our school website for more information.

### Classrooms

In the Middle Syndicate the students are allowed to **enter the classrooms at 8.30am**. If you need to drop your child earlier, please remember there is Fun Club (before and after school care) that you can enroll them in.

In the Middle Syndicate we encourage all our students to be independent (practising the Active Learner Trait of Managing Me) e.g. being responsible for their belongings and putting them in the right place.

### 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 having two syndicate assemblies this term. The dates for these assemblies are:

**Monday 7 August - 12.15 - 1.00 pm**

**Monday 4 September - 12.15 - 1.00 pm**

### Support Literacy at Home

#### **Reading:**

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. At times they may bring a book home from school that they have read in the class, or from the library. If it is a ready to read book, your child will bring a bookmark, these books are for you to read with your child.

As parents, you can help your child by;

- *Listening to your child read to check they are stopping at full stops*
- *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.*

### 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 children participating in the following school activities: drums, tiniball, guitar, touch rugby, netball etc.

### Correspondence

**School Newsletters:** All of our newsletters, notices and general communication are distributed directly to you through **Signmee** at this stage. If you are not receiving school notices, please ensure the office has your up to date email address. Please look out for updates around the eTAP Parent App for notices.

**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. If you need to contact us, your child's classroom teacher will endeavour to reply in a timely manner.

### Kapa Haka

The Middle Syndicate will be participating in Kapa Haka every Friday afternoon. Here the students learn and practice haka, songs (waiata), the meanings of the songs and the actions. This is a part of our school-wide tikanga.

### Upcoming Events

**Week 5:** Dance Curriculum Workshop (Wednesday 16 August)

**Week 9:** Te Wiki o te Māori and Artsplash Week

**Week 10:** Science Roadshow (Wednesday 20 September)

***Paul Wehipeihana, Chris Cowman, Dave Haste, Julie-Ann Kamal, Renee Littlejohn, Georgia Chapple and Molly Schuler.***

Signature: **[Optional]**