

## **Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term 4, 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 hope you and your child/ren had a relaxing break and are now ready for another term's work.

Looking back, we had a great term 3 with the following:

- Student led learning conversations
- Our EOTC trip to look after our local Waiwhetu stream
- Māori Language Week
- The Circus Challenge Show
- Football and cricket sessions
- Dance curriculum workshop
- Kapa Haka exchange
- Various sporting events
- The science roadshow for our Year 4 students and of course all our classroom learning.

It was an action packed term and we are looking forward to another exciting term in the Middles. 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. Our focus will be to revisit the following:

#### ***Managing Me (Making Choices)***

- *self motivated, making choices, resilient*

#### ***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 of choice.

This term, our focus will be exploring our planet and beyond. This is building on our learning around being a global citizen.

### 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).

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?
- 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. As the students look at problems we reinforce and develop their understanding of number sense (place value, basic facts and grouping). This term, we will be focusing on **revisiting strategies and number** in the following areas:

- Addition and subtraction
- Multiplication and division
- Fractions, proportions and ratios

There will also be a focus on

- **Geometry and Measurement: volume, capacity, length, area, perimeter**
- **Statistics: probability**

### 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 student's skills required to play invasion games. They will learn a range of simple attacking tactics using a range of equipment. They will start to think about how to defend their goal. These games will also allow students to build their understanding of teamwork, resilience and making good choices.

To get the most out of these activities, it is really important that the students:

- Come prepared with appropriate clothes/footwear
- Give the different learning activities a go
- Show resilience throughout the sessions

Part of the students' learning will also involve our health programme titled: '**Navigating the Journey**'. The programme is aligned with the health and physical education learning area of the New Zealand Curriculum, and with the Ministry of Education's guidelines for relationship education and sexuality education. There are five key themes in this programme. In the Middle Syndicate, we are going to focus on the three themes listed below.

### **Theme 3: Relationships**

Activity 1: Growing Healthy relationships

Activity 3: Recognising and Expressing Feelings

Activity 4: Managing relationships and challenging situations

### **Theme 4: Growing and Changing**

Activity 2: Our physical differences and Activity 4: My changing body

Activity 5: Caring for my body

### **Theme 5: Staying Safe**

Activity 3: Staying safe online.

Activity 5: Recipe for Wellbeing

### **Clothing**

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

As we are a "**Sunsmart**" school, students must have and wear their hats this term. **Please ensure that all hats are clearly named.**

### **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 enrol them in.

### **Syndicate Hui**

Syndicate Hui is an opportunity for all the Middle School classes to come together to celebrate the different learning opportunities that are happening across the syndicate. The dates for these assemblies are:

**Monday 30 October - 12.15 - 1.00 pm**  
**Monday 27 November - 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*
- *Reading to your child (engaging chapter books for example) - modelling what good readers do.*
- *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 students participating in the following school activities: drums, tiniball, guitar, touch rugby, netball etc.

### **Correspondence**

**School Communication:** All of our newsletters, notices and general communication is now distributed directly to you through the **eTAP parent App. Please make sure your notifications are turned on to receive all communication from the school.**

To ensure you know we have sent you a notice you need to have the app notifications turned on.

#### **@School App Notifications**

Once you have logged into the App, you need to go to the App settings and turn ON notifications.

1. Go to the **@school app settings** and tick the notifications options you would like.
2. Go into your **phone settings**, go to notifications, find the **@school app**, turn ON notifications.

It is important to note that:

1. The **@school app** logs you out every 30 days. If you wish to stay logged in, please set up a PIN number in the **@school app settings**.

2. If you have not yet logged into the App yet, please contact the office so we are able to ensure you receive all communication.

**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 Middles 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:** Roald Dahl Day - Tuesday 7 November

**Week 8:** Space Place & Wellington Amazing Race EOTC Trip  
30 November - Rooms 10/12/13  
1 December: - Rooms 8/10/14

**Week 9:** Space Place & Wellington Amazing Race EOTC Trip  
4 December: - Rooms 9/11

**Week 10:** Middles Kiwiana Day - Wednesday 13th December

Nga mihi

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