

Title 2021 Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term 4

Friday, 22 October 2021

Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term 4, 2021

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/ren had a relaxing break and are now ready for another term's work.

The students have done well over the year in learning to develop the following Active Learner Traits;

- ***Connecting me - relating to others***
- ***Thinking me - thinking***
- ***Managing me - self-managing***
- ***Collaborating me - participating and contributing***
- ***Communicating me - using language, symbols and text***

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

Classroom Programmes

Inquiry

This term, we will continue to: Encourage the students to think, ask questions, make connections and draw conclusions around our learning titled: **Wāhi: Our Place - Te Awakairangi - Lower Hutt . This will be a continuation of the learning/ inquiry that was started in Term 3.**

Our Big Idea is for our students to build on their prior learning about our 'place' so that they can look after it and be the kaitiaki-guardians of our place.

Through this study, the students will continue to explore and develop their understanding around the following ideas that will help support them to be confident and connected, actively involved, life long learners.

- Build their knowledge and understanding of where they live - Te Awakairangi-Lower Hutt.
- Learn our Waterloo School pepeha.
- Become familiar with the myths and legends of our area (be able to retell one or more in their own words).
- Become familiar with the stories of our area (be able to retell one or more stories in their own words).
- Become familiar with significant landmarks, place names and people - be able to recognise them and have some understanding of their history.

Literacy

In Phonological Awareness the students are 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, 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 continuing to focus 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
- Asking questions
- 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? 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.
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar

Library Times

Days and times that Middle Syndicate classes go to the library:

Rm 8 - Thursday 9.30 - 10.00 am

Rm 9 - Tuesday 12.00 - 12.30 pm

Rm 10 - Thursday 12.00 - 12.30 pm

Rm 11 - Wednesday 10.00 - 10.30 am

Rm 12 - Tuesday 11.00 - 11.30 am

Rm 13 - Monday 11.00 - 11.30 am

Rm 14 - Thursday 10.00 - 10.30 am

Mathematics

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

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

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

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

School Value

This term we will continue to reflect and focus on the values of:

- Being responsible
- Having resilience
- Showing respect

We will 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.

Health and Physical Education

Physical Education

We will focus on different ball skills related to summer games where the focus will be on striking, catching and throwing. These skills will be taught and practiced through the use of games to reinforce them. These games will also allow students to build their understanding of team work and resilience.

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

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

Upcoming Events...

Cricket Sessions - Weeks 1,3,4 on a Monday.

Spellathon: Testing Friday 29 October

Hutt Intermediate - Production: Wednesday 10 November 9-12 pm

Middles Trip Day: Tuesday 7 December: All Day (TBC) More information to come at a later date.

Middles Fun Games: Tuesday 14 December: 11- 12.30 pm

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 school activities.

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 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 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.

Kind regards

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

Signature: **[Optional]**