



Title 2021 Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term 1
Friday, 5 February 2021

Middle Syndicate Newsletter

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

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Whanau

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021. We hope you all have had a great holiday and that your child is settling back into school routines. We welcome new families/whanau and their child/ren into our syndicate. We would like to take this opportunity also to welcome the following teachers to the Middle Syndicate; Kate Winiana, Julie-Ann Kamal and Omri Elyashiv

Years 3 and 4 Classes

Room 8 Omri Elyashiv

Room 9 Jessie Austin

Room 10 Sam McGavin (Team Leader)

Room 11 Paul Wehiipeihana (Team Leader)

Room 12 Kate Winiana

Room 13 Dave Haste

Room 14 Julie-Ann Kamal

Classroom Release Teacher for all classes - Michelle McKee

Classroom Release for Rooms 8, 12 - Anna Brownlie.

Within the Middle Syndicate, we cater for the individual learning needs of each child within the classroom. We still, however, work as a whole syndicate fostering unity. This is by working co-operatively on many learning activities together. Please come and talk to your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions.

For all our students there are new routines and expectations to learn which will help to support them with their learning. Here is a brief outline of this term so that you can continue to help and support your child at home.

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/Key Competencies:

We will 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/Key Competencies:

- **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.*
- **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.*

Zones of Regulation:

The students' learning will focus on 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.

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 is '**Social responsibility**'. The students will explore and develop their understanding of relationships, culture and diversity in the context of themselves and their class environment.

Inquiry Skill Focus: Questioning, finding and sorting information

Thinking Skill Focus: Critical (Explaining, justifying, describing etc)

We will be using the following questions as a guide through our inquiry process.

Inquiry-based learning is an approach in which students have ownership of their learning. It follows the following process:

1. **Make a Start:** Engage, Hook, Explore, Wonder
2. **Make Discoveries:** Investigate, Research, Gather, Sort
3. **Make Meaning:** Analyse, Make Connections, Elaborate, Clarify
4. **Make a Difference:** Create, Share, Present, Communicate, Change

Literacy

We believe that a child learns to read and write by Reading and Writing.

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 non fiction) 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 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 continued focus being personalised learning, 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, knowing what the purpose for writing is.*
- *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 1-7.*

Library Times

Days and Times the Middle Syndicate classes go to the Library

- Room 8: Thursday 9:30-10:00 am
- Room 9: Tuesday 12:00-12:30 pm
- Room 10: Thursday 12:00-12:30 pm
- Room 11: Wednesday 10:00-10:30 am
- Room 12: Tuesday 11:00-11:30 am
- Room 13: Monday 11:00-11:30am
- Room 14: Thursday 10:00-10:30 am

Mathematics

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

- *Addition/Subtraction - weeks 1-11*
- *Statistics (Investigation) - weeks: 3-5*
- *Geometry (Positional language) - weeks 6-7*
- *Measurement (Time) - weeks 8-10*

As students look at problems we aim to:

- *Reinforce and develop their understanding of number sense (place value, basic facts and groups)*
- *Look for opportunities to link the strands to number and algebra.*

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***. We encourage you to discuss with your child the book they are reading.

For students who wish to inquire in 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 the child and their family to "think smarter" about their home learning and involves the child 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.

Health and Physical Education

This focus for this term is Athletics. As part of the regular classroom programme the **students need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear** so that they can participate fully. If your child is unable to participate, a note from home is required. At this stage we are planning on holding our athletics day on **Tuesday 30 of March**, with a postponement date of **Thursday 1 April**.

Syndicate Assembly

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

- Tuesday 23 February
- Monday 8 March
- Monday 22 March
- Monday 12 April

Classrooms

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

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.

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, including sun hats, is clearly named as often there is a large amount of unclaimed items in cloak rooms and lost property. **Brimmed sun hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4**. If your child does not have their hat at school during these terms, when they participate in outdoor activities they will be required to stay in the shaded areas of the school. When outside, students are required to have shoes on at all times.

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.

Digital Devices

Thank you for all your support as we get in the digital citizenship agreements and get chromebooks up and running in the classrooms. We recognise that a lot of you have bought your child a chromebook and we will integrate them into the class programme over the 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