

Title 2023 Middle Syndicate Newsletter - Term 2

Tuesday, 2 May 2023

Middle Syndicate Newsletter Term 2, 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. Within the Middle Syndicate, we continue to:

- Cater for the individual learning needs of each child within the classroom.
- Work as a whole syndicate fostering unity. This is by working cooperatively on many learning activities together.
- Emphasise 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.

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, along with ensuring the students have the opportunity to self-reflect on them regularly throughout the term.

This term, our focus will be:

- ***Thinking me - reflecting, inquiring, risk taking***
- ***Communicating me - creative, digital communication, listening and sharing***

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 explore the students' understanding of belonging through the lens of citizenship:

Knowing who we are in Aotearoa - Absolutely Positively New Zealand.

The students' learning will focus on the following:

- Citizenship involves people working together to make positive differences to society in which they live: locally, nationally and globally
- Aspects of New Zealand life, its people and places that have shaped us who we are today
- Developing citizenship by building the skills that we need for being active in our community

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: Thursday 9.10-9.40 am

Room 9: Monday 10.30-11.00am

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:

- *Multiplication - Throughout the term*
- *Geometry and Measurement - positional language*

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.*

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 to make good choices about their learning, be honest, treat people the way you would want them to treat you, listen and follow instructions and to always try their best and grow themselves as people and learners. 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:

Athletics:

The Middle School Athletics were held Monday 1 May. The students had been practising the different events leading up to the day.

Swimming:

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

Dance and Movement:

Matariki 2023 is a special time of the year and is on Friday the 14th July (the last Friday of the next school holidays). In preparation for this, the school has registered in the Matariki NZ Dance Challenge. Through this challenge, the aim is for our students to take part, and gain a deeper understanding of the meaning of Matariki.

Teachers have been supplied with teaching and learning resources to help support the students in learning the dances for the NZ challenge. Within each syndicate also, the teachers have organised different times throughout the term to practise these dances before the final challenge.

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

- Give the different learning activities a go
- Show resilience throughout the sessions

Clothing

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

As we move forward to 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 enrol 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 Syndicate 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 15 May - 12.15 - 1.00 pm

Monday 12 June - 12.15 - 1.00 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 the following school activities: ukulele, drums, mini ball, guitar, touch rugby, netball etc.

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.*

Correspondence

School Newsletters: 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. 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 2: Math-a-thon Cards: students learning their basic facts (more information to follow)

Week 5: School photos

Weeks 5&6: Swimming

Week 9&10: Matariki Celebrations

Nga mihi

Sam McGavin, Paul Wehipeihana, Dave Haste, Julie-Ann Kamal, Renee Littlejohn, Georgia Chapple and Molly Schuler

Signature: **[Optional]**