



## Middles Term 1 Newsletter 2022

Kia ora Whānau

Welcome back to school! We trust you have had a fantastic break, enjoying the sunshine with your tamariki and are ready to begin the new school year. There is always a lot of excitement in the first few days back at school as the children start in their new classrooms and see their friends again. The Middles Team have some fantastic learning activities and experiences planned for 2022.

The Middles Team is as follows:

Year 3 Team	Year 4 Team
D2 - Lititia Gostynski	A1 - Jo Prosser <i>(Team Leader Year 4)</i>
E1 - El-Mari Kolbe	A2 - Keryn Akers & Hannah Ward
E2 - Jane Werry <i>(Team Leader Year 3)</i>	A10 - Kerry Labett <i>(Year 3 and Year 4)</i>
	A6 - Rosa Conway

### What's Coming Up?

#### **Getting to Know your Child**

A form will come home in the first week of term for you to fill in and return to the teacher. This form helps us get to know your child better. Could you please return this to your child's class teacher by Wednesday 9th February. We appreciate the time and thought you put into completing this.

#### **Meet the Teacher Information Evenings**

This year due to Covid restrictions there will be no face to face meeting with the classroom teacher. More information on how we will conduct these will be communicated shortly.

#### **Beach Education 2022**

We are lucky to be able to participate in the Beach Education programme with New Zealand Surf Life Saving. This programme focuses on safety in and around the water. This is a vital learning programme for our students as they learn how to be safe and enjoy the beautiful New Zealand beaches. We will require parent support on the day, please keep an eye out for further information on how you can be involved on the day.

### Curriculum Overview

## Health

The focus for the first few weeks of the term will be on settling the students into their new classroom environment, establishing routines and getting to know them as learners. Through the 'Navigating the Journey' programme, we will be looking at Establishing a Positive Learning Environment and Who Am I? We will look at developing a positive growth mindset and the Learning Pit. This will help to develop a positive learning environment for our tamariki.

## Inquiry

Our first inquiry for 2022 focuses on 'Tūrangawaewae', "What's in a Name? - We will be looking at our own names, why they are special, where do they come from?, what meaning do they have, who named us? We will look at names used by different cultures in our classes for family members. We will then look at the names around our Kura of the streets, wondering where and why the names are given. This will give us a good sense of our own special place in the world and make connections to the local history of where we live as we celebrate the diversity in our own classes.

Our second inquiry is a science and environmental focus as we look closely at composting. We will explore why we need to compost, how to compost, what we can and cannot compost and how we can make a difference in our Kura and community by composting.

## Literacy

Our focus will be on teaching the skills and strategies for students to become competent writers. We will look at how authors write for a purpose and an audience, and how we can change our writing to suit this. Students will be given many opportunities to express their ideas through a range of writing genres. In Term 1 we will have a specific focus on the genres of how to write a description and how to write an explanation text. This supports the learning the tamariki will be doing in their inquiries.

High-interest and meaningful texts will be at the heart of our reading programmes, which include guided reading groups, shared and personal reading.

Tamariki will be focusing on the skills of 'Making Connections' and 'Summarising' when reading in Term 1.

## Maths

We want our students to be creative and inspired when it comes to maths, so our maths programmes are taught in exciting, integrated, and effective ways. This term students will delve into Measurement, Geometry and Statistical Investigations. Learning experiences will align with inquiry where possible for a more meaningful and relevant mathematical experience. There will be a strong focus on teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity. We will continue to build on place value and number knowledge, and will work towards developing student understanding of number patterns when learning basic facts.

## Health & PE

Mindfulness will be an important part of classroom programmes. Mindfulness builds resilience by giving children the skills to help them cope better with stress, as well as engaging more fully with themselves and the world. It also gives the children the tools to think before they act. Swimming will start in Week 3 and will continue until the end of the term. Students will learn a range of water survival skills including water confidence, flotation, basic stroke development and breathing.

Along with swimming, our physical education programme will focus on developing the fundamental skill of striking a ball.

Year 3 tamariki will have 3 x 45min golf sessions

Year 4 tamariki will have 3 x 45min tennis sessions and Ki o rahi sessions

## E-Learning

This year we will use a variety of e-learning tools which will open up a range of enhanced learning opportunities in terms of creativity, research, presentation and exploration. At the heart of our e-learning programme is developing student awareness of digital citizenship and online safety, so please keep an eye out for the Responsible Digital Use Agreement, which will be making its way home shortly. Seesaw will continue to provide you with a window into the classroom and a way in which your child can document and share their learning with you. Remember to sign up to their new class when you get the information.

## The Arts

Our visual art focus will be on self-portraits, along with music lessons by our specialist teacher. Tamariki will enjoy a range of waiata opportunities. We will integrate our visual arts, drama and dance into our Inquiries over the Term.

## Māori

### Te Ao Maori

Tūrangawaewae Mihi/Pepeha - tamariki will learn to be able to confidently share their mihi/pepeha.

**Te Reo Language** - tamariki will learn;

- **Greetings** - greetings for 1, 2 and several people
- **Waiata** - to support Pōwhiri and develop our repertoire of waiata.
- **Karakia** - Traditional karakia to begin the day in the classroom

## H.A.C.K

The H.A.C.K challenge is ready to roll out for 2022. Last year we experienced some amazing learning, acts of kindness, arts, sports and other activities that students had achieved to earn their Bronze or Silver awards. The Homework Achievement Challenge is a great way to acknowledge all of the learning and activities done outside of the classroom. It allows you to learn alongside your tamariki and encourages them to participate and stretch their learning outside the classroom. H.A.C.K forms will be sent out in the first weeks back at school. All information is on the form, do not hesitate to ask any questions about this programme.

## General Information

- School officially opens at 8.30am with classes starting at 8.55am. Teachers are at school early but are unable to supervise your child until 8.30am as we are often out of the classroom preparing. If your child arrives before this time they will be asked to play under shelter outside. It is important that students are at school by 8.45am so they have time to prepare for the day.
- Year 4 students need to have their masks to wear. Please provide a ziplock bag for keeping their masks when not in use.
- Please name all clothing and equipment. This will help to reduce lost property and allow us to return items.
- A named hat must be worn outside at all times. Consider having sunscreen in their bags that can be reapplied during the day.
- It is important for students to have access to water during the day to keep them hydrated. Please ensure they bring a named bottle to the classroom.
- Please ensure your child's footwear is suitable for daily fitness sessions and PE activities.
- Teachers may send home some books that will require covering for easy identification and durability.
- Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions we will not be having our fortnightly assemblies in Term 1.

## Dates for the Diary

Term 1 - Week 1	
Thursday 3 Feb	First Day of school for 2022
Term 1 - Week 2	
Monday 7 February	Waitangi Day - School Closed
Term 1 - Week 3	
Monday - Friday	Cultural Week Swimming begins

<b>Term 1 - Week 4</b>	
Monday 21 Feb	Beach Education Trip
Tuesday 22 Feb	Beach Education Trip 2sday Celebration
Wednesday 23 Feb	Beach Education Trip
<b>Term 1 - Week 5</b>	
Tuesday 1 March	Movin March begins
<b>Term 1 - Week 6</b>	
	Dowse - Patake Trip - Dates to be confirmed
<b>Term 1 - Week 10</b>	
Thursday 7 April	Plant A Seed - Little Dog Barking - Year 3
<b>Term 1 - Week 11</b>	
Thursday 14 April	Last day of Term 1 - Happy Easter!

## Can You Help?

- We would appreciate each child bringing in a box of tissues and a tennis ball for their class.
- If you are able to help with your child's class garden in some way, please let us know.

We are looking forward to a great first term, and are excited to be working with you and your child this year.

Ngā mihi nui

Middles Team Teachers