



Middles Term 2 Newsletter 2023

Kia ora Whānau

Our Mana Middles team is ready for another exciting term of learning with our tamariki. We have planned new inquiries and learning experiences that will encourage curiosity and problem solving, and develop skills with digital technologies with hands on tools. This term there will be some 'out of this world' learning for our tamariki!

Dates for Your Diary

Week 1 24 - 28 April Monday April 24 Tuesday April 25	Teacher Only Day ANZAC Day - school closed
Week 2 1 - 5 May Tuesday May 2	Y4 - 6 South West Zone Cross Country
Week 3 8 - 12 May	
Week 4 15 - 19 May Thursday 18 May Friday 19 May	Athletics Afternoon Pink Shirt Day
Week 5 22 - 26 May Thursday 25 May	NZ Playhouse Performance - Treasure Island
Week 6 29 May - 2 June	Gymnastic Sessions
Week 7 5 - 9 June Monday 5 June	King's Birthday observed - School Closed
Week 8 12 - 16 June	
Week 9 19 - 23 June Wednesday 21 June	Parent -Teacher Interviews 2.20 - 7.30pm. School closes at 2pm
Week 10 26 - 30 June Thursday June 29 Friday June 30	Parent -Teacher Interviews 2.20 - 7.30pm. School closes at 2pm Last day of term

What's Coming Up?

New Zealand Playhouse

We are excited to be able to have the New Zealand Playhouse come and perform their show 'Treasure Island'. This is a fabulous opportunity for our tamariki to see the performing arts in action. The cost of this show is \$5.80 and is an Activity-Related donation. If you are yet to pay this, please pay \$5.80 to the office or pay online: ASB Lower Hutt, Eastern Hutt School Board of Trustees AC no. 12 3478 0009657 00, reference Treasure Island Show.

Curriculum Overview

Inquiry

Our inquiry this term is a Science and Technology based focus on Planet Earth and Beyond. We will have a specific lens on the Sun and the Moon. Tamariki will understand;

- The position of the Earth, Sun and Moon in our Solar System
- The position of the Earth in relation to the Sun and how it relates to the seasons
- Humans can harness the power of the Sun
- The constellation of stars in the Matariki sky

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 2, we will have a specific focus on how to write instructions and describe a character, and how to report on facts. 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, and shared and personal reading. Tamariki will be focusing on the skills of 'Asking Questions' and 'Making Inferences' when reading.

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 (Time), Geometry (Position and Orientation) and Multiplicative Thinking. 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 we will work towards developing student understanding of number patterns when learning basic facts.

Hauora & PE

Our physical education programme will focus on further development of fundamental skills of striking a ball, catching and throwing. We will be developing skills in gymnastics during sessions in Weeks 6 and 7 this term. We will focus on safe use of gymnastic equipment, safe landings, tumbling and balance skills.

Navigating the Journey

Through the 'Navigating the Journey' programme, we will be looking at Staying Safe - Te noho haumarū. We will begin with the lesson 'I'm the boss of my body'. Students will understand that their body is their own and they can decide what to do with it. They will also look at various scenarios so that they know what to do and say if they don't feel comfortable or safe in a situation, and people they can go to if this occurs. In Week 4 we will focus on kindness and anti-bullying as we acknowledge another Pink Shirt Day to promote anti-bullying in our kura. During the term we will also cover 'Staying Safe Online', where students will identify ways to stay safe when they are online and using devices such as mobile phones, computers and tablets. The topic 'Who can help me with my worries' will enable students to identify strategies and people who they can talk to when they feel worried about something. We will link all of our learning for the term to Te Whare Tapa Whā and students will apply their learning to create the perfect recipe for their wellbeing.

E-Learning

This Term we will continue to develop student awareness of cyber safety when using digital tools. Students will continue to develop their skills with coding and robotics with the support of the EHS Digi Kids Leadership programme. The use of digital technologies is integrated throughout curriculum learning.

The Arts

Our visual art focus will be on using chalk pastels to create works of Art that reflect the Matariki celebrations. 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 Reo Language - tamariki will learn;

- **Numbers** - Counting to 100
- **Week Days**
- **Months and Seasons of the Year** (Year 4)
- **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 Homework Achievement Challenge is a great way to acknowledge all of the learning and activities done outside the classroom. It allows you to learn alongside your tamariki and encourages them to participate and stretch their learning outside the classroom. We are looking forward to seeing lots more H.A.C.K challenges being shared in our classrooms and in our Team assemblies. Make sure your child shares their challenge work with their kaiako and classmates and that any work is signed off.

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.
- Please name all clothing and equipment. This will help to reduce lost property and allow us to return items.
- As we are heading into the winter months, tamariki are welcome to bring their slippers to wear in the classroom. Please ensure that these are clearly named.
- 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.
- Assemblies this term are on Thursday of Weeks 2, 6, 8 and 10. Whānau are welcome to join us for a celebration of learning. Assemblies begin in the hall at 1.45pm and finish at 2.45pm.

Can You Help?

- We would appreciate each child bringing in a box of tissues for their class.
- If you are able to help with your child's class garden in some way, please let us know.
- If you are available to help with returning class reading books please contact your class teacher to arrange a day.

We are looking forward to a great term of learning!

Ngā mihi nui

Middles Team Kaiako