

# Mighty Middles



**Eastern Hutt School**

Kings Crescent

Lower Hutt

Phone: 04 – 566 0167

email: [office@easternhutt.school.nz](mailto:office@easternhutt.school.nz)

## Middles Team Term 1 Newsletter 2019

Kia ora Whānau

Welcome back to school! We trust you have had a fantastic break, enjoyed the beautiful weather with your children 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 2019.

The Middles Team is as follows:

Year 3 Team	Year 4 Team
D2 - Stella Hiotakis	A1 - Hayley Walshe ( <i>Team Leader Year 4</i> )
E1 - Kerry Labett	A2 - Michaela Evans
E2 - Jane Werry ( <i>Team Leader Year 3</i> )	B5 - Julia Pitiroi
E3 - Renee Littlejohn	D1 - Sam Hodges

## What's Coming Up?

### **Meet the Team/Teacher Information Evening**

This will be on **Thursday 14 February** and we would value your attendance. We will start off in the hall at **6.30pm** where you will meet the team and get an overview of what life will be like for your child this year in The Middles. From there you will go back to your child's classroom where you will meet your child's teacher and get a run down on classroom routines and expectations.

### **Capital E National Arts Festival**

Middles students will get to enjoy a range of theatre experiences from both national and international artists when they visit the Capital E National Arts Festival in March. We will need your help to take the students on this trip, so please stay tuned for the parent help request form and further details. In the meantime, please note the date your child's class will be attending in the dates for your diary below.

## Curriculum Overview

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. We ask that you return the 'Getting to Know Your Child' form to assist us with this.

## **Inquiry**

Our inquiry for Term 1 is **He waka eke noa - We're all in this together** and will focus on identity. We will kick start this by looking at both classroom and school culture. Students will look at how they interact with others in the classroom, school and wider community, and will discover how their attitude towards learning affects the outcome. Developing curiosity and exploration will underpin our inquiry.

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

## **Numeracy**

We want our students to be creative and inspired when it comes to maths, so our numeracy programmes are taught in exciting, integrated, and effective ways. This term students will delve into measurement, statistics, and proportions & ratios. 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 2 and will continue until the end of the term. Students will learn a range of fundamental skills including water confidence, flotation, stroke development and breathing. Priority will be placed on daily fitness sessions so students will be taken out daily. Students will also enjoy specialist tennis sessions, and a touch rugby tournament.

## **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, with music and additional art lessons by our specialist teachers. Students will enjoy a range of waiata opportunities. Our trip to the Capital E National Arts Festival in March will be sure to inspire!

## **Māori**

Te Reo Māori will be actively promoted within classrooms. Students will develop their own mihi to explore their whakapapa and build on their identity. They will work towards sharing it with confidence and fluency. Karakia and waiata will also continue to be promoted as part of our Middles Team and school culture.

# **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 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.
- 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.
- Middles assembly is on most Thursdays from 1.45pm – 2.45pm and we welcome families who wish to join us. The assembly is student-led and provides an excellent opportunity to share the learning happening throughout the Middles.

# Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 6 February	Waitangi Day - School Closed
Friday 8 February	Powhiri for new students and their whānau
Thursday 14 February	Meet the Team/Teacher Evening 6.30pm - 7.15pm
Wednesday 20 February	School Picnic - you're welcome to join us if you're able : )
Tuesday 12 March	Capital E National Arts Festival Trip for (E2 & E3) (D1 & A2) (A1 & B5)
Thursday 14 March	Parent Teacher Interviews 3.20pm - 6.15pm
Friday 15 March	Capital E National Arts Festival Trip for (E1 & D2)
Wednesday 20 March	Parent Teacher Interviews 3.20pm - 6.15pm
Thursday 28 March	BluGuru performance in the school hall
Monday 1 April	Touch Rugby Tournament (pp Tuesday 2 April)
Friday 12 April	End of Term 1 Easter and Anzac Day fall within the school holidays in 2019

## Can You Help?

- Please let us know if you are able to offer any of your time or skills helping out in the classroom – teachers and students are always appreciative!
- 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**