

Mighty Middles



Eastern Hutt School

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Middles Team Term 2 Newsletter 2018

30 April 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to Term 2! A special welcome to families who are joining us in The Middles this term. We hope your child has had a well-deserved break after a long hot summer, and that they have had a chance to rest up after an action-packed term. The first term saw our students develop their swimming skills, plant their gardens, learn beach safety rules, and develop the fundamental skills of catching and throwing - which helped during the specialist cricket sessions. Moving through March, students tried hard to be as active as possible, make new friends in classes, and develop positive mindsets. They got to work developing their reading and writing skills, created artworks, increased their music knowledge and practised their mihis. Term 2 is looking just as busy with plenty of fun learning in store for our students.

The Middles Team is as follows:

Year 3 Team	Year 4 Team
E1 - Kerry Labett	A1 - Hayley Walshe (<i>Team Leader Year 4</i>)
E2 - Jane Werry (<i>Team Leader Year 3</i>)	A2 - Michaela Evans
E3 - Renee Littlejohn	B5 - Julia Pitiroi
E4 - Chelsey Egan	D1 - Rebecca Barkla
	D2 - Stella Hiotakis

Coming Up....

Keeping Ourselves Safe - Parent Information Meeting

This will be on **Monday 30 April at 2pm** in the **staffroom**. We would encourage you to come along to meet Constable Blue who will guide you through what your child will be learning about in the first few weeks of school through the NZ Police *Keeping Ourselves Safe* programme.

Pataka Trip

As part of our Inquiry into *sustainability*, all classes will be attending an art-based programme run by The Pataka Art Museum. Students will get to see artworks made out of recycled materials and will have the opportunity to create their own. Stay tuned for further information, and for the date and time your child's class will be attending. We will require parental support to go on this trip.

Curriculum Overview

The focus for the first few weeks of term will be on the *Keeping Ourselves Safe* programme, developed by the New Zealand Police. Students will be focusing on two key areas; *My Body is My Own* and *Dealing with Unwanted Behaviour*. Each class will be visited by Constable Blue who will support the teaching of key areas and messages in the programme. There will be activities that will need to be completed at home with parent support, so look out for these in your child's school bag.

Inquiry

We will delve into the concepts of *sustainability* and *power*. Students will come to understand that we are responsible for the survival of Planet Earth and that we have the power to make a difference. We will also look at how individuals, groups, and communities need to meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

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 write informational reports on topics linked to inquiry.

Numeracy

We will begin the term with algebra and the key concepts this involves. From there we will move into multiplication and division strategies, followed by measurement. We will carry out statistical investigations throughout our Inquiry. There will be a continued focus on place value and basic facts.

PE & Health

Year 4s will be gearing up for their cross-country races on Monday of Week 3. Later in the term the focus will shift to resilience, teamwork and core strength. Year 3s will be focusing on developing fundamental skills for winter sports in their daily fitness programme. From Weeks 6 - 10 there will be a winter sports rotation covering rugby, football, netball and hockey.

E-Learning

We will continue our e-learning focus to develop student awareness of digital citizenship and online safety. 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. Students will use devices and apps to research, share their learning, and be creative.

The Arts

Our visual art focus will be creating artwork using recycled materials with a sustainability message. There will be music and additional art lessons by our specialist teachers. Students will enjoy a range of singing opportunities.

Māori

This Term our students will continue to develop their Te Reo vocabulary. We will be focusing on the importance of Matariki. Students will continue to learn a range of waiata and karakia.

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 units of work or in meetings. 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.

- As the winter months approach, having slippers to wear in the classroom is encouraged.
- 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.
- Please ensure your child has all the learning tools they require to have a successful day of learning.
- The Middles assembly is on every Thursday 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.

Key Dates

Monday 30 April	Keeping Ourselves Safe Meeting. 2pm
Friday 4 May	School Powhiri for new families to EHS 9.45am in school hall
Monday 14 May	Year 4 Cross Country (PP Thursday 17 May)
Friday 18 May	Pink Shirt Day - Anti-Bullying Campaign
Friday 1 June	Teacher Only Day
Monday 4 June	Queen's Birthday Weekend
Friday 15 June	Matariki
Thursday 21 June	EHS Cultural Show
Thursday 28 June	Mana: Spirit of Polynesia Performance in school hall Middles Sustainability Art Exhibition
Friday 6 July	School Reports go home Last day of Term 2

How Can You Help?

- Please let us know if you are able to offer any of your time or skills to help out in the classroom - teachers and students are always appreciative!
- We would appreciate each child bringing in a box of tissues for their class, especially with winter sniffles.
- If you are able to help with your child's class garden in some way, please let us know.

We are looking forward to another exciting term, and working with you and your child.

Middles Team Teachers