

Mighty Middles



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Middles Team Term 4 Newsletter 2018

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to Term 4, the last term for the year - where has the time gone? We hope you all had a good break and enjoyed some of the lovely spring weather. We have an action packed term planned that will make the most of the spring and longer summer days.

Coming Up

H.A.C.K Celebration Assembly

This will be held on Thursday 15 November at 1.45pm in the school hall. We welcome all parents and family to attend this celebration assembly for the students who have completed their Bronze or Silver H.A.C.K awards this year. Many students have worked hard on personal projects to attain this award and we are very proud of the work they have completed and shared with their peers. A reminder that all H.A.C.K forms need to be completed and signed off by Friday 2nd November, week 3.

E.O.T.C Week

Our annual E.O.T.C week will be held in week 8, 3 - 7 December. We have planned many exciting learning experiences for our students over this week as we focus on developing the Key Competencies of Participating and Contributing, Managing Self and Thinking. The Year 4 students will have their overnight stay on Thursday 6 December. All information and further notices about E.O.T.C will be sent out shortly.

Curriculum Overview

Inquiry

We will be looking at the concept of *diversity* through a social science lens. Our inquiry will allow students to explore and celebrate the similarities and differences that make us all unique individuals. We will be looking at everyday aspects of our lives to ascertain what we may do differently, focusing on the ways our families live, celebrate and learn to value these differences. Students will be researching, questioning, conducting surveys and learning more about their peers.

Literacy

Our focus will continue to develop the skills of a writer over this term. There will be a specific focus on the features of an effective writing, developing personal voice in the pieces of writing done by students. Students will focus on developing their editing skills to ensure they have used punctuation correctly, reworked for interest and checked spelling approximations.

Numeracy

The term begins with consolidating our knowledge and strategies of addition and subtraction. Following this, we will be revisiting multiplication and division. We will look at geometry before ending the year. There will be a continued focus on place value and basic facts.

PE & Health

We begin the term with a focus on athletics. We will have two sessions of an athletics rotation for the first four weeks of this term. Students will be exposed to and develop skills in running, throwing and jumping. Our school pool will open again in week 4 for swimming to take place. Each class will have two swimming sessions a week. It is extremely important that all students participate in the swimming programme, as water safety for all students is important. If there is a medical reason that your child cannot participate in the swimming programme, please advise their classroom teacher.

E-Learning

We will continue our e-learning focus to develop student awareness of digital citizenship and online safety. Students will build their skills in digital technologies including Google Drive, Seesaw, and Coding.

The Arts

Students will enjoy a range of waiata opportunities, in addition to music and art lessons by our specialist teachers. We will use every opportunity to produce artworks using our natural environment and will look at some New Zealand artists who have captured our unique environment.

Māori

We have many exciting things happening in the Middles classes in terms of Māori language teaching and learning. Students will learn some new waiata and whakatauki this term.

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 we are in the spring and summer months, all students need to have a sunhat for outside activities and play.
- 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 second Thursday from 1.45pm - 2.45pm and we welcome families who wish to join us. Please check with your child's teacher regarding what week it is on. The assembly is student-led and provides an excellent opportunity to share the learning happening throughout the Middles.

Key Dates

Week 1 15-16 Oct	Scooter Safety sessions
Week 2 Tues. 23 Oct	Teacher Only Day
Week 2 Friday 26 Oct	School Disco - 6.15pm -7.15pm
Week 3 Wed. 31 Oct	NZ Ballet Workshop for participating students
Week 3 Friday 2 Nov	H.A.C.K forms due to class teachers
Week 4 Friday 9 Nov	Kapa Haka exchange
Week 5 Tues. 13 Nov	South Western Athletics - Year 4s
Week 5 Thurs. 15 Nov	H.A.C.K Celebration assembly 1.45 - 2.45pm
Week 8 3 -7 Dec	E.O.T.C Week. Year 4 Overnight stay, Thursday 6th Dec
Week 9 Friday 14 Dec	Middles Fun Day at Wainuiomata Pools
Week 10 Tues. 18 Dec	Last day of school for 2018.

How Can You Help?

- If you have some time available to put school reading books away, please let us know. It is a wonderful help and greatly appreciated by the teachers.
- 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!
- 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