

Mighty Middles



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Middles Team Term 3 Newsletter 2018

Kia ora koutou

Welcome back to Term 3. We trust the children have had a good break from school routines, and have enjoyed some of the beautiful winter days Wellington has turned on over the holidays. We hope they have had a chance to recharge their batteries, and are eager to get stuck in to what will be, an action-packed term.

Coming Up

Three Way Conferences

These will be held on Thursday 26 July and Wednesday 1 August. Parent involvement is so important to children's learning, so please book a time that suits if you have not already done so. The conference provides a wonderful opportunity for your child to share their progress and learning with you. It is also an opportunity for you to ask questions and share your thoughts, so that you and your child's teacher can strengthen the home and school partnership. School will finish at the earlier time of 2pm on the days of the conferences to allow enough time for all parents to attend. Student attendance is expected.

Curriculum Overview

Inquiry

We will be looking at the concept of *power* through a scientific lens. Our hands-on inquiry will allow students to explore everyday examples of the physical world. Learning experiences may include phenomena such as forces, electricity, magnetism, light and heat. We will be encouraging students to ask questions about our world, and use scientific language to explain their thinking.

Literacy

To tie in with our inquiry, our writing focus this term will be on explaining how things work or why things happen. We will also throw the spotlight on much-loved children's author Roald Dahl. The biennial Middles Roald Dahl Day, coming up at the end of the term, is something Middles students very much look forward to.

Numeracy

We will begin the term with financial literacy, where students will develop their financial fitness. Students will learn about money and discover the relationship between earning, spending, and saving. From there we will move into fractions, measurement, and geometry. There will be a continued focus on place value and basic facts.

PE & Health

Year 3s will begin their Mana Kid adventure - a programme developing resilience, teamwork, and core strength. It would be great if they could carry an extra set of clothes in their bag as there will be a bit of mud involved! Year 4s will be gearing up for their Mana Kid celebration event in week 3. In the second half of the term, students will be participating in a gymnastics rotation.

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. At the end of the term, students will enjoy *Illusionaire* - an award-winning magic show from Melbourne.

Māori

We have many exciting things happening in the Middles classes in terms of Māori language teaching and learning. Māori Language Week, coming up in September, will provide an opportunity for students to celebrate and extend their use and understanding of te reo Māori.

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 winter months, 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 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 27 July	100 Days at School Celebrations for Year 3 students
Thursday 26 July	Three Way Conferences - school finishes at 2pm
Friday 27 July	School Powhiri for new families to EHS 9.45am in school hall
Tuesday 31 July	ICAS English competitions
1 August - 10 August	ASB Financial Literacy sessions with Captain Cashtastic
Wednesday 1 August	Three Way Conferences - school finishes at 2pm
Wednesday 8 August	Year 4 Mana Kids Event
Tuesday 14 August	ICAS Maths competitions
Thursday 27 September	Illusionaire Magic Show

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!
- 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