



Middle School Newsletter Term One 2018

Welcome to 2018 in the Middle School. We hope you have all had a fantastic summer break and are well rested, ready for another busy year! The Middle School has an exciting year ahead and we look forward to meeting you and getting to know you and your child during this term.

Introducing the Middle School for 2018

Tiina King	Room 11	Year 4	
Christine Munro			
Lauren Ripper	Room 12	Year 3	
Jenny Naus	Room 13	Year 3	
Lynne Laburn	Room 14	Year 3	
Kate Jennings	Room 15	Year 3	
Gillian Peterson	Room 16	Year 3	Team leader
Biata Hilder	Room 28	Year 4	
Roshni Sidhwa	Room 29	Year 4	Team leader
Heather Lankow	Room 30	Year 4	
Andie Pirie			Deputy Principal

A warm welcome to Biata Hilder who has moved to New Zealand from Cape Town, South Africa. Biata is an experienced teacher and is already settling in very quickly to the school and to our team. We also welcome all of our wonderful part time teachers and support staff who will be working in classrooms and in various programmes with the Middle School.

Middle School Events for Term One

Middle School assembly
Meet the Teacher evenings – **Year 3 (and Rm 11)**

*Friday 9 February
Tuesday 13 February*

Meet the Teacher evenings – **Year 4**
Twilight Market

*Wednesday 14 February
Friday 16 March*

Zone swimming sports

Tuesday 20 March

3-way Conferences

Thursday 22 March

Middle School assembly

Friday 23 March

Year 4 EOTC programmes

Thursday 5 April and Friday 6 April

Year 3 EOTC programmes

Tuesday 10 April and Thursday 12 April



Integrated Topic for 2018

This year our integrated topic is focused around the theme of “*Treasuring*”. A taonga, or treasure, in Maori culture can range from a word to a memory. We will be looking at what is special to us with a focus on people, landforms, artefacts and natural resources. The Volvo Ocean Race with their awareness campaign around ocean health and plastic pollution and the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in April will feature in our learning experiences.

Education Outside of the Classroom

This year we will be working with an organisation called Outdoor Experience to provide a day of activities and challenges for all. The Year 4 programme will be held at Eastern Beach and the Year 3 programme at Omana Regional Park on the dates listed above. More information, including which classes will be attending on which days, will be sent out nearer the time. Get ready for an action packed day! The cost of this programme is covered in the activity fee so please ensure this is paid through the online payment system.

Sports Uniform and Sunhats

All Middle School children are required to wear the school PE uniform (shorts and t-shirt) for fitness, physical education and sports sessions. Please remind your child to bring these to school every day in their school bags (and take them out for washing over the weekend!) During this first term sunhats are also compulsory for all outdoor activities. We ask that all of these items are clearly named so that they can be easily identified when mislaid!

Nude Food

Once again we will be promoting “litterless” lunches to help keep our environment beautiful. Please try and avoid wrappers where possible, using plastic containers and reusable bags instead. Any unavoidable lunch rubbish will come back home in your child’s lunchbox. Children strive hard to win “Jude”, our nude food mascot each week by being ‘caught’ having a ‘nude’ lunchbox!

Home Learning

Your child will be bringing home a combination of spelling words, basic facts, Athletics tasks and books to read on a regular basis. In the Middle School we encourage the children to choose a book from school to take home (including library books) and they are also able to read other material that they may already have. The green Home Reading book that your child has purchased has a list of ideas of what to read on page 67. This valuable book also gives parents great ideas of ways to encourage your child to read and some questions that you might ask as they finish reading a text. Please take some time to have a look through it. The spelling words that will be coming home will be based on our new schoolwide “Jolly Phonics” spelling and grammar programme. Please read the additional information about this programme that will be sent out. Aspects of home learning will be discussed at Meet the Teacher night so it would be great to see as many of you there as possible.

Parent Help

As our programmes get underway the classrooms become very busy places and help and support from parents is always most appreciated. If you are able to commit to helping on a regular basis in your child’s classroom or can be of support in other ways, please contact the class teacher to make arrangements.

Things to keep at home and things to bring in to school!

Please remind your child that toys, collectable cards and lollies are all items that need to be kept at home and don’t come to school! While we love to celebrate your child’s birthday at school we do discourage parents from bringing in cakes or lollies to share with the class due to food allergies and sensitivities. We will still make your child feel special on their big day! Please do bring to school any medication that your child needs and take it to the office where the appropriate paperwork can be completed.

Child away from school or calling in to school?

All absences need to be reported to the school office either via email, the school website, phone or in person. If your child is going to be absent for an extended period of time, please pick up a form from their class teacher or the office. Your support in this is greatly appreciated. A reminder too that if your child is late for school they will need to sign in at the office and pick up a late pass. If you need to call in during the day to collect your child early or deliver something to the classroom, please remember to go to the office first to sign the visitor book. Children will not be released from class unless you have a sign out card. We look forward to your help, support and encouragement throughout 2018 and want you to feel free to approach us with any concerns or issues. Appointments can be made with the class teachers or through the school office to ensure a time that suits everyone.

*Kind regards,
The Middle School team*