



Middle School Newsletter Term One 2015

Welcome to the 2015 school year. We hope you have all had a fantastic summer break and are well rested, ready for another busy year! The Middle School, as always, has an exciting term ahead and we look forward to meeting you and getting to know your child during this time.

Introducing the Middle School for 2015

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	
Jane Craig	Room 15	Year 3	Team leader
Marie Crous	Room 16	Year 3	
Johanna O'Brien	Room 28	Year 4	
Roshni Sidhwa	Room 29	Year 3/4	Team leader
Heather Lankow	Room 30	Year 4	
Marie Cutler	Room 31	Year 4	
Andie Pirie			Deputy Principal



We also welcome Robyn Young, Jodi Oldham, Aradhana Sharma, Cheryl Peters and Chris Cole, 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

Te Tuhi Art Gallery trips	12-20 February
Middle School assembly	Friday 13 February
Parent meeting for BLC	Monday 16 February
Meet the Teacher evening – Year 3	Wednesday 18 February
Meet the Teacher evening – Year 4	Thursday 19 February
	(all Rm 29 parents are invited on this date)
Birkenhead Leisure Centre trips	6-11 March
3-way Conferences	Thursday 19 March
Middle School assembly	Friday 27 March
Twilight Market	Friday 27 March



Integrated Topic for 2015

This year our integrated topic is focused around the theme of “Eye Spy – Zooming in on Science”. Through contexts such as kitchen chemistry, light and sound, and building construction we will be investigating the process of fair testing and trying to ‘think like a scientist’!!

Education Outside of the Classroom

The trip to Birkenhead Leisure Centre is always a highlight of Term 1. Notices with more information, including dates for each class, will be coming home soon. The Year 3 programme includes kayaking, rock climbing and building bush bivvies while the Year 4 programme has kayaking, team initiative games and archery. A fun day for all to look forward to.



Sports Uniform and Sunhats

All Middle School children are required to wear school sports shorts and t-shirts 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. Classes strive hard to win “Jude”, our nude food mascot each week by having the most ‘nude’ lunches in their room.



Home Learning

Your child will be bringing home a combination of spelling words, basic facts 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 41. 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. Spelling words that are sent home are often a combination of words from the children’s writing and words from the levelled lists. These home lists are often adapted according to individual needs and ability and may be replaced with other word study type activities. 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 & Class Liaison

The classrooms are already looking like welcoming and exciting learning environments. As our programmes get underway they 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. If you are interested in being the class liaison parent for your child’s class please let the teacher know. They will be very happy to hear from you!

Things to keep at home!

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. Many children have food allergies and it can be fraught for both them and the class teacher when there are things that they cannot eat being given out to all of the children. 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?

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.



Calling in to school?

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 2015 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,
Middle School Teachers*