



## Middle School Newsletter Term One 2016

Welcome to 2016 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, as always, has an exciting term ahead and we look forward to meeting you and getting to know you and your child during this time.

### Introducing the Middle School for 2016



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	
Anthony Wright	Room 28	Year 4	
Roshni Sidhwa	Room 29	Year 4	Team leader
Heather Lankow	Room 30	Year 4	
Marie Cutler	Room 31	Year 4	
Andie Pirie			Deputy Principal

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 evening – Year 3  
Meet the Teacher evening – Year 4  
3-way Conferences  
Twilight Market  
Birkenhead Leisure Centre trips  
Te Tuhi Art Gallery trips  
Botanic Gardens trips  
Middle School assembly

Friday 12 February  
Wednesday 17 February  
Thursday 18 February  
Thursday 10 March  
Friday 18 March  
14, 15, 21 & 22 March  
22, 24, 29 Mar, 1 & 4 Apr  
30 Mar, 1, 4 & 11 Apr  
Friday 8 April



### Integrated Topic for 2016

This year our integrated topic is focused around the theme of “Reach for the Stars”. Through contexts such as the Twilight Market, the Olympic Games, plants and planets we will be focusing on a range of learning including being the best we can, the production process, life cycles and natural phenomena.

### 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, archery and, new this year, geocaching! A fun day for all to look forward to.



### 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. 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 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. 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 2016 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*