

Year Three & Four - Term One Newsletter, 2013
Friday 8th February,

Dear Parents & Caregivers,
Welcome to Term One, 2013. We all hope you had a restful and safe holiday. The year 3 & 4 team are looking forward to the start of another year of learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the syndicate leader for our middle school and located in Room 7. I have taught all levels of the primary sector and I have enjoyed the opportunities to teach both in New Zealand and in England. While content knowledge is crucial, I am passionate about children being taught skills and competencies to become independent lifelong learners.

Suzanne Christie is teaching in Room 5 and she has a wealth of experience in the education system and enjoys supporting children in their learning journeys.

This year we welcome Ann-Marie Wilkinson to our middle syndicate. We are incredibly lucky to have a creative and innovative practitioner join our team.

We have a busy term ahead and this newsletter is a summary of what curriculum learning will be taking place in our classrooms as well as some important upcoming dates. If you have any questions about anything at all please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher. The year 3 & 4 team appreciates as much communication between home and school as possible. On most occasions, concerns can be solved by having a quick conversation with your child's teacher, so do not hesitate to make contact. Our emails are listed at the end of the newsletter.

Curriculum Learning

Numeracy

As a syndicate we will be focussing on number knowledge in addition, subtraction and basic facts. Simple rote based activities will help your child to retain number knowledge required for strategy work. Maths Whizz is an excellent programme that will be considered a regular part of your child's homework. Teachers can monitor usage and if you are interested in this data please contact your child's teacher.

Maths Strand

In a range of meaningful contexts, students will engage in thinking mathematically to solve statistical investigations. In the later part of this term the children will apply this knowledge to their inquiry learning.

Literacy Writing & Reading

In poetic writing, students will be developing word banks around descriptive language. They will learn that effective use of adjectives in poetry will catch and sustain their readers' attention. In transactional writing, our students will learn the correct structure of report writing. These skills will be useful to inquiry learning in the later part of the term. This year there will be a big emphasis on teaching self-assessment skills. This will help our children improve their editing skills. Basic use of capital letters and full stops will be monitored closely this term. Our class spelling programmes will be used to support our children in further developing their editing skills.

In the middle school, we promote "Reading for Meaning" and "Reading for Enjoyment". This term there will be a big emphasis on students reading information relevant to their inquiry learning. Children will be encouraged to identify key points and interesting information. At home students are encouraged to discuss with you a story or an article they have read. Two great questions to ask our children are "What do you think about... and why do you think this?"

Inquiry Learning

This year our school wide inquiry theme is "Changes". This term we have two curriculum foci; Social Sciences and Science. The first half of the term students will be learning about how to deal with change. The second half of the term, students will be participating in various science experiments that demonstrate change of state.

Health and Physical Education

As part of our health and wellbeing programme, we will continue to focus on values that help create a learning focused classroom where all students feel safe and happy to learn. In class, learning activities will focus on how students can identify ways to act responsibly to support themselves and other people.

For the first three weeks of this term, all classes in our syndicate will be swimming every day and small ball skills will be a focus during the second half of the term. After swimming, there will be three fitness sessions a week where students are expected to participate in enjoyable physical activities to help assist wellbeing.

Uniform

School uniform is compulsory. Black socks and black shoes are to be worn, or black sandals/jandals/bare feet. No coloured t-shirts are to be visible underneath school shirts i.e. hanging out below school shirts - black under-shirts are acceptable. We encourage students to bring a spare set of clothes for sport however; school uniform is to be put back on afterwards. No nail polish or make up is to be worn and all long hair is to be tied up. Stud-type earrings are allowed. Hats are also compulsory this term.

*Please check that all uniform items are clearly named.

If for whatever reason your child cannot wear correct school uniform, please write them a note to carry around with them for each day they cannot wear it. Children not wearing correct school uniform will be sent to the office to change and continued non-compliance with school uniform rules will result in detention.

Important Dates

Tuesday 19th February: Meet the teacher night – we extend a warm welcome to everyone to attend this information evening. It is an opportunity for teachers and parents to meet and an excellent opportunity for our teachers to inform you of their teaching and learning that occurs in their classroom. As a middle syndicate we will have an emphasis on how you can support your children with their learning at home. We look forward to seeing you Tuesday 19th February at 6pm.

Kindest regards,
The year 3 & 4 team.

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