

Term 3 Middle Years Newsletter

Hi parents/caregivers,

Welcome back for Term 3. This term we will be exploring our new school-wide Science driven Connected Curriculum topic of, 'Why does the universe work' with a focus on Natural Disasters. Students will learn about how weather conditions and the Earth creates conditions for them to occur, disruption to the Earth and our communities natural disasters cause and also what people in Technology and Science fields are doing to find ways to protect people from these naturally occurring disasters.

Important Dates:

Week 2: 3 way interviews: Tuesday and Wednesday

Week 2: Thursday – Book Fair starts in the Library and goes until Week 3 Tuesday

Week 4: Thursday: Room 9 and 10 – Excursion to ABC Centre Collinswood

Week 5: Thursday Room 8 – Excursion to ABC Centre Collinswood

Book week

Skywatch Dome incursion

Week 7: PAT Testing (all classes)

Room 7 – Excursion to ABC Centre Collinswood

Week 10: Sports Day

General Routines

Walker Learning

In the Middle Years, students will continue to be taught using the methodology that our whole school has adopted, the Walker Learning Approach. This includes working in a flexible learning environment; student directed learning opportunities, class meetings, the use of a student-parent-teacher communication board, focus students, Education Research Projects, Clinic Groups and Tuning In sessions each morning.

Morning Routine

When the second bell rings at 8.40 the classroom will be opened for the students. The students will need to line up at their spot outside of the building for the teachers to collect. 'Checking In' routines include checking the communication board, placing diaries/notes in the inbox, completing the emotional check-in and beginning Independent Learning Time. At 9.00am 'Tuning In' will begin, which consists of an overview of the day, discussing general issues, clarifying learning intentions and Focus Student sharing.

Focus Students

Each Middle Years student will be the Focus Student once a fortnight again this term. This is an opportunity for the students to discuss their learning and thoughts with the class, through guided questions by the teacher. There is a term roster displayed on communication boards. Each teacher has communicated the Focus Student topic for weeks 1 and 2 and it is communicated in advance so that students have time to prepare.

Values and Behaviour

We expect the best behaviour from every student at all times. In the Middle Years classes we will continue to focus on the school values of respect, achieve, care and responsibility. The Joy project will continue to be used to create positive relationships by teaching the students the skills to be a collaborative and positive member of the school. This term we will continue with Circle Time and we will focus on 'Friendships' throughout the term.

Healthy Snacks and Water

Students are encouraged to bring along fruits and vegetables which can be consumed during learning time responsibly. Students can have their water bottles with them during class but they must be used responsibly and filled up at break times only. Please keep other drinks such as juice and cordial for treats at home.

Absentees

Just a reminder that if a student is absent, please write a quick note in their diary, phone the school or pop in to explain why. Long absences, such as family holidays, need to be arranged through the Principal. If a student is late to school or needs to be collected early, please sign them in/out at the front office. School attendance is closely linked with academic achievement, therefore it is critical that students are at school and given the best opportunity possible to succeed.

Library

Library visits will continue in Term 3 for all Middle Years classes. Ms. Burrow will be running small reading groups and Clinic Groups on research skills with each of our Middle Years classes.

Library days are

Room 7 and 8: Fridays

Room 9 and 10: Tuesdays

Students are able to borrow and return library books during this time or during their Independent Learning Time throughout the week.

Fitness/P.E.

Students will require appropriate clothing and footwear for fitness and sport. Fitness is a part of the curriculum and every student will participate daily. Students receive P.E. lessons once per week on a Thursday (Rooms 7 and 9) or Friday (Rooms 8 and 10).

Edmodo/Blog

Edmodo will be used as an ongoing student discussion and sharing forum for the Middle Years classes. It can be accessed from home or school. Reminders, homework tasks and assignments will be uploaded to Edmodo. Students are reminded that our normal school rules and values apply to the Edmodo community and are asked to report any antisocial behaviour. Edmodo can be accessed @ www.edmodo.com

Our Middle Years blog will be used as a communication tool for parents. The blog will be used to share learning, newsletters and other information.

If you would like to access the Middle Years blog, follow the link:

seanyb92.edublogs.org

Circle Time/Class Meeting

Each Middle Years class will continue to run Circle Time each week. Circle Time links with the Joy Project and is an opportunity for students to communicate how they are feeling, practise empathy and self-regulation skills and gives them the opportunity to discuss issues in a safe environment. Class Meeting time will allow students to discuss real-world issues that are happening outside of the school. Students are able to discuss and communicate ideas and beliefs on certain topics.

Clinic Groups (Walker Learning)

Clinic Groups will continue to develop throughout Term 3. Clinic Groups are a range of different small group learning situations and provide the opportunity to personalise learning. They will usually be led by the classroom teacher but may also be run by other students or teachers within the school. In the first semester, Clinic Groups were used to teach and reinforce Literacy and Numeracy concepts, such as sentence structure, figurative language and addition and subtraction strategies. We have some students from Action Teams sharing their teaching skills and curriculum knowledge with our classes via Clinic Groups.

Communication Board

The Middle Years classes each have their own communication board in or outside their classrooms as a way for teachers, students and parents to communicate. The communication board will feature items such as; important notices, statement of intent, learning intentions, clinic groups, timetables. Please stop by and have a look at the communication board or some of the work on display!

Introducing Patrick Carroll – Room 7 and Middle Years Pre-service Teacher:

Hello all! I am a 4th year Education (primary/middle) student at UniSA. I specialise in HPE and HASS, and have a trade background as a carpenter. I continue to be incredibly lucky with my placement schools and mentor teachers, and will spend my final placement in room 7 with Melanie Sims and her 6/7s. After 1 introductory day, it's very apparent that my placement here will help me further develop my experience and skills as a pre service teacher, with the Walker Learning and Joy Programs present. I am a very active in the local sporting community, with roles as a coach in both Australian and American Rules Junior Football. I'm extremely excited and can't wait to begin at Kidman Park Primary School, thanks for the opportunity!

Curriculum Areas

This year, Middle Years students will be offered learning experiences in the following areas: Mathematics, English, Health and Physical Education, Technology, Science, The Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Japanese and Positive Education and will be working across all Middle Years classrooms. All learning experiences will be taught using our Connected Curriculum model focusing on the big question: 'Why does the universe work?' with a focus on Natural Disasters.

English

Word Study

In Word Study, Middle Years students will continue to focus on topic specific vocabulary and spelling rules. Each week the students will complete essential routine activities including: syllables, LSCWC, word etymologies and meanings and then complete activities from a contract. Please ask to see your child's Word Study resources if you'd like to know more.

Writing

In Writing this term the students will continue adding to their Writer's Notebooks with a focus on Information Report writing. Information Reports are texts which present information about topics to the

audience and reader, they are organised carefully with subheadings and effectively use topic sentences. Students will learn how to structure an information report using scaffolds and will learn the grammatical features of information reports, including technical vocabulary and note taking from resources to create their own paragraphs. Students will again work towards publishing and sharing entries from their Writer's Notebook. This term, students will also be expected to present their information reports orally.

If you see your child's notebook at home, talk to them about their writing and ask them to explain the structure of their notebook. Some of the main points we emphasise during notebooking time are:

- To be a brave speller. This means to have a go at spelling words, even if they are unsure about them.
- To skip a line. This allows room for revising and editing later.
- No erasers. Erasers stop the flow of ideas. We encourage the students to cross out mistakes and continue writing.
- To write for the whole time. This allows the students to build their writing stamina.
- To be a brave writer. This includes having a go at writing a range of different text types and also being confident in sharing thoughts, ideas and entries with the class during reflection time.
- Revising and editing their own work. In Writer's Notebook lessons, we ensure that only the students edit their own work. Teachers do not edit or mark students note books, but may provide feedback using sticky notes. Often, editing will be done with the assistance of a teacher through discussions with the student.

Reading

Reading groups will begin this term where the students will focus on rotational activities. These activities will include; independent reading, ICT based reading tasks, such as Lexile quizzes, Scholastic Literacy Pro and Ziptales. Students will also practise their fluency and phrasing by reading aloud to a partner and small group tasks including guided reading and comprehension tasks.

During reading group sessions, students will:

- Interpret features such as contents, glossary, chapters, headings and subheadings
- Explore a range of texts, including media and digital texts
- Explain the effect of technology on texts, particularly media texts
- Explore different points of view on events, issues and characters in different social, historical and cultural texts

Grammar

This term, Middle Years students will investigate sentence structure during grammar lessons. They will:

- Use commas to separate clauses
- Investigate complex sentences
- Understand and use punctuation to support complex sentences
- Recognise subordinate clauses within sentences

Oral Language

Students will present their information reports orally this term. A visit to BTN during the term will focus on developing presentation skills. In class students will:

- Plan, rehearse and deliver presentations including multimodal elements

- Use appropriate volume, tone, pitch and pace when speaking to an audience
- Understand and apply formal and informal language
- Understand the uses of objective and subjective language

Mathematics

In Mathematics, the students will cover topics in fractions, probability, patterns and algebra and shape. At home, for homework, students can finish incomplete work, revise concepts, and complete Mathematics set-tasks to improve their understandings in a range of topics linked to school learning which are the following topics:

Number

- Add and subtract decimals
- Use estimation and rounding to check answers
- Multiply and divide decimals and powers of 10
- Make connections between equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages and continue to use these to make Best Buys
- Investigate ratios

Location and Transformation

- Learn and investigate combinations of transformations, reflections and rotations and to begin using the Cartesian plane system using all four quadrants.

Shape:

- Construct simple prisms and pyramids
- Draw different views of prisms.

Measurement

- Choose appropriate units of measurement for length, area, volume, capacity and mass
- Calculate perimeter and area of rectangles using familiar metric units
- Connect volume and capacity and their units of measurement

Lessons will include warm ups, games, hands on activities and purposeful, real-life problems. Each week students will work collaboratively to complete problem-solving tasks at a 'just-right' level for them, followed up by Clinic Groups for explicit teaching of concepts. Problem solving tasks are differentiated, meaning that students can all work on the same task, but at a level that suits their learning needs. Students are encouraged to work with others during problem solving lessons and are encouraged to independently select a level that suits their learning needs for that particular area. This promotes self-regulation, an awareness of one's strengths and weaknesses in Mathematics and a growth mindset. We encourage the students to challenge themselves, take risks and to think positively about Mathematics. Students will continue to monitor their progress using their Learning Trackers or be asked to reflect on their achievements and how they are tracking by reflecting on their Numeracy goal.

Connected Curriculum and Education Research Projects

This term's Connected Curriculum focus is, 'Why does the universe work?' Students will each complete an Education Research Project based on this topic after they have been taught the learning intentions in learning areas: HASS, Science and Technologies. The Education Research Project provides students with an

opportunity to learn about a topic of interest to them, whilst still linking to the Australian Curriculum and specific learning intentions.

Science Learning Intentions:

- Demonstrate an understanding of sudden geological changes and extreme weather events that occur on Earth and other planets
- Investigate the affect extreme weather conditions have on the Earth's surface
- Investigate how scientific knowledge is used to make local and global decisions by communities

HASS Learning Intentions:

- To understand the impact of natural disasters on communities
- To determine how natural disasters can impact the liveability of places
- To investigate causes, impacts and responses to extreme weather

Health and PE

During health lessons, students will learn about nutrition and how our choices affect our health in both positive and negative ways. Students will learn about nutrition labels and balanced diets, will be asked to consider how they can make positive choices as consumers and will explore the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.

Physical Education this term will be based around Ultimate Frisbee and students will be able to develop their teamwork skills, motor skills and ability to learn skills and movements which increase engagement and success in game play.

Buddies

Room 7: This term the students from Room 7 will continue working with their buddies on various activities, such as reading, using a computer and sharing their learning.

Room 8: This term students will be working with their buddy class U1 Foundation once a fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon. Buddies will assist younger students in developing the skills to log on to lap tops and manipulate the mouse to use computer programs.

Room 9 and 10: Room 9 and 10 will meet fortnightly with U2 to develop skills associated with being a positive member of the school. Older students will act as role models for their younger students.

Homework

Homework is an important aspect of Middle Years schooling as it provides students with the opportunity to improve their time management and self-regulation skills. Most homework is flexible and can work around after school activities. Students are expected to complete up to 30 minutes (Year 5) and up to 50 minutes (Year 6/7) of homework each night from Monday to Thursday. Below is the homework timetable for Rooms 7 and 8. Usually, students are expected to complete homework regardless of whether work has been completed in class time. Room 9 and 10 encourage students to prioritise home learning tasks on upcoming dates. As spelling is due odd Fridays this term, it is expected that students work on their spelling Monday to Thursday to ensure it is completed. In addition to this students have reading and Mathematics tasks that are set weekly.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Word Study or Grammar- 30 minutes Reading- 20 minutes	Mathematics- 30 minutes Reading- 20 minutes	Writing- 30 minutes Reading- 20 minutes	Education Research Project or other- 30 minutes Reading- 20 minutes	No homework

Student Leadership

Middle Years students are expected to act as role models for younger students in the school. It has been great to see Year 7 students in the Middle Years step up at Student Leaders over the last semester. We also have a number of Middle Years students in various Action Teams. Meetings will continue throughout the term. There is the opportunity for our students to apply for Sports Captain roles, more information will follow.

Diaries

Diaries are used in the Middle Years as a communication tool. They are intended to be used daily and it is expected that students will hand them up every morning for class teachers to check. It would be great if you could check them every day too, as it is a place for us to communicate. Please sign diaries over the weekend for class teachers to check on Mondays. Any notes/slips/money can be placed in diaries and handed in once students arrive at school.

Can you help?

If you are available to assist in anyway in the classroom e.g. have talents or resources to share, can listen to reading, work with individuals and small groups, provide transport, help supervise excursions or have ideas to share, please let us know.

Please feel free to come in and chat at any time about any concerns you have about your child. We are available before and after school most days to speak in person or over the phone. If you would prefer to contact us via email, that is fine too.

Blog

<http://seanyb92.edublogs.org/>

Kind regards,

Melanie Sims (Room 7), Rhiannon Evans (Room 8), Michael Gibbins (Room 9), Sean Bock (Room 10).

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