

## Term 3 Middle Years Newsletter 2018

Dear Families,

Hello and welcome to the Middle Years (MY) newsletter for term three. We began term three in newly updated classrooms which look incredible. We are all extremely thankful to everyone who played a part in the renovation and update. Students were excited to move upstairs and have enjoyed utilising our new flexible learning areas. Term two saw students enjoy success in a range of exciting learning opportunities and this term we will be taking our 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills to the next level. We have collaborative classrooms set up; with Room 7 and 8 & Room 9 and 10 working collaboratively.

This term students across all MY classes will enjoy work with Henley High School in the STEM project on alternate Fridays. This further strengthens our relationship with HHS and is an awesome opportunity for our students to share their ideas and learn in a high school setting. Keep an eye out for the Expo day in Week 9.

We extend a welcome to Rebecca Miller who joins Room 9 and 10 from the University of South Australia as part of her fourth and final year practicum. She will complete lead in observation days in week one and two followed by a four-week block.

We have a very busy term ahead with lots of dates for your diary at the end of this newsletter. We will have an opportunity to touch base during week two's Three-Way Discussions. Our message to students has been to lead the discussion and to prepare work samples which show their best learning so far this year. Please find our email addresses at the bottom of the newsletter and contact us should you have any questions for your child's teacher.

### General Routines

#### Walker Learning

In the Middle Years, students will be taught through 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, class meetings and tuning in sessions each morning.

#### Seesaw

After a successful trial last term, Room 7 and 9 will continue to use Seesaw this term to share their learning with you. The students will continue to upload pieces of work digitally into their online journal throughout the remainder of the year. Most of the time, your child's journal entries will only be accessible to you- their parent/caregiver, and the class teacher. At times however, if your child has been working on a group or collaborative task, there may be a group photo/video added to the journal of all students in the group. If you haven't already connected with Seesaw, please ask your child's teacher for another sign-up sheet. When you receive a post, please feel free to leave a positive and constructive comment about your child's learning.

## 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, homework and notes in the inbox, completing the emotional thermometer 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. 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.

## 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.

## 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. It is vital for students to drink lots of water, so please keep other drinks such as juice and cordial for treats at home.

## Absentees

If a student is absent, please send us an email, 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.

## Personal Items and Stationery

Please make sure all personal items such as jumpers, hats, containers and stationery are labelled to avoid any confusion. Please check the lost property in your child's classroom and the office regularly, as there are often piles of misplaced items.

Please ensure your child has all of the necessary equipment required to complete their school work. Students were provided with the following stationery items at the beginning of the year and are expected to have these items at school every day- pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, glue stick, diary, books for each subject and coloured pencils.

## Library

As the building works are now complete and classes no longer reside in the library, students are once again able to borrow and return library books before and after school and during recess and lunch times.

Rooms 7 and 8 will have a library session on alternate Wednesdays between 8.50am and 9.30am and Rooms 9 and 10, at 12.05 on alternate Tuesdays. Book Week will run during Week 5 and students will be able to purchase new books from the selection in the library for the Book Fair.

### Fitness

Students will require appropriate clothing and footwear for fitness and sport. Fitness is a part of the curriculum and every student will participate daily.

### 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.

## Curriculum Areas

This year, Middle Years students will be offered learning experiences in the following areas: Mathematics, English, Health and Physical Education, STEM, Science, The Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Japanese and Positive Education. All learning experiences will be taught using our Connected Curriculum model focusing on the big question: 'How do actions cause reactions?'

### Connected Curriculum

This term's Connected Curriculum focus is: 'How do actions cause reactions?' The aim for this term within our Science focus is for students to understand the effects that gravity and force have on objects. We will begin the topic by exploring and unpacking the following learning intentions:

- Learning Intention 1: to investigate and explain effects of applying different forces to familiar objects
- Learning Intention 2: to understand simple machines
- Learning Intention 3: to explore how gravity affects objects on the surface of Earth
- Learning Intention 4: to identify how gravity keeps planets in orbit around the sun

Students will then each complete an Education Research Project linking to one or more of the learning intentions. 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. This term's Education Research Project is due on Friday Week 9, with presentations happening in Week 10.

### English

#### Word Study and Grammar

In Word Study, Middle Years students will be focussing on topic specific vocabulary linking to our Connected Curriculum topic and spelling rules, patterns and generalisations. Each fortnight the students will complete activities from a contract. Grammar is also an important part of writing and oral communication, and is essential for understanding English. The Middle Years students will be focusing on parts of speech and punctuation during their weekly grammar lessons.

## Writing

In Writing, Middle Years students will be creating a text to share with another student or teacher within our Western Adelaide Shores Partnership. The students will be able to select a text to write in a genre of their choice and will plan, draft and publish their text for their specific purpose and audience. They will need to incorporate effective vocabulary to engage their reader. Mini lessons this term will focus on how to write a text for an intended audience, examining author's choices, using interesting vocabulary, figurative language and how to 'read like a writer'.

As in Term 2, students will continue creating their own texts in a variety of genres during Writing Workshops. Students will have the opportunity to play with different writing techniques, explore texts created by a range of authors, use scaffolds to support their writing and will explore text specific language features. Students will continue to work on building their writing stamina, expanding their vocabulary, publishing their work and developing an enjoyment of writing. In Room 7 and 8, students will be working towards their individual writing goals, established during student/teacher conferences. Rooms 9 and 10 will work on their Explanation text types and link these to Connected Curriculum topics.

## Reading

Reading will continue to be a big focus in the Middle Years classes with a continued focus on comprehension strategies through guided reading lessons. Students will select their own reading material for Independent Learning Time and homework and are encouraged to complete Lexiles, Premiers Reading Challenges and Wheelers to gain credit for their success. Book Week will be celebrated in Week 5 and will provide an opportunity for students to explore the shortlisted books.

The Premier's Reading Challenge continues this term so please make sure your child is regularly reading at home to ensure they complete the challenge by September.

## Behind the News

All Middle Years classes will continue to watch Behind the News weekly as part of our English program. Students will have the opportunity to respond to questions and be involved in discussions before, during and after the episodes in a class meeting format.

## Mathematics

Mathematics in the Middle Years will continued to be planned using the Australian Curriculum and be differentiated or delivered in a way in which meets your child where they are at in relation to their learning. Throughout the week our Maths lessons are carefully planned to encompass the four different proficiency strands: Fluency, Understanding, Problem Solving and Reasoning. You can check in with your child's reasoning by asking them to explain their mathematical thinking or asking "How do you know you are right, how sure are you?"

Middle Years students will be involved in a range of problem solving lessons and investigations which will require critical thinking and reasoning skills. Lessons will include warm ups, games, hands on activities and purposeful, real-life problems.

This term, Room 7 and 8 will be focusing on:	This term, Room 9 and 10 will be focusing on:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3D shapes</li> <li>• Decimals</li> <li>• Best Buys and Financial Mathematics</li> <li>• Patterns and Algebra</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angles</li> <li>• Mapping</li> <li>• Translations and Rotations</li> <li>• Fractions/Decimals/Percentage</li> </ul>

### Health

In Term 3, Middle Years students will be investigating a range of topics across different classrooms. These include; the benefits of physical activity, healthy eating strategies and developmental changes and transitions. Students will explore and communicate what and how things act as influences and how values shape identity.

In the second half of the term, Kidz Biz Education will be joining us once again to conduct our Growth and Development sessions. Year 6s will complete the course, "Guess What: You're Growing Up!" This will involve three lessons about The Human Body and Reproductive System, Conception to Birth and Puberty (physical). Year 7s will complete the course, 'You're Growing What? Where?' covering Body Image, Media Influences, Peer Pressure and Cyber Safety.

### STEM Project

Throughout the first 6 weeks of the term, selected MY students will be collaborating with year 8s from Henley High School on a STEM project. The project will be focussed around radiation, and students will explore its presence in our lives, as well as real world applications. Students will collaborate in small groups to research, design, produce and present a product with applications within the field of radiation.

### Visual Arts/Technology

In Room 7 and 8, students will be completing a range of designs for intended purposes. They will be exploring the graphic design program Canva, making greeting cards, evaluating technology and designing their own showbags.

### Specialist Subjects

Performing Arts, Japanese, P.E., P.E.A.R.L.S. and S.T.E.M. will all be taught as specialist subjects this year. Middle Years students will have two lessons of Japanese per week and one lesson in all other specialist areas.

### Student Leadership

We expect Middle Years students to act as role models for younger students in the school. Congratulations to this year's Student Leadership team, which comprises Ashley Tran, Nathan Robertson, Bridget Neal and Sebastian Gianquitto. The Middle Years cohort of students and teachers voted these students into their leadership roles, and we are excited to see how these roles will help them grow as leaders. Student Action Teams were announced at the end of last term and have started meeting on a regular basis. Students will also have the opportunity to apply to be a Sports Day captain, which will be conducted in term 3. This will be culminated with Sports Day at the end of term.

## 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.

## Important Dates

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>Date</u>
• Yr 7/8 STEM Project	Fridays	Weeks 1-6	Term 3	
• School Camp Forms Due	Tuesday	Week 2	Term 3	31/7/18
• Three Way Conversations	Tue-Wed	Week 2	Term 3	
• Book Week	Mon-Fri	Week 5	Term 3	
• Book Week Parade	Tuesday	Week 5	Term 3	21/8/18
• Pupil Free Day	Monday	Week 7	Term 3	3/9/18
• Show Day	Tuesday	Week 7	Term 3	4/9/18
• ERP Project Begins	Wednesday	Week 7	Term 3	5/9/18
• School Disco	Thursday	Week 7	Term 3	6/9/18
• Kidz Biz	Friday	Week 8-9	Term 3	
• ERP Due Date	Thursday	Week 9	Term 3	13/9/18
• <u>Sports Day</u>	Friday	Week 10	Term 3	<u>28/9/18</u>
• Year 6/7 Camp	Wed-Fri	Week 2	<b>Term 4</b>	24/10/18

Kind regards,

Melanie Brown (Room 7), Claire Goodwin (Room 8), Michael Gibbins (Room 9), Patrick Carroll (Room 10).

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