

Term 4 Middle Years Newsletter

Hi parents/caregivers,

Welcome back for Term 4. This term we will be exploring our new school-wide Connected Curriculum topic of, 'What if the force was with you?' with a focus on Australian government, laws and democracy.

Important Dates

Week 1-6: Wednesday STEM Henley High visits

Week 2: Sunday 29th October 50th Birthday Celebrations

Week 3: Tuesday 31st October Middle Years Aquatics

Week 4: Tuesday 7th November Room 8 assembly

Week 8: Monday 4th December Christian Options Christmas program, Friday 8th December Year 7 Beach House End of Year Celebration (TBC)

Week 9: Monday 11th December Graduation, Wednesday 13th December Kidman Celebrates

50th Birthday- Our 50th Birthday is quickly approaching! It would be wonderful to see all families there to celebrate the occasion. Middle Years students have been working on their performances and are excited to share. Colour Run tickets are still available!

Aquatics- Aquatics will be held in Week 3. As per the note, please ensure all students are at school by 8.15 so that we can depart on time. We will depart from the Collins Reserve carpark to avoid interference with the morning school traffic. When we return, we will meet in the school carpark at approximately 4pm.

Kidman Celebrates Costumes

Below are the costume requirements for Kidman Celebrates 2017.

Room 7: Defying Gravity. Each student will need a black and white mix and match/quirky costume.

Room 8: Parachute with the concept of paratroopers. Each student will need camo- style clothing.

Room 9: Kick Push. The concept is that the students are at the skate park so they will all need to wear caps and skating gear (e.g. jeans and a t-shirt or protective gear – wrist guards, knee pads, skate helmets). We think blue or white t-shirts with no collar would look best. Approximately 10 skateboards are also required.

Room 10: Shed a Light. Students will need a silver face mask, we will provide more information regarding these later. To accompany this they will need silver and white costumes.

General Routines

Phones

Students who choose to bring their phones to school are required to pass them up to the teacher for safe storage throughout the day. Classroom doors are locked at recess and lunch to ensure all phones are secure. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they follow these procedures. Phones are not to be taken on excursions.

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

Whole class library visits will not be commencing in Term 4 due to classes relocating in the library for the STEM building renovations.

Room 7 and 8: Students will be able to borrow during ILT time on their Focus Student day in small groups.

Room 9 and 10: Students in Room 9 will be visiting the library on Thursdays at 10:15am. Students in Room 10 will borrow books on Tuesday mornings at 9:30am.

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). This term our P.E. focus is European Handball, we are looking forward to students experiencing the game play and enjoying the game.

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.

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!

Curriculum Areas

This year, Middle Years students will be offered learning experiences in the following areas: Mathematics, English, Physical Education, Technology, 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: 'What if the force was with you?' with a focus on Australian government and democracy.

English

Writing

In Writing this term the students will continue adding to their Writer's Notebooks with a focus on experimenting with a range of language conventions and writing strategies. Students will also experiment with different styles of poetry writing. Students will again work towards publishing and sharing entries from their Writer's Notebook.

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. Teacher's 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 and Viewing

In Room 7 and 8, reading this term will have a focus on exploring and analysing texts, including digital and media texts. Students will develop their comprehension, viewing and listening skills by watching the mini-series, 'Little Lunch,' and 'Behind the News.' Students will select evidence from the text to explain their response to it. Students will also explore different points of view on events, issues and characters in different texts.

In Room 9 students will finish off our class novel Wonder and will continue to complete a range of comprehension questions which draw from students' prior knowledge, ability to make inferences, predict and reflect on events happening in the text. We are hoping to have the book finished in time for the anticipated release of the film.

In Room 10 students will be given a reading assignment that asks them to read a number of varying types of books. They are required to read nine books; four novels, three picture books and two information books. They will need to complete an activity for each book and keep a record of the books read in a database of their choosing. I will teach students to; use pictures to help make meaning from text, design and use computer database, take notes from information texts, use questions as a research strategy, write and punctuate direct speech and develop characters in story-writing.

Grammar

This term, Middle Years students will explore abstract nouns and will continue to investigate sentence structure during grammar lessons. They will:

- Write complex sentences
- Recognise subordinate clauses within sentences

Mathematics

In Mathematics, the students will cover a range of topics and will have opportunities for revision of concepts. 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:

Room 7 and 8 Topics

Geometric Reasoning

Year 6

- To investigate angles on a straight line, angles at a point and vertically opposite angles
- To find unknown angles
- To investigate angles with digital technologies
- To investigate angles without digital technologies

Year 7

- To classify triangles according to their side and angle properties
- To describe quadrilaterals
- To demonstrate what the angle sum of a triangle is
- To find the angle sum of a quadrilateral
- To identify corresponding, alternate and co-interior angles when two straight lines are crossed by a transversal
- To investigate conditions for two lines to be parallels

Location and Transformation

Year 6

- To describe transformations
- To use the Cartesian coordinate system

Year 7

- To plot points on the Cartesian plane
- To solve simple linear equations
- To investigate, interpret and analyse graphs from authentic data

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 ones 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.

Room 9 Topics

Chance (Probability)

- Describe probabilities using fractions, decimals and percentages
- Conduct chance experiments with both small and large numbers of trials using appropriate digital technologies
- Compare observed frequencies across experiments with expected frequencies
- Construct sample spaces for single-step experiments with equally likely outcomes

- Assign probabilities to the outcomes of events and determine probabilities for events

Room 9 will also look at some Shape concepts and finish the year by looking at reviewing Number and Algebra concepts.

Room 10 Topics

Location and Transformation

Year 5

- Use a grid reference system to describe locations. Describe routes using landmarks and directional language
- Describe translations, reflections and rotations of two-dimensional shapes. Identify line and rotational symmetries
- Apply the enlargement transformation to familiar two dimensional shapes and explore the properties of the resulting image compared with the original

Year 6

- To describe transformations
- To use the Cartesian coordinate system

Connected Curriculum and Education Research Projects

This term's Connected Curriculum focus is, 'What is the force was with you?' Students will each complete an Education Research Project based on this topic after they have been taught the learning intentions in the learning area of HASS . 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.

HASS Focus

- Learning Intention 1: to investigate the roles and responsibilities of the Australian government
- Learning Intention 2: to explain what democracy is and how it is different to other types of government
- Learning Intention 3: to understand where laws come from
- Learning Intention 4: to investigate the rights and responsibilities of Australian citizens and how these are used across all societal interactions

As in previous terms, the students will follow a process to complete their Education Research Project. This includes:

- Brainstorming interests
- Unpacking the learning intentions
- Linking their interests to the learning intentions
- Completing a proposal detailing all aspects of their ERP
- Signing a contract
- Completing their ERP in class and homework time
- Presenting their ERP to peers and buddies
- Reflection on their ERP

Physical Education

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

All Middle Years students will also participate in aquatics as part of the PE curriculum. Aquatics will be held on Tuesday October 31st at the Port Noarlunga Aquatics Centre.

STEM

Year 7 students from KPPS in collaboration with year 8 students from Henley High School will be working on a STEM project. The students will be working towards creating a 'playground' for their mars rover to navigate through the course. Within the course students will have to navigate and collect data from a range of sources including; temperature, light and angle of tilt. Students will use coding skills to allow the rover to move around the playground and navigate the obstacles within. In conjunction with the coding of the rover, students will work collaboratively with students from Henley High to create a presentation that is displayed in an Expo in week 8.

Students in Room 7 and 8 (along with our Room 10 visitors on Wednesdays) will be working on weekly STEM challenges in the classroom to promote collaboration, problem solving, persistence and critical thinking skills. The STEM challenge for Week 1 was:

'What is the tallest free-standing tower you can build using 100 matchsticks?'

The students completed some brainstorming of ideas prior to construction and then had time to work together to solve the problem. After construction, students had to reflect on their ideas and suggest improvements for next time.

Visual Arts

In Visual Arts, Middle Years students will:

- Use different techniques and processes in art making
- Create art work to convey a meaning

The students will begin by completing a project where they have to select a song, book or movie that represents them. They then need to recreate the cover for the selected song, book or movie and respond to questions, explaining how it represents them.

Later in the term, all Middle Years students will complete an art piece in preparation for our graduation display.

Buddies

Room 7: This term the students from Room 7 will be working with their buddies in U3 on developing coding skills through the use of the resources on code.org. Students will assist their buddies in completing the 'Hour of Code' and then will work through a series of activities together based on block coding.

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: Students 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. Attached to the bottom of the newsletter 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.

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.

Kind regards,

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

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Room 7 and 8 Homework Timetable				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Education Research Project or other- 30 minutes	Mathematics- 30 minutes	Writing- 30 minutes	Finishing Off- 30 minutes	No homework
Reading- 20 minutes	Reading- 20 minutes	Reading- 20 minutes	Reading- 20 minutes	