

10 February 2017

Dear Parents,

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – Term 1

A big welcome to all our new parents and welcome back to our parents from last year. It was lovely meeting many of you at the PTA Picnic and Meet The Teacher night yesterday. We will be sending out regular newsletters to keep you informed of important dates and events.

Mrs Sue Venville (Dean of Middle School)

Teachers:

Year 3/4	Rm 14 – Miss Johnson
Year 3/4	Rm 15 – Mrs. Cammell and Mrs. Smith
Year 3/4	Rm 16 – Mrs. Cooper
Year 3/4	Rm 17 – Mr Tucker (Team Leader) and Mrs. Rotheram
Year 3/4	Rm 18 – Mrs Morris
Year 3/4	Rm 19 - Miss Tordeich
Year 3/4	Rm 20 - Mrs Trembath

New bell times for 2017: Morning Tea 10.35 -10.55 am
Lunch 12.30 - 1.30 pm

School starts at 8.50 as usual

Most children already have their stationery requirements and we will be starting to use their books gradually. Please ensure your child has an A4 handy pouch and a school diary.

This year our theme is – Whanaungatanga which is about relationships, kinship and a sense of family connection. This is developed through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging.

Term 1: Ready, Set, Go - first 4 weeks

Whanaungatanga - Environment - Our actions impact the environment
Special Enviro Week in week 10

Social Sciences	Important places: Howick/Pakuranga – Auckland – New Zealand NZ: basic geography
Literacy	Ourselves, our family, our community (Key Competencies: Using language, symbols and text)
Health	About Me Setting goals for the year & interpersonal relationships (Key Competencies: Relating to others, management of self, participating and contributing)
Maori	Personal Mihi
Science	Linked to the theme of our actions impact the environment

In relation to our Health focus and as a team building exercise, we have a field trip planned to the Millennium Centre. A separate notice will follow once the costing has been finalised. Below are the dates for you to diarize.

Tuesday 14 March	Room 14 & 16
Wednesday 15 March	Rooms 18 & 19
Thursday 16 March	Rooms 15 & 20
Friday 17 March	Room 17

Entering the Middle School Syndicate is a big step for all children and they normally take a few weeks to settle in. Those first few weeks are an important time to establish routines, set-up books, carry out testing and get to know each other. Obviously it can be a somewhat daunting time for all children in some way or another. Most children now have their own personal desks or tote trays.

Communications diaries must be filled in before school. Later this term the children start fitness and possibly Middle School sport and will need school fitness gear. All new experiences for Year 3! And of course they now have a larger number of exercise books to cope with.

We would like to remind you that children are required at school by **8.40am at the latest**. They are now mature enough to come in independently and to put their chair down, get their equipment out for the day, check their desk or tote tray is tidy, order lunches as well as writing the day's communications into their diaries. The children are capable of doing all these tasks themselves and it promotes independence. Once they are organised for the day they are encouraged to go outside and play.

School starts at 8.50am and all parents must leave the room at this time unless you are rostered on as a parent helper.

HOME TASKS

Home tasks in the Middle School consist of the children's spelling/word study activities and basic facts to learn. All children are expected to read each night - either their home reader, a library book, personal book or school journal. (NB; if they have passed gold level they are considered independent readers and do not necessarily get a home reader.) Sometimes your child has been given sufficient time to complete a set task in class but hasn't finished it. On these occasions, your child may be asked to bring this work home to get up to date.

There may be times a special project may be sent home to be presented, the research and processing having been completed at school. This allows us to move on to other work at school and the opportunity for you to work together with your child should you wish to.

For the first six weeks of any year we establish basic routines and set the tone and the standard for the remainder of the year. We believe time spent now ensures these high standards are attained.

A FEW REMINDERS

Fitness and Physical Education is a vital part of our school programme. All children are expected to participate in the **correct, named** fitness gear. Year 3 children and children new to the school will need to purchase a pair of red Sunnyhills shorts and a blue Sunnyhills shirt by Week 6 (9th March). These need to be kept in a **named fitness bag**. While boxers are fashionable, they are not suitable attire during fitness if they hang down below their shorts. A sickness or an injury may limit, but not necessarily exclude, them from full participation in the programme. **If a child needs to be excused, a note is required each day.**

Swimming is compulsory. Togs and towels must be named and in a waterproof bag e.g. supermarket bag. The naming of all clothing, including shoes, is vitally important. Unnamed articles are always difficult to match to their owners. The lost property is located just inside the left hand hall door.

Please remember girls' hair needs to be tied back in ties of our uniform colours and, if earrings are being worn they are small plain studs, not hoops. Nail and toenail polish is not to be worn at school.

You will soon be familiar with the home/school communication diary, which will usually come home Monday-Friday depending on your child's class. This has reminders for the children and an opportunity for you to write notes etc. to the classroom teacher. **This must be sighted and signed daily.** Please also sign word study and home reader logs. Every child requires a waterproof bag of some description to transport their home readers and/or library books (that are too big to fit in their pouch) to and from school. (Do not buy a new book bag, a supermarket bag is adequate).

Our Bible in School classes, which are held for half an hour on a Tuesday morning, will commence in March and we welcome back our great team of Bible Teachers. If you do not wish your child to attend these lessons please put this in writing and either email your child's class teacher or send to school in a letter.

The Middle Swimming Carnival is at 11:10am on Tuesday 28th February and the saving day, if the weather is inclement, is Friday 3rd March. You are welcome to stay on and have lunch with your child. Parents may order a lunch from the school canteen by placing an order in the class lunch container. Our fastest 8 year olds will have the opportunity to trial against the fastest 8 year olds in Senior School to gain a place in the Sunnyhills Interschool Swimming team.

Important Dates:

15th & 16th February	-	Home/School Partnership Conferences
28th February	-	Middle School Swimming Carnival (11:10am – 12:30pm) Saving day Friday 3rd March at the same time.

Millennium

Tuesday 14 March	-	Room 14 & 16
Wednesday 15 March	-	Rooms 18 & 19
Thursday 16 March	-	Rooms 15 & 20
Friday 17 March	-	Rooms 17
22nd March	-	Interschool Swimming Sports
Last day of Term 1	-	13th April. (Thursday) School ends at 3pm.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, behaviour or welfare please make an appointment to talk with your child's teacher in the first instance. Most concerns can be addressed quickly and easily at the time. If you require further assistance please make an appointment to talk with the Team Leader or Dean.

We look forward to working with you all. Thank you for your support.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS