

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Term 1, Newsletter

2017

It has been a busy start to Term 1 for the Middle School. Year 4 students have enjoyed an action packed camp at Mt Evelyn, all students proudly competed in the School Swimming Sports and the Year 3's are excited to begin using their I pads in educational and creative ways to assist their learning.

The Middle School teachers would like to compliment the students on a smooth transition to 2017. We look forward to getting to know our classes and exciting learning experiences ahead.

Reminders

The first school bell rings at 8.50am and this is the time the students enter the building quietly and hand notices to their teacher, place their iPad in their classroom and prepare themselves for learning. These routines are in place to allow the children ten minutes to settle and connect with friends. Parents can also briefly catch up with the classroom teacher at this time. Please note that this is just a very quick chat. Alternatively you can e-mail your child's teacher to organise a time to chat. Learning starts at 9am.



Interacting with animals and riding the pump track at Year 4 camp, Mt Evelyn.



TERM 1 EVENTS

February

Fri 24th

Peppercorn BBQ

Mon 27th

Division Swimming

March

Wed 1st & Thur 2nd

Parent teacher interviews

Mon 6th

Labour Day Public Holiday

Wed 22– Fri 24th & Mon 27th –Fri 31st

Swimming (3/4K, 3/4N &3/4A)

Fri 31st

Last Day Term 1

iPads

Most students have returned their ICT agreements with a parent's signature. This agreement is important for the safe and sensible use of the iPads. If a new copy is required, please ask your child's teacher.

iPads are now connected to the school internet and are being used in the classroom. A list of apps required for this year can be found on the Kew P.S. website.

Home Learning

Home Learning will begin in Week 5 (Monday 27th Feb) and will be due 2 weeks later. It will then continue on a 2 week cycle. Please ask your child about their Home Learning as it is designed to strengthen the connection between school and home. A parent signature is required before the home learning is submitted.

English- Our teaching and learning of English integrates Reading and Viewing, Writing and Speaking and Listening skills with our Inquiry learning. Middle School students also participate in Razzle Dazzle (a weekly targeted spelling program), Writer's Notebook and "Read-it Read-it" (home reading).

As part of Home Learning, we strongly encourage students to **read at least 5 times/week for 10-25 minutes** (as appropriate to individuals). Home reading is provided through weekly library borrowing and aims to teach and encourage independent readers. Students can borrow 4 books, some of which are expected to be chapter books and shared between class and home reading.

Our Term 1 focus is on *Narratives* and *Information texts*.

Numeracy- After such a successful Swimming Carnival this term, students in the Middle School will have the opportunity to organise their own swimming carnival. Through this open ended rich maths task, students will be able to apply their knowledge and understandings of a range of mathematical concepts in a relevant and authentic project. Some of the concepts will include, working with decimals, organising and interpreting timetables, consolidating place value knowledge and solving simple percentages. Students will solve a range of mathematical problems of varying complexity using all four operations.

Our targeted maths focus this term is on developing student's understanding and confidence with place value and this will start on Thursday the 2nd of March and will happen every week thereafter until the end of term.

We ask that all students ensure to have the Mathletics App on their iPad as this is regularly used in class.

Inquiry- This term's Inquiry will compliment Harmony Day on the 21st March. The students will explore cultural diversity and the ways in which people understand and appreciate differing cultural values and perspectives. Through interviewing a family member from a different culture and sharing their findings, students will discuss how aspects of their own and others' lifestyle, behaviours, attitudes and beliefs can be culturally influenced. Throughout the year, Middle School will continue to explore cultural celebrations and their importance to the community.

Thank you for your continued support, **Middle School Teachers**

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