

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Term 3, Newsletter
2017

Welcome back to Term 3. There has been a lot of chatter about trips taken and fun experiences had during the holidays. House Athletics, Little Devils Circus rehearsals and performances, Book Week and Year 4 Hooptime are all taking place this term. Middle School will also be going on excursions that were planned as part of last term's Inquiry unit and taking a trip to Werribee Zoo to compliment this term's Geography focus. In the classroom, students will continue to build strategies to help with problem solving, working both independently and in groups.

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 meeting time. Learning starts at 9am.

Hexagonal Thinking– a tool to assist with sorting information



Pitching ideas for an 'Exploring Melbourne' excursion



Enjoying a ride in one of the Year 6's fabulous Billy carts



TERM 3 EVENTS

AUGUST

Tues 1/8

ICAS– English

Thur 3/8

3/4N & 3/4K Excursion to Fitzroy Gardens and Melbourne Aquarium

Thurs 10/8 9am-7:30pm

3 Way conferences

Sun 13/8

Working Bee 9am-12pm

Tues 15/8

ICAS– Maths

Fri 18/8

Book week Parade

Thur 24/8

Book week speaker

Fri 25/8

Year 4 HOOPTIME

Thur 31/8

Father's Day Breakfast and Stall

SEPTEMBER

Wed 6/9

Little Devils Rehearsal and Performances

Wed 13/9

MS excursion to Werribee Zoo

Fri 22/9

Last day of Term 3– 2:30pm finish

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Year 4 HOOPTIME Basketball

Year 4 students have begun training for HOOPTIME on Fridays, 9.00-10.00am. Please remind your child to wear their runners for these sessions. This will continue every Friday until the tournament day on Friday 19th August at MSAC. All Year 4 students are involved, with the aim of encouraging participation and experience in team sports and Senior School Interschool Sport in 2018. KPS' Physical Action Team will assist with coaching our teams as part of their leadership skills development.

We will need parent assistance for HOOPTIME, so please keep a watch for further information to come.

Home Learning

Home Learning will recommence in **Week 2 (Monday 24th July)** 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. To support the Geography Inquiry this term our focus in English is **information reports and explanations**. This includes features of texts and writing conventions such as topic specific vocabulary, research, factual language, diagrams, flow charts, data, etc.

Students will continue to read, present, discuss, share and experiment writing a range of **poetry** forms on topical subjects. The focus here is to express feelings, sensory images, ideas or stories through free verse or rhyme.

A reminder that **Home Reading is provided through class 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. Students should **read at least 15-25 minutes /5 times week**.

Numeracy- This Semester students will continue to apply mathematical knowledge and concepts to solve everyday maths problems. There will be a strong focus on Measurement, Statistics and Probability which will integrate into this term's Geography Inquiry. Students will continue to learn efficient strategies for solving problems using the four operations and investigate number patterns and sequences.

We are trialling a new program called Essential Learning to assist with assessment and planning for targeted teaching in areas of number and measurement. Students will take part in a mini project, with a focus on measurement, during Targeted Maths sessions over the next three weeks.

Inquiry- Titled 'Helpful or Harmful?' Middle School's Term 3 Inquiry launches students into analysing our geographical footprint and the positive and negative factors it has on the environment. We will be transforming our classrooms into various climatic zones of the world and investigating the helpful and harmful effects humans contribute towards functioning ecosystems. Through a variety of immersive and engaging tasks students will form their own opinions and build a persuasive campaign to raise awareness towards an issue passionate to them. These could range from protecting an endangered animal or effects of littering, tree-logging or oil spills - the list goes on!

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

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