

Middle Team Newsletter Term 4 2012

Can you believe it? It’s now term 4 and there are only 9 weeks of school left for this year! Over the term break a number of the teachers took the opportunity to extend our own learning by undertaking additional study and professional readings, and by attending a variety of conferences. We are all feeling really inspired and can’t wait to put our new learning into action in our classrooms.

We have put together a really interesting learning schema for this term with our emphasis being on empowering the children to take charge of their learning, gearing the year 4 students up in readiness for their move to the senior school and preparing the year 3 students to become role models as they become the older children in the Middle Team next year. To support their learning, we have made some changes to our homework sheet so that it now includes; a typing component (which will enable the children to rapidly increase their typing speed for when working on computers at school) as well as ‘real-life’ problem solving (which is designed to help empower the children to solve their own problems). If the typing component is difficult for your child due to a lack of accessibility to computer, they are welcome to use the school computers prior to school – just let your teacher know.

**Important Dates to Mark on the Calendar:**

**15th October - Term 4 starts**

**22nd October - Labour Day - no school**

**26th October - Sausage sizzle**

**5th November - Book Fair week starts**

**7th November - South Zone Athletics / Co-operative Sports Day**

**9th November - Postponement date for South Zone Athletics**

**15th November - Middle Team Technology Challenge**

**23rd November - Sausage Sizzle**

**10th December - Senior Production**

**11th December - Middle Team Cross Country / Picnic and swim at Hot Salt Water Pool**

**17th December - Last day of school**

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| Curriculum Overview for Term 4…  **Reading:**  This term our reading programme will have a large focus on developing and improving comprehension skills. Children will be learning how to make inferences, reorganise information and make evaluations. The children will also be exploring the genre of ‘plays’ this term and they will have the opportunity to present these to their peers.  **Mathematics:**  Fractions, proportions and ratios will be a large component of our learning this term. Our learning will be embedded in real life contexts and will also focus on developing our number knowledge. In addition to this, we will also be learning about position and orientation as well as maintaining and further improving our understanding of the times tables and division facts. We will also be improving our fact recall and accuracy.  **Inquiry** – Following on from our successful ‘Faster, Stronger, Higher’ inquiry about the Olympics and the skills / dispositions needed, we will continue to learn about these skills and how children might develop and use them. Our inquiry this term is called, “Building Learning Power” and will directly challenge the children to develop the skills they need to achieve their goals regardless of whether they are school goals, social goals, physical goals etc. Part of our inquiry this term will also include a regular classroom rotation within the middle team to provide the children with opportunities to develop skills such as persistence, resilience, taking a risk, collaboration, team-work etc. Some of these activities will include drumming, aboriginal art, adventure based physical activity and the use of the i-pads for creating.  We are also aiming to do a one-off topic on Fire Safety. Please keep an eye open for information about this nearer the end of term as it will be important for your to discuss the issues raised in this unit e.g. where does our family meet if there is a fire?  **Writing** – Building up the skills needed to be a good writer will be continued this term. We will be working on vocabulary expansion and writing to communicate a clear message. Our genre foci will be descriptions, reports, interviews and writing up factual information. One of the ways you can help as a parent is to deliberately use ‘big’ words when discussing things with your child(ren). Another way that will help when the children are writing descriptions is to actively point things out to your child when you are looking at something, as children don’t always see what we see. For example, if you are looking at the sea, use a wide variety of language to describe the types of waves, the patterns on the beach, the way the sun rests on the water etc. You might also like to keep an eye on our class blogs to see what the children are writing / learning about and it would be great if you could leave some feedback for your child too as you as their parent are a very powerful reinforcement of their learning. As with our inquiry work, there is likely to be some short-duration interchange between classes as we seek to meet the specific learning needs of your children. |

We are looking forward to another exciting term with your child(ren). Remember you are welcome at any time to contact us if you have any concerns.

Kind regards

Robyn, Carmel, Shannon, Rachel, Dan ad Elizabeth