

## Term 1 2012 Overview – Year 4, 5 and 6 at Wellsford School

Welcome everyone to a new middle school team. Mr Lees is still here and we are excited about the Lisa's joining us, Mrs Redwood and Mrs Dewes. While drop off and 3pm pick up is a busy time for us all, please come in and say HI! You know your child a lot more than we do – so don't hesitate to pop in as we would welcome the input. The following is an outline of what we hope to achieve this term.

### Maths

The term will be split evenly between Number and later, the Statistics strand. Only the middle school is trialing having 'remedial maths' lessons beginning week 3. Thanks Lisa Dewes, who will be taking small groups of students across the middle school for intensive half hour blocks. These groups will change every five weeks and will be held first thing in the morning while the rest of the syndicate do Fitness. These lessons are tailored for those children who need a nudge, mathematically that is. All classes are working on daily committing addition and subtraction basic facts to memory. Students can be practicing their basic facts at home in preparation for this.

### Reading

Students have been grouped according to 2011 end of year testing. For the first term our focus will be on guided group reading with the teacher.

### Writing

We will begin with narrative (story) writing to prepare the students for a school wide assessment later in the term. The term will end with report writing to compliment the rocky shore unit.

### Spelling

Students will all have a weekly spelling list and be tested at the end of the week. These words are practiced during class time throughout the week but should also be homework.

### Social Science

Who's keen on a Goat Island snorkel? On March 20<sup>th</sup> there is a middle school trip scheduled. It is a low tide so ideal for rocky shore explorations and hopefully idyllic snorkeling conditions. A rocky shore study is the focus for the last 5 weeks of term. The cost is approximately \$15 per child and we will hold a disco in Term 2 as a retrospective fund raiser.

### Sports / Fitness / Phys Ed

Swimming is our Physical Education focus this term. Classes have 3 scheduled swimming lessons per week. Please encourage your child to bring a snorkel and mask during these times.

**Room 8 swimming timetable is every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.**

Fitness happens daily, all rooms together, from roll call till 9:30.

Our sports rotations, including the Year 7/8 classes are held every Wednesday afternoon. The students are divided into groups within their house from Years 4 -8. Points are given for sportsmanship and, of course, a win, a draw, or a loss. This term the rotation games focus is on Summer Games.

### Music

Mrs Redwood will be leading the Middle School Syndicate in syndicate singing. She loves Taylor Swift so boys, please take your favourite artists ideas to Mrs Redwood and save Mr Lees!

### Maori

Classroom teachers are responsible for teaching Te Reo, Tikanga Maori and waiata.

### Handwriting

The Year 4 and Year 4/5 classes are practicing their handwriting. Presentation is important in all classes, in all book work, including maths.

### Library

**Room 8 has library every Thursday**

### Homework

**The middle school is trialing having homework reduced to spelling word lists, basic facts and home reading/'readers'. Many families and children are busy after school and teacher time is better spent in classroom planning and the monitoring of home reading/'readers' rather than 'one worksheet suits all' or 'worksheets across the levels'. Children do not learn through 'distance marking' and in class marking of homework takes away learning time.**

*A huge thank you to all the parents and caregivers who have purchased their child's stationery. This has made it very easy on teachers and we have been able to start working in our books straight away. We have also noticed how settled the students have been. They are very hard working and well mannered. Thanks to all our great parents, caregivers and children!*

Summer finally

Regards, Lisa Redwood, Lisa Dewes, Philip Lees and Christine Walton