

Year Six Newsletter

TERM THREE 2016

Welcome to Term Three! We can't believe half the year has gone already! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday and kept warm during those cold mornings! Jodi and I have had a great rest (although both of us have had winter viruses) and are looking forward to another term of fun filled activities and of course hard work! Our aim is to continue to provide purposeful learning activities in order to give your child the best preparation for high school.

As you know Jodi and I both have very clear and defined roles within the classroom. This allows for best teaching practice linked to the Curriculum Frameworks. The students also know exactly who is teaching each unit and what is expected of them. Jodi is responsible for teaching Health, Science, History and Geography, whilst I teach Literacy, Numeracy and Religion. Jodi also supports me in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy on Thursdays and Fridays.

Just a few reminders of what is occurring in the classroom and what is expected of the students.

HOMEWORK /DIARIES

Diaries are filled in every Monday with the standard homework requirements. This includes Reading, Spelling and Mental Mathematics. The students have been really good in handing in their homework and diaries each Friday. Could you please make sure you sign your child's reading log, spelling grid and diary by Friday. Mental Mathematics is due EVERY day so that it can be marked and discussed ready for homework that night. A Mental Mathematics Test is held every Friday and these are the only results that are recorded by us and go towards their marks.

SPELLING AND GRAMMAR

Spelling and Grammar is explicitly taught throughout the week. All children work on the same Units of work from the SOUNDWAVES Programme and the Grammar Book. Students are given less difficult or more difficult words based on their spelling level. New and more exciting ways to engage the children during both Spelling and Grammar is always being thought of and some of the best ideas can come from the children themselves! We are introducing small group and whole class games, quizzes and mini whiteboards where applicable. Spelling and Dictation Tests are held every Friday and these results go towards their literacy marks.

READING AND WRITING

My aim is to link Guided Reading and Writing Genres together. In doing this, the students are exposed to the features of the written genre through their reading texts. This allows for a more explicit form of teaching and a better understanding and appreciation of the purpose of different texts. The Springboards Reading Series is used throughout the Upper Primary Years and is a fantastic resource. It provides the students with opportunities to develop their comprehension at different levels, examine writing features and increase their contextual vocabulary. The books cover a range of factual and fictional topics that help develop their general knowledge. They also include work from the Interactive Whiteboard and computer based activities to fully engage the students in learning.

This term our Comprehension focus is: bias and prejudice, figurative language and cause and effect.

The writing process from reading, examining, creating, drafting, editing and publishing can take many lessons. My philosophy is that it is better to write one piece of each genre properly, rather than rushing through the process. I was particularly pleased with the Historical Recount Narratives the students wrote last term. If you get a chance to pop in, they are displayed in the classroom. Children will be marked on their understanding of the features of each genre, use of grammar and the depth and complexity in their writing.

This term our Writing focus is: Recount, Poetry, Explanation and Narrative (Fantasy).

Reading Comprehension tests will be carried out fortnightly. This allows the students to be taught the necessary skills and practise these skills in a non threatening environment over the two weeks before they are tested. These test results will go towards their literacy results.

MATHEMATICS

As you are aware, The IMaths Programme is used throughout the school. This incorporates whole class Interactive Whiteboard teaching, Guided Mathematics lessons and differentiation tasks. We will be working from the programme as this is linked directly to the Western Australian Curriculum.

The programme consists of Investigations and Topics. Students are given time to learn new concepts and then apply these to an investigation. Ten Problem Solving strategies are also taught repeatedly throughout the year. The students also have a Tracker Book where students are tested both on knowledge and application of concepts. You are more than welcome to view this book at any time. These results are used for the Numeracy Assessments.

Mental Mathematics is tested every Friday. Times Tables Tests are also carried out regularly. At this level, all students should have an excellent knowledge of their times tables (short, long and mixed). This has a major influence on their ability to successfully complete fraction, decimal and division concepts. Students have a Times Tables activities grid in their Homework Folder. Those students who need to work on their tables, can complete these activities for homework.

Our Mathematics Topics for Term Three are:

Measurement: Perimeter, area, scale, probability, co-ordinates and transformations.

Space: Probability, judgements, cause of bias and line graphs.

Number: Decimals, division by decimals, multiplication of decimals, discount, order of operations and operations with money.

GEOGRAPHY (Term Three and Four)

Topic - Asia & Australia's engagement with Asia – cultural, religious, geographical, economic, political, language, historical, migration.

Students will develop an awareness of the social and cultural perspectives of other people. They will learn about societies and environments from the local to the global. The global emphasis provides students with a grasp of the roles of societies and nations in the world and an understanding of ecological, economic, social and political interdependence.

International Travel Fair

The students will prepare an 'International travel Fair' on an Asian region to share with parents in the final week of Term Three or beginning of Term Four (Details to follow).

Media Mash Term Three – In keeping with our Geography topic, the class will be rostered approximately twice during the term to report on a current global event or issue, preferably from an Asian region. Since the Olympics will highlight this term, showcasing or profiling a prominent Australian Olympian or Para Olympian would also be fantastic! Oral presentations should be within a 1-2 minute spiel. Reflect on how the issue might have repercussions for, or a connection with Australia.

SCIENCE : Essential Energy (Physical Science)

Pupils analyse requirements for the transfer of electricity and describe how energy can be transformed from one form to another to generate electricity.

Electrical circuits provide a means of transferring and transforming electricity. Energy from a variety of sources can be used to generate electricity.

- National Science Week - Aug 13th -21st (Theme - Drones, Droids & Robots)
- 'Robogals' incursion – robotics Thur 25th August
- Prepare a science experiment to share with Year One buddies around the topic of light or energy. Fri Sept 2nd

(Science Experiment: Report Writing)

HEALTH

World Health – poverty, disease and immunisation. (Geography link)

Protective Behaviour Program - Personal network, body awareness, personal space, safety and assertiveness.

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

- **Year Six Mass- Wednesday July 27th**
- **St Dominic's Day - Friday August 5th**
- **Speak Up - Thursday August 11th**
- **Final Speak Up Competition - Friday August 19th**
- **Guild ball & throws competition - Friday August 26th**
- **Birralee House Visit - Thursday September 1st**
- **HS Athletics Day -Tuesday September 6th**
- **Interschool Athletics - Monday September 19th**

*Please feel free to contribute to any of our subject areas if you have any expertise to share.

We thank you for your continued support and positive feedback. Please feel free to email us or visit us in the mornings if there is anything you need to discuss (big or small).

Kindest Regards

Nicole and Jodi