

Year Six Newsletter

TERM TWO 2016

Welcome to Term Two! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday filled with laughter, love and great memories! Jodi and I are really looking forward to another term of hard work, fun and a little bit of messing around! Our aim is 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.

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 on: Fact and Opinion, Figurative Language, and Bias and Prejudice.

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. Children will be marked on their understanding of the features of each genre, their use of grammar and the depth and complexity in their writing.

This term our Writing focus is on: Letters (Personal), Narratives (Historical Fiction novel study), and Expositions.

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 Two are: Fractions (equivalent, addition and subtraction, division, renaming percents as fractions), decimals, discount, operations with money, interpretation and reading of time tables, time, time zones, longitude and latitude, probability and judgements.

HEALTH -Heart Function and Heart Health.

We will be looking at the function and structure of the heart, heart facts, cardiovascular conditions, risks of heart disease, diet and fitness. We will also be looking at key campaigns which encourage heart care education and proactive plans which address heart attack symptoms. As part of this program children will be given the optional opportunity of dissecting a heart(sheep).

We would be delighted if any medical parents would be interested in sharing some knowledge of blood pressure heart function/care during a Health lesson.

SCIENCE – Earth and Space Sciences – Earthquake Exploration

We will be investigating and developing a greater understanding of the causes of earthquakes and how they change the Earth's surface. Pupils will explore earthquake magnitude data from Australia and neighbouring countries, drawing conclusions about patterns in the data.

This term, as part of Media Mash (2 min. informational presentations) children will select a famous scientist whose research, influence or significant discovery has had a positive effect on

people's lives. Guidelines for these presentations will be discussed in more detail during week one and sessions will roll out from week two (approx 5-6 pupils per week). Extra homework time will need to be allocated to these presentations on rostered weeks. Perhaps you can discuss a 'worthy' scientist around the dinner table. Otherwise a lucky dip scientist will be provided.

HISTORY / CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP

The class will be involved with information gathering relating to the Federation of Australia (late 1800's up to early 1900's). This is a lengthy, open-ended process which will involve note taking, viewing videos clips, reading and accessing online resources/information. Towards the end of this program of work it is hoped the children will gain a sound understanding of this momentous time in Australian history. The term's research will culminate in written historical letter which refers to significant events and people of the time as well as a role play exercise. A visitor from The Constitutional Centre of WA will also be presenting information relating to Australia's Federation along with Australian government and laws.

BIRRALEE AGED CARE VISIT

Another visit will be organized to interact with our Birralee buddies during the term. Delightful connections were forged last term and we look forward to continuing this relationship with our elderly friends during the remainder of 2016. **ART**

Alice: This is Impossible

The Mad Hatter: Only if you believe it is!

This term in Art we will be attempting the impossible as we study the Surrealist Art Movement and the zany world of the characters from Alice in Wonderland.

Our first project is a whole school collaboration. Each student will design a 'surrealist' eye - containing a unique image . Next, we will use Idioms as a source of inspiration for a surrealist art piece. The students will draw an Idiom, such as 'It's raining cats and dogs.' We will then move onto some very bizarre self portraits, where the students will use photographs of themselves and incorporate surrealist style images and backgrounds . Our final task will be to design an Alice in Wonderland collage, using both visual and written elements from the story.

Some dates to remember:

Cross Country Guild Championships Friday June 10th

Electoral Commission Incursion Friday June 10th

Federation of Australia Incursion Thursday June 16th

Interschool Cross Country Thursday June 23rd

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