

## **Year Six Newsletter**

### **TERM TWO**

Welcome to Term Two! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday filled with laughter, love and great memories! Natalie 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 Natalie 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. Natalie is responsible for teaching Health, Science, History and Geography, whilst I teach Literacy, Numeracy and Religion. Natalie also supports me in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy on Thursdays and Fridays and Jenny teaches HASS on Thursdays.

It was wonderful meeting up with all of you during the three way conferences last Term. We found them to be very beneficial in communicating the strengths of your child and setting realistic goals moving forward. Natalie and I would like to thank you all for your support in assisting us to best help each child; academically, socially or emotionally.

### **HOMEWORK /DIARIES**

Diaries are filled in every Monday with the standard homework requirements. This includes Reading, Spelling, Mathletics and Mental Mathematics. The students have been really good at handing in their homework and diaries each week. Could you please make sure you sign your child's reading log, spelling and Mathletics grid. 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 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 Editing 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 a Novel Study. Students have all chosen a novel from The Australian Story collection. They will be working at their own pace on a Comprehension Booklet based around their Novel. I have encouraged the students to take home their novels to read during their Reading time.

Our writing genres include: Letters (Personal), Narratives (Historical Fiction novel study), and Expositions.

## **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. Time Tables Tests are also carried out regularly. At this level, all students should have an excellent knowledge of their time tables (short, long and mixed). This has a major influence on their ability to successfully complete fraction, decimal and division concepts. Students have a Time 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. I have made a big Fractions, Decimals and Percentages Booklet for the students to work through at their own level. This ensure that I can teach in small groups and one to one with children who need extra help whilst allowing others to move forward and extend themselves.

This Term we will be completing a Maths Investigation based on fraction concepts, continuing with our coding and working on a new T&E Project!

## **Science- Earth and Space Sciences (Natalie Sims)**

Our unit of work this term is called Earthquake Explorers. During this exploration of earthquakes we will be investigating:

- \* What we think we know about the causes and effects of earthquakes
- \* How we measure and report earthquakes
- \* How changes in the Earth's surfaces cause earthquakes
- \* Current scientific views about earthquakes and tectonic plates
- \* Earthquakes in our region
- \* How scientists collect information about earthquake

### **Health- Communicating and Interacting for Health and Well-being (Natalie Sims)**

This term we will be looking at a positive approach to healthy living, particularly in the areas of self-management, diet and fitness.

We will also be looking at The Circulatory System, including the function and structure of the heart, heart facts and cardiovascular conditions.

### **HASS- (Jenny Connelly and Natalie Sims)**

This term is a continuation of last term's work and concepts being taught by Miss Connelly and myself. Miss Connelly teaches History and I am responsible for Civics and Citizenship.

In particular we are investigating:

- \* How state and federal laws are initiated and passed through parliament
- \* The court systems
- \* The rights, responsibilities and shared values of Australian citizenship

**An excursion to the Francis Burt Law Education Centre has been booked for Thursday 1st June. More details and a permission slip will be sent home at a later date.**

### **ART - MRS NANCY CASSIAN**

This term our program will be inspired by the artist Pablo Picasso. We will begin with portraiture and refining our drawing skills with some realistic still life work and then we will move to more abstract pieces which include collage. Picasso's style will hopefully encourage much creativity and lateral thinking in our art room this term.

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

Natalie and Nicole