Grade 5 and 6 Curriculum Newsletter Term Two 2013

A warm welcome back to all our Grade Five and Six students and families, we hope you all enjoyed the time off over Easter. It was fantastic to see all the smiling faces arriving back at school on Monday as we all look forward to an exciting term ahead!

Transition

Year 6 Transition Q & A: Wednesday 24th April  Time: 6-7pm
All parents of year 6 students should have received their Year 7 transition information and enrolment packs last week.
Please take the time to read through this information carefully and ensure that your child’s form is handed back to Mrs Tuck no later than Friday the 17th May.
If you have any questions, concerns about any the process of the transition program or any questions about the Application forms please attend the ‘Transition Q & A’ this Wednesday the 24th of April at 6-7pm upstairs in the Grade 6 building.
Please ensure that you bring along your information packs to the session. Alternatively please see Mrs Tuck at your convenience.

Camberwell High School Open Night
Camberwell HS will be holding their open night on Tuesday the 23rd of April between 6-8:30pm. Weekly day time tours available, bookings by appointment.

Blackburn High School Open Night
Blackburn HS will be holding their open night on Wednesday the 1st of May between 6-8:00pm.

Sovereign Hill and Ballarat Camp 1st-3rd May
We hope the students are looking forward to a fantastic camp coming up in the very near future! Please be assured that a great deal of effort has gone into the planning of this camp to ensure all students have a safe, enjoyable and memorable time.
Just a few reminders:
- Please ensure your child has enough warm clothes as it really can get very cold in Ballarat.
- Remember that school uniform is to be worn to school on the first morning of camp.
- Don’t forget to pack a towel, sleeping bag and toiletries. As well as a garbage back for wet clothes.
- Ensure all personal items and baggage are clearly LABELLED.
- Don’t forget to ensure students have a packed lunch and snacks for the first day.
- Any medications must be placed in a sealed and clearly labelled bag with appropriate instructions. Gayle Cope will be in charge of collecting these medications on the morning of departure.
- Remember that there are strictly no mobile phones, i-pads, i-pods, tablets or mp3 players to be taken on camp.
- Please assemble at school by 7:30am for an 8:00am sharp departure.
- Buses are due back to school approximately 3:30pm Friday 3rd May.
**Literacy**

**Reading**- This term students will continue to learn reading strategies aimed at improving their overall reading ability and comprehension. Through the use of Reader’s Notebooks and Literature Circles, students will continue to focus on making connections, identifying character traits, and identifying meanings within texts. They will investigate a variety of persuasive text types and identify main and supporting arguments. They will also continue to be encouraged to ask questions when reading and will track their thinking on post-its. Students will also be involved in investigating plot development and discussing authors’ choice. Students are asked to continue to read at home each night and ensure Literature Circle homework is completed and ready to be shared with their group on a weekly basis.

**Speaking and Listening**- Students will contribute to class discussions and sharing sessions developing suitable tone and volume. Listening and responding appropriately are also a focus of these sessions. Students will also investigate debates in linking with previous phonetic investigations.

**Numeracy**

“Where there is matter, there is Geometry.” Johannes Kepler

This term will see students investigating number sequences as well as fractions, decimals and percentages. They will continue to be involved in problem solving activities involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, fractions and decimals. When conducting chance experiments, students will improve their ability to list outcomes and represent probabilities of those outcomes using fractions. Students will also solve problems involving length, perimeter and area as well as volume and capacity, where units are compared and converted. When investigating Geometry, students will be encouraged to 3D objects with their nets and other 2D representations.

**Minor Focus: Science**

**Grade 5**– The human circulatory (cardiovascular) system and the human nervous system. Students will learn about the key organs for each system and how they function together. Both of these systems have ‘branches’ all over the body. During the unit, students will be involved in identifying the main organs of each system and how these organs function to keep the system running.

**Grade 6**– This unit of study is about the characteristics of plants and animals, how they are inherited and how they help the organism to survive in its particular environment. During the unit students will investigate inherited characteristics in humans. They will look at how characteristics differ between and within species and will come to understand that an organism’s characteristics are adaptations that help it to survive in a particular environment.

**Inquiry**

**Major Focus: History**

**Grade 5**– The Gold Rush and Colonial Lives
During this unit students will investigate life in a colonial settlement and ways it developed and changed over time. They will also investigate the history of the Gold Rush in the Ballarat area.

**Grade 6**– The Gold Rush and Australian Democracy and Citizenship. Whilst learning about the Gold Rush, students will also consider the evolving democratic rights of groups in society (for example, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, women).

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