Grade 5 and 6 Curriculum Newsletter Term One 2013

A very warm welcome to our Grade Five students and parents and our returning Grade Six families. We hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable holiday and are as excited about the year ahead as we are!

Meet the Teachers...

Ms Samantha Teng
Samantha is from Vancouver, Canada and has recently moved to Melbourne after teaching in London for 7 years. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time teaching the fantastic students at Wattle Park Primary. Some of her interests include: traveling, music and trying new foods.

Ms Julie Nield
Julie is originally from the UK and emigrated to Australia with her family 6 years ago. She is in her fourth year at WPPS. She is looking forward to a great year with grade 5. Julie enjoys exploring her newly adopted country, managing an U15 soccer team & keeping fit.

Ms Anna Saaksjarvi
Anna grew up in Florida before moving to Melbourne after teaching in London for many years in Melbourne, she spent two years teaching in London before coming back and joining the WPPS community in 2012. Anna loves teaching and also enjoys traveling, live music and swimming.

Ms Tuck
Melbourne born and bred! After a relaxing holiday, she is looking forward to a fantastic year working with the Grade 6’s in their final year.

Apart from teaching, Ms Tuck also enjoys cooking and spending time at the beach.

General Reminders:
- Please support your children in ensuring they arrive at school and are in line by 8:50am.
- School diaries should be at school every day and go home every night. These diaries are a valuable organisational and communication tool, as such we do ask that parents check and sign the diaries on a weekly basis.

Integrated Curriculum

Major Focus - (Science) Natural Disasters
This topic is about natural events that occur in our atmosphere, in our oceans and in the crust of the Earth. Students explore how natural events like volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis are caused by movements of the Earth’s crust and interior. They also study the layers of the atmosphere, how the weather changes and causes of storms and hurricanes.

Minor Focus - (History) Grade 5 - British Colonies in Australia after 1800- What are the main reasons for settling one of the British colonies in Australia after 1800?
Grade 6 - Moving to Federation- Events leading towards Federation; influences on Australia’s form of government.
**Literacy**

**Reading**- This term students will be introduced to reading strategies aimed at improving their overall reading ability and comprehension. Through the use of an author study on Colin Thompson, Reader’s Notebooks and Literature Circles, students will focus on making connections, identifying character traits, and identifying meanings within texts. Students will also be encouraged to ask questions when reading and will track their thinking on post-its. Students will focus on who they are as a reader, what their strengths and weaknesses are and will be active in improving their reading. 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.

**Writing**- Students will take time to set up their Writer’s Notebook and understand the process of developing a piece of writing from ‘seed’ to published piece. They will be encouraged to bring in a variety of their own ‘seeds’ to brainstorm ideas for possible writing pieces. Through the use of the Writer’s Notebook, students are able to follow their own interests and write about ideas and topics that are truly their own, allowing all students to develop their own individual style as a writer. As well as using the Writer’s Notebook, students will also be involved in writing lessons focussed the purpose, structure and features of Information reports and Exposition texts.

**Spelling**- A variety of spelling strategies will be investigated in weekly spelling lessons focussing on phonetic awareness, visual strategies and morphemic and etymological strategies (word origins). Students will select new spelling words on a Monday and complete LSCWC (look, say, cover, write, check) of their words each day before being tested on Friday.

**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 their understanding of Exposition texts.

**Numeracy**

“*The whole of Mathematics consists in the organisation of a series of aids to the imagination in the process of reasoning*” - Alfred North Whitehead

Students will be encouraged to take risks and be confident in their personal knowledge of mathematics as they investigate many different areas of the mathematics curriculum. Students will investigate whole numbers, developing strategies to be applied in mental and written computation. They will focus on counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Other areas of mathematics to be covered include probability and chance, measurement of length and 2D shapes.

**ICT**

The Level 4 ICT goal for 2013: to use ICT to develop 21st century learning skills and improve student learning outcomes, across curriculum areas. Students will use ICT for research, communication and presentation purposes. Students will be exposed to a range of programs and will be encouraged to develop their information technology skills. Level four students will participate in a Cyber Safety unit aimed at ensuring students use ICT in a safe and responsible manner.

**Transition to year 7**

Grade 6 students will receive documentation later this term regarding Secondary School Placements for 2014. Please keep an eye out for these important documents and ensure these are returned to Mrs Tuck by the due date.

If you have any questions regarding the Secondary School Transition process please see Mrs Tuck in the 6T classroom at your convenience.