Senior School (Year 5 and 6)
Curriculum Newsletter Term One 2015

Welcome back to the new school year! We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer break. Our team of teachers are looking forward to working with you and your children this year and we would like to begin by keeping you informed about term one’s curriculum and events.

Meet the Teachers...
Mrs. Samantha Teng (Year 5)- Samantha is excited to be back in Year 5 at WPPS in her 11th year of teaching. Originally from Vancouver, Canada, she is enjoying her time in her adopted country and now loves watching cricket, tennis and the Hawks!

Dr. Karl Jenkinson (Year 5)- Karl lives with his family in Blackburn. He has been teaching for 6 years at WPPS and in Dandenong. Prior to teaching, Karl spent time as a research scientist at the University of Melbourne and coordinating public health projects. Karl loves nothing more than playing games and watching the Hawks with his family.

Mr. Chris Roberts (Year 6)- Chris lives in Box Hill and is remaining with the 5/6 team for a second year to teach Year 6. He has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Wattle Park and is looking forward to a fantastic 2015. Some of his interests include jogging, cycling and travelling.

Mrs. Cynthia Tuck (Year 6)- Cynthia has a one year old daughter named Olivia who keeps her very busy! In her spare time, she enjoys cooking foods from a range of different cuisines. She is really looking forward to working with the Senior School students and teachers this year.

Mrs. Anna Saaksjarvi (Year 6)- Anna is happy to be back at WPPS after returning from family leave. She is passionate about teaching and is looking forward to a great year ahead. Out of school, Anna loves going on walks and spending time with her family.

Important:
- Information Evening: We would like to invite you to our Information Evening on Tuesday 10th February in the Year 5/6 Flexible Learning Space. Sessions available are from 6-6:45pm or 7-7:45pm. Come to find out more about the teaching and learning in the Senior School.
- School diaries: Diaries must be at school every day and go home every night. They are a valuable organizational and communication tool, so we ask that parents check and sign the diaries on a weekly basis.
- Homework: Please be advised that homework will be assigned starting from Monday, February 9th.

Integrated Curriculum

Science
Year 5: The Solar System. The earth is a part of a system of planets orbiting around the Sun. Students will consider the role of the Sun as the provider of energy to the earth.
Year 6: Geological Change. Sudden geological changes or extreme weather conditions can affect the surface of the earth. Students will consider the effect of e.g. drought on living and non-living aspects of the environment.

History
Year 5: British Colonies in Australia After 1800. Students will study the economic, political and social reasons for British settlements in Australia.
Year 6: Moving to Federation. Students will study the events leading towards Federation and the influences on Australia’s form of government.
**Reading**
This term, students will develop reading strategies aimed at improving their overall reading ability and comprehension. Through the use of author studies, Reader’s Notebooks and Literature Circles, students will focus on making connections, identifying character traits and discovering 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 should 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 on 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 weekly basis and complete LSCWC (look, say, cover, write, check) of their words each day before being tested.

**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 expository texts.

**Numeracy**

**ICT**
The Senior School ICT goal for 2015 is to extend the use of ICT to develop 21st century learning skills and improve student learning outcomes, across all 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. The students will participate in a Cyber Safety unit aimed at ensuring students use ICT in a safe and responsible manner.

**Transition to Year 7**
Year 6 students will receive documentation later this term regarding secondary school placements for 2016. Please keep an eye out for these important documents and ensure these are returned to your child’s teacher by the due date to ensure your child has the best chance of gaining a place at the school of your choice. Many schools will have Open Days so please contact the schools directly to find out when the tours will occur.