Senior School Newsletter Term Three 2014

Well here we are at the start of term three. We have a packed program of athletics competitions and specialist coaching by some of Victoria’s elite athletes, an innovative new Physical Education program and the absolute highlight, building on the success of the inaugural event last year, a ‘Night of the Notables’ on our History curriculum. We have an excursion to the Immigration Museum, Book Fair and the wonderful Tony Bones’ theatre company visiting to perform ‘My Life as an Alphabet’ by Barry Jonsburg, which we are currently reading with huge enjoyment. Keep checking your child’s diary regularly for notes and updates on everything that is happening!

Highlights of Term Two included......

Wattle Park Primary School Centenary Celebrations: Open Day 2014

There is no doubt that, after our Canberra Camp in April, the Centennial celebrations at Open Day in May were one of the highlights of term two. The Year 5s took us on a journey back in time through an inquiry investigating the impact of the development of trams on the Burwood area. Students demonstrated their ICT skills using QR codes to illustrate the historical ‘journey’ via websites, their own newspaper reports, photos, maps and some wonderful role play performances. The Year 6 students took us on an illustrated timeline to Federation with their information reports on key dates in Australian and world history, all depicted on a beautifully crafted snake using indigenous painting styles they had created in art with Mr Davey. A wonderful event that was well supported by both parents and students alike. A wonderful event that was well supported by both parents and students alike.

Integrated Curriculum

SCIENCE
Year 5: ‘Light Shows’. Key question: What would our lives be without light? Students will inquire as to how light from a source forms shadows and can be absorbed, reflected and refracted via a number of investigations and observations.
Year 6: ‘It’s Electrifying’. Students will investigate how electrical circuits provide a means of transforming and transferring electricity. They will look at how energy from a variety of sources can be used to generate electricity.

These activities and investigations will be supported by students from Swinburne University via NAB bank’s ‘Science Futures’ program.

HISTORY
Year 5: Key Individuals and groups in Colonial History: Students will examine the roles that significant individuals or groups of immigrants played in shaping the colony. These will include farmers, entrepreneurs, politicians, writers, artists, religious leaders, humanitarians, explorers and indigenous leaders.
Year 6: Stories of Migration: Students will investigate the stories of people who migrated to Australia from Europe and Asia and the reasons they migrated such as World War II and changing Australian migration policies since the war.

Sport Education in Physical Education Program (SEPEP) The Year 5 & 6 staff will be working closely with Mrs Downes to introduce this innovative program. The students will participate in a competitive basketball competition, however the competition is also integrated into their literacy and numeracy program e.g. through leadership roles, writing reports, public speaking and organisation. It aims to educate students in organising and running a sport competition but, through working in teams, students develop skills in roles connected with sports events e.g. coaches, journalists, statisticians, umpires, scorers, administrators, referees, trainers, court set up, promotional, marketing and event organisation. Reports will be presented at assembly and through the bi-weekly newsletter. The weekly competition and activities will culminate in ‘Finals’ in week 7.

IMPORTANT NOTICES:
- Oz Opera : 31 Aug.
- Coach Approach: 8 Aug.
- Tony Bones : 14 Aug.
- Standardised Athletics: 25th Aug
- Immigration Museum Excursion: 29 Aug.
- District Athletics: 2 Sept.
- Night of the Notables: 10 Sept.
- China Trip for selected students: 11 Sept.
- Punctuality: Students must line up at 8:50am ready to start learning at 9am.
- School diaries: Must be at school each day & go home each night. Please check & sign weekly.

Julie Nield
July 2014
**Literacy**

**Reading**
Students will continue to develop their critical literacy skills aimed at improving their overall reading ability and comprehension. Through the use of author studies on Chris Van Allsburg and Colin Thompson, Reader’s Notebooks and Literature Circles, students will build on the work of the first semester and focus on their inferential skills, looking at both written and visual texts. Students should continue to read at home each night and ensure Literature Circle homework is prepared every week. Look out for the new literacy bookmarks this term to help freshen up the discussions!

**Writing**
Students will further develop their use of a Writer’s Notebook and the process of developing a piece of writing from ‘seed’ to published piece. 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 focusing on the purpose, structure and features of information reports, narratives, ‘snapshot’ descriptive writing and poetry.

**Spelling**
A variety of spelling strategies will continue to be investigated in weekly spelling lessons, focussing on phonetic awareness, visual strategies and morphemic and etymological strategies (word origins). Students will practise editing skills and check for the correct grammar, punctuation and spelling in their writing.

**Speaking and Listening**
The ‘Night of the Notables’ will give all students the opportunity to prepare an information report and become a historical figure for the evening. They will be required to prepare and role play their individual for an evening, preparing short speeches and answers to questions from parents and other visitors.

**Numeracy**
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 continue to build on and develop their problem solving skills using a range of strategies, materials and ICT. Students will also be encouraged to articulate how they reached their conclusions using appropriate mathematical language. Students will be conducting their own surveys, analysing the data and choosing the most appropriate graphing methods to present their findings.

**ICT**
The ICT goal for 2014 is to extend the use of ICT to develop 21st century learning skills and improve student learning outcomes, across all curriculum areas. Students 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. Students regularly discuss cyber safety issues aimed at ensuring students use ICT in a safe and responsible manner. All students have signed up to an ICT Code of Conduct policy.

**Science Futures**
Throughout term two, students and staff conducted scientific investigations as part of the Australian Science curriculum and the ‘Science Futures’ program. Students worked in partnership with Swinburne University of Technology Science students. The program is sponsored by NAB bank as part of its ‘Schools First’ program. The university students have acted as mentors and positive role models for the Year 5 and 6 students and engaged them in hands-on learning activities that have increased student interest and motivation towards Science enquiry. The students love having the undergraduates in the classroom and there is great rapport between the two groups.

**Transition to Year 7**
Parents will be notified of their application result for secondary school placements on Wednesday 20th August. Any queries please contact your child’s Year 6 teacher.

**Note:**
Graduation Night 2014 - Monday 15th December.
Big Day Out -Thursday 18th December.