Senior School Term Two Newsletter 2015

We have an incredibly busy term ahead of us. Year 5s will be completing the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2015 on Tuesday 12 May, Wednesday 13 May and Thursday 14 May 2015. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. Please ensure these dates are in their diaries. The NAPLAN reports will be available later on in the year. For more information about the tests, please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAP website at www.nap.edu.au.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your class teacher.

Integrated Curriculum

SCIENCE

Year 5: Survival And Adaptation
We will investigate the characteristics of plants and animals, how they are inherited and how they help the organism to survive in its particular environment. Students will understand that living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment and that the growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment.

Year 6: “It’s Electrifying”
This term students will explore how electrical circuits provide a means of transferring and transforming electrical energy. They will explore the construction of electric circuits, the structure of a light bulb and learn about the role of Alessandro Volta in the development of the first battery. Students will be asked to be problem solvers where they plan and conduct investigations into conductors and insulators.

HISTORY

Year 5: Colonial Lives:
Students will investigate the impact of significant developments in colonial Australia. They will learn about what life was like for different groups of people in the colonial period. They will examine significant events and people, political and economic developments, social structures, and settlement patterns.

Year 6: Move to Federation:
Students will investigate the following through historical inquiry: Who opposed and supported Federation in the 1890s? What attitudes did the Federation referendums reveal? When and how did Federation occur? What are the key elements of Australia’s system of government? How did American and British systems influence Australia’s choice of system?

Winter Interschool Sports

This term, Years 5 and 6 students will participate in interschool sport competitions. The students will be playing netball, t-ball or football. The games will be played on Friday afternoons either on school grounds or on our opposition’s home grounds. Please ensure you read all forms sent home, fill them out and return them to the class teacher. Parents are most welcome to come and support our teams!

Stay tuned for more information about the Year 5 and 6 camp. Camp dates are September 14-September 18th. When camp forms are sent home, please ensure all details are filled in. Thank you.

WPPS Open Day 2015
Saturday 23rd May 9-11am
Don’t forget to put the WPPS Open Day in your diaries for a chance to see the fabulous work our students are doing!

IMPORTANT:

• Absent notes: If your child is absent, please ensure a written note explaining the reason for each day’s absence is given to the teacher. Thank you.

• School diaries: Diaries must be at school every day and go home every night. They are a valuable organisational and communication tool. Please check and sign the diaries on a weekly basis.

• Signing-in: During school times between 9am and 3:30pm, we would appreciate all parents/carers to sign-in at the office. Messages/lunches can be delivered to all students via our phone systems from the office.

Sign In
**Literacy**

**Reading**
Students will continue to 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 prepared every week.

**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. They will be encouraged to bring in more 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.

**Spelling**
A variety of spelling strategies will continue to be investigated in weekly spelling lessons focusing on phonetic awareness, visual strategies and morphemic and etymological strategies (word origins). Students will select new spelling words and complete LSCWC (look, say, cover, write, check) of their words each day before being tested. Please encourage your children to correct their spelling when writing at home.

**Speaking and Listening**
Students will continue to 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.

**ICT**
Students will use ICT for research, communication and presentation purposes. They 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 now signed up to an ICT Code of Conduct policy.

**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 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 statistics, probability and chance, measurement, 2D and 3D shapes. Students will be building on and developing their problem solving skills using a range of strategies.

**Transition to Year 7**
Year 6 parents received their documentation regarding secondary school placements for 2015. Please ensure this documentation is returned to the Year 6 teachers by **22nd May 2015** at the latest. This date is not flexible as it is set by the Department of Education. Any queries please contact your child’s Year 6 teacher.

Note: **Graduation Night 2015 is Monday 14th December.**