Senior School (Year 5 and 6) Curriculum Newsletter Term Two 2014

Well here we are at the start of term two. This is an enormous term for students and teachers alike as we take on the challenges of our 5 day Canberra Tour and, for the Year 5s, the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. We’ve got Cross Country competitions at House level to select our team for Districts and Zone level competition. The Winter Inter-school sport will commence with Football, Netball and T-Ball. Keep checking your child’s diary regularly for notes and updates on everything that is happening in this very busy term!

Highlights of Term One......

WATTLE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Central Park Primary School

Centenary Celebrations

One of the highlights for the Year 6 students was the making of a short film for Movie Night to publicise the forthcoming School Centenary celebrations.

The students were challenged to work as a year group in several teams to create a film which summarised the values of the Wattle Park community and what makes our School a great place to be!

The students had enormous fun creating scripts, filming and editing their clips. If you were at Movie Night we’re sure you were impressed with the results! The students certainly took the skills they acquired during their visit to ACMI in Year 5 and produced a memorable film to kick start the 2014 Centenary celebrations!

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: Materials And Waste
This topic is about the materials we use in everyday life, where they come from and how they are made. It also looks at how materials can be used or recycled. Students will investigate how changes to materials can be reversible, such as melting, freezing, evaporating; or irreversible, such as burning and rusting.

HISTORY

Year 5: Colonial Lives:
Students will investigate the impact of significant developments; political, economic, social on the lives of colonial settlers. Linked with WPPS Centenary celebrations, the students will investigate the impact of the building of tram lines on the economic development and expansion of Burwood.

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?

Summer Sports Round Robin

at Kerrimuir Primary School

In March, almost 100 students from WPPS competed against 4 other schools at this Round Robin event. Teams competed in Newcomb (Volleyball), Rounders and Kanga Cricket in a competition lasting most of the day. A great time was had by all despite the 4 seasons of weather Melbourne threw at us. Well done to all students for their sense of fair play and competitiveness displayed that day. Thanks too to all those parents who attended and helped out! We appreciate it.

WPPS Open Day 2014

Saturday 24th May 9-11am

Don’t forget to put the WPPS Open Day in your diaries for a chance to see more contributions to our Centenary celebrations from the Senior School students!

IMPORTANT:

• Camp Information Night: Wednesday 23rd April in the Year 5/6 Flexible Learning Space. This is your chance to ask any last questions about the Canberra Tour.

• Punctuality: Please support your children in maximizing teaching time by ensuring they arrive at school in line by 8:50am.

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

**Reading**
Students will continue to develop reading strategies 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 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. 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 and exposition texts.

**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 on a Monday and complete LSCWC (look, say, cover, write, check) of their words each day before being tested on a Friday.

**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.

**Numeracy**

Look out for your child’s homework grid each week. Please sign the sheet before it is returned to school on Mondays.

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 of length and 2D shapes. Students will be building on and developing their problem solving skills using a range of strategies.

**ICT**

As we mentioned in the Term One newsletter, 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 now signed up to an ICT Code of Conduct policy.

**‘Science Futures’**

Students and staff are very excited at the commencement of our ‘Science Futures’ program, working in partnership with Swinburne University of Technology Science students and sponsored by NAB bank as part of its ‘Schools First’ program.

The school successfully bid for a grant of $15,000 to fund this significant program for the advancement of Science education for students in the Senior School. The university students will have the opportunity to act as mentors and positive role models for the Year 5 and 6 students and engage them in hands-on learning activities that will increase student interest and motivation towards Science.

**Transition to Year 7**

Year 6 parents received their documentation at the end of last term regarding secondary school placements for 2015. Please ensure this documentation is returned to the Year 6 teachers by 23rd May 2014 at the latest. This date is not flexible, as it is set by the Department of Education. Parents will be notified of their application result on Wednesday 20th August. Any queries please contact your child’s Year 6 teacher.

Note: Graduation Night 2014 is Monday 15th December.