

Wednesday 14th February 2018

5/6 Overview Term One 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new year, it will be both a busy and exciting term. For the first two weeks of the year we are implementing our Start Up program which develops confidence, respect and a positive learning environment for all. Alongside this we are implementing our literacy and numeracy programs. In our learning area students are exploring our school values: Respect, Resilience and Love of Learning.

Smooth start:

Students are encouraged to come into the classroom prior to the bell, unpack their bag, hand in notices or money and change their reader before the bell. This allows students to be prepared and start their learning promptly at 9am each day. Parents are also welcome to meet with the teachers before school as well.

Nude food:

Students are given time to eat their morning tea and lunch inside. This helps reduce the amount of waste that is often left in the playground and minimises the risk of allergic reactions. Students are only permitted to eat 'nude food' (such as fruit that has been peeled or a sandwich without wrapping paper) in the piazza. Teachers will ensure that students are given adequate time to eat before they go out to play.

Sleep:

It is important that students are coming to school with a good night's sleep. A number of students in our area have said they go to bed late and often play on their tablet/ipad/electronic equipment before sleep. Scientific studies have shown that using an electronic device up to two hours before bed can reduce the quality of sleep. We encourage you as parents to ensure your child is in to bed by 8.30pm by the latest.

Communication Processes:

The 5/6 teaching team understand the importance of open communication and welcome the opportunity to clarify and discuss any concerns families may have. Contact us via email, phone call or simply via a message written in your child's diary. We will endeavour to respond to your requests as soon as possible. We are available to have pre-arranged meetings in person when the need arises.

The Old Priory Camp:

Students are excited to be going to The Old Priory Beach Camp in Beechworth on Wednesday 21st till Friday 23rd. This camp focuses on the rich cultural history of Beechworth and its surrounding areas. We will be attending the camp as well as Karen Rush and Drew El Moussalli. Learning programs will still be in place for non-campers. All students not attending camp are expected to attend school on these days.

Key Learning Areas:

Learning Intentions and success criteria: We will be setting clear learning intentions of what the students will learn and provide success criteria for each lesson. Clear learning intentions and success criteria help students to know where they are going, monitor their progress, and know what to do next to make further progress.

Maths: Students will investigate place value, adding and subtracting large numbers with regrouping processes. Students will also focus on measurement specifically in time and length. Maths fluency games will be conducted at the start of every lesson. This will ensure students have mastered basic number facts that will assist all maths learning.

Literacy: The 5/6 students will explore specific text types such as narrative and persuasive writing and we will be explicitly teaching the various structures within these genres. Students will continue to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. During reading groups students will learn about how predictions helps understand a text. Students will also investigate how making connections helps us associate with the text in order to comprehend. There will be opportunities for public speaking through presentations and speeches throughout the term.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL): We will continue to develop our students understanding of Social and Emotional Learning using the Berry Street Educational Model. Students will learn to develop the skills to manage their emotions, how to relate to others, resolving conflict and how to feel positive about themselves. This term we will be focusing on building students' emotional stamina with sustained effort, perseverance and resilience.



Inquiry: The Inquiry focus for grade 5/6 students this term is Australia as a Nation. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of past events that have shaped Australia with a focus on the Gold Rush period. Our school camp to Beechworth will expand students understanding with first hand experiences of what life was like of a Bushranger during the 1850's-1860's.

Home Learning Expectations:

Homework is provided each week. Your child will be expected to complete and submit their home learning by Friday every week. Students are expected to read daily, learn set spelling words and complete a number problem each week. It is vital for students to read daily and write a sentence or two about the book they are reading in their diary. We ask that parents sign their child's diary so teachers can see that students are reading daily.

Sport:

Grades 3-6 students are involved in training sessions to develop the necessary skills for participation in the inter-school Athletics Sports at Meadowglen Athletics Stadium on Wednesday March 7th. Students will practice events such as discus, shotput, high jump, long jump, relay running, short distance sprints, long distance runs, triple jump, tunnel ball and crossball.

P.E: (Drew El Moussalli)

My name is Drew and I am the new Physical Education teacher. I look forward to working with the 5/6 classes this year. In Term 1 the children will be involved in athletics. Running, jumping and throwing activities will be the main focus which will help the students develop fundamental skills used in athletics. The children will be taught to throw the discus and shot put and refine their running and jumping techniques. In preparation for the District Competition at Meadowglen Athletics Track. Parents are welcome to come and watch. Please don't forget that school approved hats are required for P.E. lessons during term one.

Visual and Performing Arts: (Lisa Gardiner)

In Term 1, Visual Art activities will concentrate on *drawing and painting*. The students will continue to explore design elements such as line, shape, colour, texture and space and the principles of pattern, contrast and movement. Abstract Expressionist, Wassily Kandinsky and Illustrators, Andrea Joseph and Christopher Myers are the focus artists this term. Kandinsky's paintings will provide inspiration for paintings that show movement. The narrative art of Joseph and Myers will be studied for a bookmaking project. Each year level (P-6) will create a monochromatic (one colour) self-portrait that will all be displayed together this term.

As these art activities can be quite messy, all children need to bring an art smock (an old shirt will do) to protect their school uniform. These need to be named and will be sent home for cleaning at the end of each term.

Italian: (Candice Vanzin)

Throughout the term, students will continue to explore a variety of communicative language activities to continue building on everyday Italian conversational skills. Year 5/6 students will develop a better understanding of Italian grammatical rules, such as use of masculine, feminine, plural and singular articles. Students will engage in the topic 'la casa', designing and labelling a house and a room.

Uniform Expectations:

Term 1 is a Sunsmart term and **all students must wear a school hat** for all outdoor activities. Students who do not have their school hat cannot participate in outdoor activities, which includes outside PE lessons as well as recess and lunch breaks. Complete school uniform is expected to be worn at all times.

Technology Agreement:

Attached to the class newsletter is our Student Acceptable Use Agreement for Learning Technologies. This agreement covers use of all learning technologies at school including Laptops, tablets, digital cameras, interactive whiteboards and notebooks. This agreement has come about so that students realise that using technology comes with responsibilities, to help students to understand why we use technology at school and to help students feel safe from cyber-bullying when using technology. The agreement is to be read by both students and parents and signed by students and parents. This agreement **must** be returned to school promptly in order for your child to continue to use learning technologies.

Kind regards,

Erika Hopcraft

Tegan Veitch

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