Term 3 July 2013

Grade 5 / 6 Newsletter

**Important Dates**

- Wakakirri Performance - July 29th.
- Tree Planting day - July 26th.
- ANPS Camp - August 13th - August 16th.
- ANPS Disco - August 23rd.
- Curriculum Pupil free day - September 2nd.
- Last day term 3 - September 20th.
- First day term 4 - October 7th.

**Unit Information**

We would like to welcome back all our students and parents into the second half of the school year.

Thank you to all parents for your time and participation in the Parent Teacher Interview process. It was very much appreciated.

We hope that all parents enjoyed looking through their child’s portfolio and were able to use the samples together with the school report to better understand their child’s achievements. The discussions, questions and sharing of information will benefit all, especially your child.

Congratulations to all our year 5 students who worked very hard on completing the NAPLAN tests. Well done! Parents will receive these results this semester.

This term will be a very busy term with Wakakirri, School Camp and Interschool Athletics. All 5/6 students are reminded that weekly homework includes reading for at least 20 minutes each night, learning spelling words, practising times tables, and completing homework sheets.

Some of our 5 / 6 students will be going on camp from Tuesday 13th of August through to Friday 16th of August. We trust that our 5/6 students will support Miss Shiels and the other teachers on camp in helping to lead their younger peers in a sensible and mature manner.

The Student Leadership Program will continue this term with School and House Captains running assembly, escorting visitors through the school and initiating events to raise funds for various school programs. Our year 6 students are involved in the Hobson’s Bay Junior School Council program. Each month three students are selected to represent our school and give a report to the Hobson Bay Council on the activities that are taking place within our school. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th of August.

**Curriculum Overview**

**LITERACY**

During literacy lessons, the focus will be on narrative writing, procedural writing and explanations. The emphasis will continue to be on using correct grammar and punctuation in written work. Students’ use of their Writers’ Notebooks will assist their learning. Students will be encouraged to edit their written work and to present in both print and electronic forms.

Students will have opportunities to read, research and use a variety of strategies for writing including note taking and planning.

There will be opportunities for students to read non fiction and information texts related to Bridges and Structures. They will spend time analysing information and with teacher support will make conclusions and interpretations of material read.

The focus will be on continuing to increase sustained reading time, through the ‘independent reading’ of just right books and looking at ‘Questions and Questioning’ strategies when reading. The children will be creating goals to improve their reading, during conferencing sessions with the teacher.

In Term 2, three children were entered into the Wakakirri Story Writing competition to represent our school. The theme of the writing involved ‘Celebration’. Good luck to our entrants.

**NUMERACY**

In Numeracy, students will complete tasks from the following standards:

- Number and Algebra - With a focus on fractions, percentages, decimals and ratio.
- Measurement and Geometry - With a focus on time, calendar and data. As well as, congruence, symmetry, transformation and tessellation.

The students will continue to experience open-ended problem solving derived from every day experiences. These problems require the application of number facts, mathematical operations as well as an understanding of when to apply them.

The children will demonstrate their understanding of these concepts by using mathematical tools like Pictures, Numbers and Words.

**INTERSCHOOL SPORT**

The Winter Interschool Sports concluded at the end of Term 2. The season was interrupted by weather conditions however, the students enjoyed partaking in organised sports sessions as a unit at school.

In Term 3, the grade 5 / 6 children will have the opportunity to represent Altona North Primary School in the WADDSA Interschool Athletic Sports.

**INQUIRY**

This term the students’ will be involved in a SCIENCE based unit of inquiry titled “Bridges and Structures” This Science based unit will also include the Domains of Interpersonal Development, Personal Learning, Thinking Processes, Communication, Design Creativity and Technology.

**MAJOR TOPIC UNDERSTANDINGS (Central Idea) to be explored and developed within the inquiry will be:**

- What is the purpose and function of various bridges and structures?
- How have bridges and structures changed over time?
- What scientific and technological advances are important in design and construction?
- Which natural resources are used and where do they come from?
- How does the building of these structures impact on the natural environment and human society?

**TRANSITION**

Parents of Year Six students will be notified of Secondary School placements for 2014 by Friday August 9th.

**WAKAKIRRI**

This year’s Wakakirri performance is in its final stages of preparation. We are competing at The Clocktower in Moon-ee Ponds on Monday 29th of July. Good luck everyone!

Year 5/6 Team,
Wally Raghdoo and Lisa Ousley and Rob Avolino.

**WADDSA Interschool Athletic Sports.**
Computers
During this term, the children will be exploring the program ‘Kahootz 3’, and its features. They will be learning how to create ‘scenes’ in different ‘worlds’, and how to add 3D ‘objects’ to their ‘worlds’. The children will have the opportunity to re-create their Wakakirri performance as a ‘Kahootz 3 Expression’. They will be learning how to keypoint objects and worlds, import objects, place text and link scenes in ‘Kahootz 3’. Joanne Jackson

Physical Education
Term three is going to be an exciting term for students from grades 5/6. They will have the opportunity to participate in a Hockey and Lacrosse themed sequence of lessons with specific focus on improving the sequencing of skills and technique. The skills in focus will be catching and passing accurately while moving in Lacrosse and trapping and shooting for goal during Hockey themed lessons. The students will have the opportunity to participate in skills based lessons then will use these skills in mini competitive tournaments during class time. Along with our Hockey and Lacrosse theme there will be a selection of grade 5/6 students training for the upcoming Altona District Athletics Carnival in September. Vanessa Shiels

Visual Arts
The children in Term 3 will view artworks from artists such as Monet, Ken Done and Van Gogh. To coincide with the unit inquiry topic ‘Bridges and Structures’ artists from different cultures who have included images of bridges in their artwork will also be viewed to enable students to see a variety of styles. The children will use skills in drawing, collage and construction to create their own interpretations. They will be encouraged to discuss the historical or cultural influences within these artworks and will also be encouraged to provide each other with feedback about their own artwork. To coincide with Book Week and Literacy / Numeracy Week, a selection of books will be chosen and used for inspiration for art works. The children will hear the stories, view the illustrations and create artworks relating to these stories. Deb Morgan

Music / Performing Arts
During term three, grade 5/6 students will finalise and perform their item for our 2013 Wakakirri story-dance entry. Students will also undertake a unit on Music Technology. Using the computer lab and music program, Sony Acid Pro, students will use loops and recording technology to create their own songs. Students will develop their knowledge in song writing, song structure and their awareness of how music can be created using technology. Cassie McCawley

Sustainability:
This year ‘Planet Ark Tree Day’ will be held on Friday July 26th. ANPS has been an active participant in the ‘Planet Ark Tree Day’ every year for the last 10 years, with all students being involved in planting a tree, helping to improve our school’s environment. This year ANPS has designated the day an ‘Environmental Day’ as part of our school’s commitment to the environment and sustainability and in support of ‘Planet Ark Tree Day’. Throughout the day, all students will be given the opportunity to plant a native tree in their grade’s designated area in the school’s gardens. Grade 5/6 students will provide the rest of the school with support and guidance in planting and caring for trees. During the day, students will participate in activities with an environmental focus. These Environmental activities will assist in the development of the students’ knowledge and appreciation of trees as a sustainable resource and the important role that trees have on our planet. In support of our Environmental Day (Friday July 26th) ANPS will be having a ‘Rubbish Free Day’. We request that all parents support this event by ensuring that children’s ‘snack and lunch’ are packed in containers or materials which can either be recycled or reused with minimal or no rubbish going into the school bins.

It is hoped that the ‘Environmental Day’ will assist students in gaining a greater understanding and connection with their environment and the need to care for it.
On Thursday the 18th of July (Week 1) the grade 3/4 students were involved in the construction of a “Rain Garden” within the frog pond area to collect and filter storm water before the water is released into the frog pond. The rain garden was made possible through the generous funding we received from the 2012 MOBIL Bright Futures Education Grant. We look forward with excitement to the construction of the school “Garden Wall” later in the term. ANPS was nominated by City West Water to be one of two schools to receive this “Wall of Blooms”. This project will further enhance our school ground and learning landscape.

During Cool Australia Enviro Week to be held on 25th – 31st August, ANPS students will join thousands of other students across Australia in taking action and raising awareness for a sustainable future. Students will be asked to take up a “Green Challenge”, i.e. “Green thumb, waste warrior, traveller” etc, in an effort to highlight the need for responsible environmental actions and behaviours.

Altona North Primary School is an accredited “Water-Live it Learn It” school and as part of our commitment to this program we will commence preparations to participate in the National Water Week, which will be held from the 20th to the 26th of October (Term 4). Wally Raghdo