Welcome to term 1, 2013

We would like to welcome your child to the senior unit for 2013. We have started Term One off with a very positive and confident approach and are looking forward to a term filled with in-depth inquiries and rich experiences for all. This year the 5/6 Unit consists of two classes with Mr. Raghdo (5/6R) and Ms Ousley (5/6O) we are excited to once again be working with the 5/6 students. We also welcome Rob Avolino who will be involved with the integration support program. Vanessa Shiels, Deb Morgan, Jo Jackson and Cassie McCawley will have specialist roles in the unit. This year will also see extra support for 5/6 students with Miss McCawley, Miss Shiels and Miss Jedda spending time assisting 5/6 students in the classroom throughout the week.

We have set out below a few points of interest related to general classroom procedure at this level.

Mornings- All children are expected to be at line up by 8:45am each morning to be ready for the day’s lessons. We ask for your cooperation in getting your child to school on time so that he/she does not feel rushed or pressured when arriving in the classroom.

Homework- A Home Learning task is usually given out on a Monday and is due back on the Friday. We ask that parents encourage their children to complete homework to their best ability and on time. Our philosophy for homework is that it supports classroom learning, it develops good study habits for high school, and it gives children responsibility and ownership of their learning. It would be appreciated if you could sign your child’s homework each week.

Reading- is an important part of homework and all children are expected to read each night, choosing material according to their own level and interest. Reading Log Books need to be completed by students every day and signed by parents.

Discipline- All classes at ANPS follow a values based discipline and this is supported through a whole school approach focus on RELATIONSHIPS and LEADERSHIP. We encourage you to talk to your child about these procedures.

Diaries- Students will be actively recording reminders about personal tasks and upcoming whole school and class events in their school diaries. Parents please check and sign the diary each night.

Parent/Teacher Information sessions- will be conducted on Wednesday 27th February and we

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FEBRUARY 2013

Important Dates

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27/2/2013</td>
<td>Parent Teacher information session</td>
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<td>15/2/2012</td>
<td>Interschool sports begin</td>
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Curriculum Overview

English

Within English, students will be looking at Narratives and persuasive texts in term 1. Students will have opportunities to investigate a chosen leader through reading and researching. They will make speeches, write reports and present what they have found out, including completing a powerpoint presentation. Students will discuss their own strengths and then set goals for their own learning.

Students will be using classroom libraries on a daily basis and developing comprehension strategies to improve their reading. Their ideas and insights will be displayed on classroom “Literacy Walls”.

Students will undertake various reading and writing tests at the start of the year. These will assist teachers in planning programs which meet students’ needs.

This year, writing notebooks and writing conferences will continue to be developed as tools to enhance the students writing and learning experiences.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, students will be involved in online on-demand testing and scaffold testing in term one.

This will assist teachers in addressing the specific needs of each student. Specific areas of study will include developing addition, subtraction, strategies, and using place value knowledge and skills. Students will also complete a measurement unit where they will find and measure angles, perimeter and area of shapes. Students will also explore the concepts of 2d shapes.

Students will have many opportunities to engage in problem-solving to improve their ability to apply strategies like addition and multiplication to new situations. This problem-solving will include ‘open-ended’ problems which may have a number of possible answers. Their ideas and insights will be displayed on classroom “Numeracy Walls”.

Inquiry Unit

This term the first unit of inquiry is called “Relationships and Learning - Leading The Way”. It will be based around the concepts of values, responsibilities and leadership. There will be a focus on Interpersonal Development, Personal Learning and Thinking. The major understandings to be explored and developed within this unit of inquiry will be:

- Values and Attitudes affect all aspects of our lives which may influence our rights, responsibilities and consequences.
- Leaders may recognise and use individual learning styles to create change.

Students have already begun investigating leadership attitudes and values.

Our inquiry unit in the latter part of term 1 will be ‘Healthy Mind Healthy Body’. The major understanding to be explored will be:

- an understanding of what is a healthy body.
- how healthy choices impact on our long term lifestyles.

Leadership- Grade 6 students will have the opportunity to make speeches in respect of House Leader and Peer Leader positions. School Captains and House Captains will take part in the Young Leaders’ Day Conference on March 1st. This is a marvellous opportunity for the students to listen to the leadership views of inspirational and positive role models. An objective of the day will be to empower students with practical skills and motivation to positively contribute to the school and their own personal lives.

Life Education begins on the 18th of February. Harold is back to teach our students about the human body, healthy eating, medicines and drugs, bullying, resilience and social skills. Parents can attend an information session on the 18ths of February.

Summer Interschool Sport begins on Feb 15th with teams representing T Ball, Bat Tennis, Cricket and Newcombe. All students will be attending the sports this year.

Many thanks from the 5/6 teaching team
Lisa Ousley, Wally Raghdo and Rob Avolino
Computers

During Term 1, the grade 5/6 students will be busy developing their research skills, refining their editing skills and navigating their way around the program PowerPoint. Much of the students learning will be connected to their Inquiry Unit titled ‘Relationships and Learning – Leading the Way’. The students will undertake Internet research on a chosen Leader and will create a slideshow presentation to visually represent their new learning. The students will learn how to import images and apply basic animation techniques to enhance their presentation.

Visual Arts

The children will revise their knowledge of the elements of art, such as the use of lines, shapes, patterns and colours and will use this knowledge to develop more detail in their art work. Line and Pattern work will be a focus for one of these projects. They will engage in discussion about the school value ‘individuality’, and will view individual styles of a number of artists. They will be asked to choose a style as inspiration to develop their own art work. Children will also examine patterns and designs as seen on ‘Willow’ crockery and create art work associated with these designs. The children will engage in modelling activities using clay as a medium.

Music / Performing Arts

Grade 5/6 students will explore music through movement, playing instruments, singing and technology. Students will develop their performance skills working in groups and individually. There will be a focus on melody, chords, musical styles, song analysis and song structure. All students will use journals to record and reflect on their Music & Performing Arts lessons. These will also be used to write and keep any music, lyrics, practice schedules or ideas they may have in and out of class. There will be an opportunity for all students to participate in the Altona Beach Festival and this will become a strong focus during term one. This year there will be a junior and senior ANPS choir, with auditions and sign up being held in the first week of school. There will also be a small instrumental group which may become a guitar ensemble or small acoustic band. We encourage students who may study an instrument or own an instrument to practice outside of school to participate in this program.

Sustainability

The students will be introduced to the recycling programs at ANPS through the practical use of the paper, can/plastics, worm bins and waste bin. The students are encouraged to be aware of the need to care for the environment in which we live in, through every day actions and behaviours. Monitors from each grade are responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products. Throughout the year the students will participate in environmental education session in the worm room, and be involved in the hands on practical understanding of how their waste is recycled at ANPS using the schools worm farms/paper and cans/plastic recycling programs. Monitors from each grade are responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products. In grade 5/6 the students take an active and leading role in the organisation and management of the schools recycling program. Students are encouraged to be sustainable in their use of all their resources. Students are also responsible for the collection of water from the bucket that are placed under the taps in the playground, and used to water newly planted native plants in the school gardens.

Physical Education

Term one will see the 5/6 students participating in fitness based programs that will encourage the students to ‘huff and puff’. Close attention will be placed on the students refining and applying their movement skills through circuit based activities. The senior students will develop the important skills that will assist in positive team play and they will be encouraged to develop strategic thinking during match play. Students will participate in a 20m shuttle run test to determine and set goals to improve participation and fitness levels.

Visual Arts Reminder

Could children please be supplied with an art smock to protect their clothing during art class. An old oversized shirt, clearly labelled with their name would be fine. Art smocks will not be stored in the art room and will become the responsibility of the child. Please become aware of the day that your child has art so that you may remind them to bring their art smock to school.