Grade 5 / 6 Newsletter

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 late last term, it was very much appreciated.

We hope that all parents enjoyed looking through their child’s portfolio and are 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 during Term 2, well done! Parents will receive these results this semester.

This term will be a very busy term with Wakakiri, Camp Coolamatong and Inter-school Athletics. All 5/6 students are reminded that weekly homework includes reading for at least 30 minutes each night, learning spelling words, practising times tables, and completing homework sheets.

Thirty of our 5 / 6 students will be going on camp with 3/4 students, from Tuesday 28th of July through to Friday 1st of August. We trust that our 5/6 students will support attending staff 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.

Curriculum Overview

LITERACY
During literacy lessons, the focus will be on information reports, procedure 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.

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.

Book Clubs will continue during Literacy sessions. They are aimed at extending and enhancing the students’ comprehension and ability to use the Question Answer Relationship strategies.

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

- Number and Algebra – With a focus on fractions, percentages, decimals and ratio
- Measurement - With a focus on time, calendar and data.
- Geometry - With a focus on 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. It also requires students to explain how they went about solving the problems. (explaining their thinking)

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

Students will continue to undertake mid-year On Demand Testing that covers all areas of mathematics.

All grade 5/6 students will continue to be involved in the weekly Scaffolding Numeracy Program. This program is designed to strengthen the students multiplicative thinking and problem solving skills.

INQUIRY UNIT

Space: What is it good for?
This term grades 5 and 6 students will be looking at the Science topic of ‘Space’.

Major Topic Understanding:
Earth is part of a system of planets orbiting around a star. Scientific discoveries and inventions have contributed to our understanding of the importance of our solar system. The technologies developed to aid space exploration have changed the way people work and communicate.

Focus Questions:
- Why is it important for us to understand and explore the Solar System? (such as: weather phenomena, future resources)
- How have scientists from a range of cultures improved our understanding of the solar system? (such as Copernicus, Khayyam and Galileo)
- How have technologies developed to aid space exploration?
- What role has Australia played in space exploration?
- What methods did the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people use to observe the night sky to assist with navigation?

TRANSITION
Parents of Year Six students will be notified of Secondary School placements for 2015 late this term.

WAKAKIRRI
We are looking forward to performing our Wakakiri Story Dance at the Clocktower Theatre on Thursday 13th August. The students have been rehearsing extremely hard and the production is looking great. Please ensure that all pick up arrangements have been made from the Clock Tower after the performance and that all costumes are clearly labeled and returned to school. If you have any questions regarding the performance please see your child’s classroom teacher as soon as possible. We would like to wish all performers chookas.

Year 5/6 Team,
Wally Raghda, Vanessa Shiels, Lisa Ousley and Support Staff, Fay Kapp

Important Dates

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>28th—31st July</td>
<td>Camp Coolamatong</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th August</td>
<td>Wakakiri</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th September</td>
<td>Last day term 3</td>
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<td>October 5</td>
<td>First day term 4</td>
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