Welcome to term 1, 2016
We would like to welcome your child to the senior unit for 2016. 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. Ragho (5/6R) and Ms Shiels (5/6S). 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. John Koutsonikolas, Deb Morgan and Seven Clark will have specialist roles in the unit.
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 approach and this is supported through a whole school 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. The student diary can also be used as a patent / patent about personal tasks and upcoming whole school and class events in their school diaries. Parents are encouraged to talk to their child about these procedures.

Parent/Teacher Information sessions- will be conducted on Wednesday 24th February and we look forward to meeting all parents with the aim of sharing information about your child.

Curriculum Overview

Literacy
Within Literacy students will be looking at Narrative and persuasive text in term 1. Students will have opportunities to investigate elements of a healthy lifestyle through reading and researching. They will make speeches, write reports and present what they have found out, including keeping a journal of exercise and diet. 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, Writers Notebooks and writing conferences will continue to be developed as tools to enhance the students writing and learning experiences.

Numeracy
In Numeracy, 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, place value knowledge and skills of whole and decimal numbers. 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 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 - Healthy Mind, Healthy Body”. It will be based around the concepts of values, responsibilities and health and wellness. 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, attitudes and actions affect all aspects of our lives (peers and community) which may influence our rights, responsibilities and our personal health

The focus questions for this unit of work are:
1. Why do we have values and attitudes?
2. Where do my values come from?
3. In what ways do values influence how I behave every day?
4. What is a healthy person?
5. How can we look after our bodies? (Diet, food and exercise)
6. What do I need to do to improve my health?

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 coming up in March. 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.

Summer Interschool Sport begins on Feb 12th with teams representing Softball, Tennis Hot Shots, Cricket Volley Stars and Basketball. All students will be attending the sports this year.

Grade 6 Transition- Parents of grade 6 students should be thinking about which school they would like their child to attend in 2017 as a Year 7 student. More details about this will be coming home in the next few weeks. It is now a good idea to start thinking about your child’s education.

Many thanks from the 5/6 teaching team
Vanessa Shiels, Wally Ragho and Robert Avolino
Specialists