

# GRADE 5/6 NEWSLETTER

## Important Dates

DATE	EVENT
23 Feb	Interschool sports begin
28 Feb	Parent Teacher Info Sessions



## WELCOME TO TERM 1, 2018

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. Raghdo (5/6R) and Mr James (5/6J) with our support staff Libby and Gemma. John Koutsonikolas, Deb Morgan and David Jaggard will also support the student learning within the 5/6 unit. At grade 5/6 level students are involved in a wide range of learning activities requiring all students to be prepared and organised in support of their own learning. Below are the expectations for all students within the unit.

**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 you encourage your child/children to complete homework to their best ability and on time. Homework supports classroom learning, it develops good study habits leading in to high school, and it gives children responsibility and ownership of their learning.

**Reading-** At this level, students should be reading at least 45 minutes a night. 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, the school's Vision and Values and the School Wide Positive Behaviours Matrix (included in your child's diary). Please 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 is also a parent / teacher communication tool, so please feel free to communicate with classroom teachers as required.

**Parent/Teacher Information sessions-** will be conducted on Wednesday 28th 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 Narratives and Persuasive texts 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 assessments 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 data collection.

Students will have many opportunities to engage in problem-solving to improve their ability to apply strategies like addition and subtraction 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".

### ROBOTICS

Students will be developing their critical and creative thinking through robotics. Within this program, children will plan, construct, and develop coding skills through programming their robot.

## 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. It will include Interpersonal Development, Personal Learning and Thinking.

The **Major Understanding** being explored and developed is:

*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 and how does this impact others?
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 for the role of House Leader or Peer Leader. School Captains and House Captains will take part in the Young Leaders' Day Conference 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 Feb 23rd 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 2019 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 be taking tours of local High Schools and attending information sessions, to begin the decision making for this big step in your child's future education.

Many thanks from the 5/6 teaching team: Teachers, Wally Raghdo, Chris James and ES Support Staff Gemma Aktolga and Libby Blunt.