

TERM 1 2024

GRADE 5/6 NEWSLETTER

Important Dates



DATE	EVENT
16 Feb	Young Leaders Conference & House Sports
23 Feb	Interschool Sport (round 1)
6 Mar	Parent-teacher share time
11 Mar	Labour Day Holiday

Welcome to Term 1, 2024

We would like to welcome your child to the senior unit for 2024. 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 three classes with Mr Beatty (5/6B), Mr James (5/6J) and Mr Jaggard (5/6Z) with our support staff Siobhan. 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 before 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 they do not feel rushed or pressured when arriving in the classroom.

Homework

Home Learning tasks are given out on a Monday and are 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 and it gives children responsibility and ownership of their learning.

Reading

Grade 5/6 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. They will be checked by classroom teachers every Friday.

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 week. Teachers will be checking student diaries every Friday. The student diary is also a parent / teacher communication tool, so please feel free to communicate with classroom teachers as required.

Discipline

All classes at ANPS follow a values based discipline approach and this is supported through a whole school focus on RELATIONSHIPS and LEADERSHIP. This is based on the school's Vision and Values and the School Wide Positive Behaviour Matrix (included in your child's diary). Please talk to your child about these procedures.

Parent/Teacher Information sessions

The sharing sessions will take place on Wednesday 6th March. We look forward to meeting student guardians/parents, and being able to share important information.

Curriculum Overview

Literacy

Within Literacy, students will be looking at Narratives and Persuasive texts in term 1. Students will have opportunities to investigate a variety of texts and think deeply about the text, through questioning and multiple comprehension strategies. 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. Writers Notebooks and writing conferences will be used as tools to enhance the students writing and learning experiences.

Numeracy

In Numeracy, students will be involved in Scaffolding testing in term one. This will assist teachers in addressing the specific needs of each student. Specific areas of study will include developing place value and number knowledge as well as, addition and subtraction strategies. Students will have many opportunities to engage in problem-solving to improve their ability to apply strategies like addition and subtraction to new situations. Their ideas and insights will be displayed on classroom "Numeracy Walls".

Scaffolding

Students work in allocated ability groups to develop and apply their multiplicative thinking skills through a series of 'open-ended' problems which may have a number of possible answers.

Robotics

Students will be developing their critical and creative thinking through Robotics. Within this program, children will plan, construct, and develop their innovative thinking and programming skills whilst working in groups to build a track and robot. Students will work hard throughout the year to create a major project for the Robotics expo.

Interschool Sport

Begins Feb 23rd with teams representing Tennis, Hot Shots, Volley Stars, Tee ball and Basketball. All students will be involved.

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 as well as health and wellness. It will include Interpersonal Development, Personal Learning and Thinking.

The students will make speeches, write reports and present what they have found out, including keeping a journal of exercise and nutritional habits.

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

Values and attitudes affect all aspects of our lives, which may influence our rights, responsibilities and consequences. Leaders learn by experiences and values to implement positive change. Our bodies change as we journey from childhood into adulthood.

The **Focus Questions** for this unit of work are:

- What key elements ensure a happy and healthy physical and mental lifestyle?
- Where do my values come from and how can they influence others?
- How can we as humans think openly and positively to resolve various conflicts?
- What qualities do good leaders possess?
- How do our bodies change, both physically and mentally as we journey from childhood to adulthood.

Leadership

Grade 6 students have had the opportunity to make speeches for the role of House Leader. School Captains and House Captains will take part in the Young Leaders' Day Conference on February 16. This is a marvellous opportunity for the students to listen to the leadership views of inspirational and positive role models.

Grade 6 Transition

Parents of grade 6 students should be thinking about which school they would like their child to attend in 2025 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:
Mr Beatty, Mr James, Mr Jaggard and ES Support Staff Siobhan.