

Newsletter

Grade 5/6

Term 1 2015

TERM 1 Overview

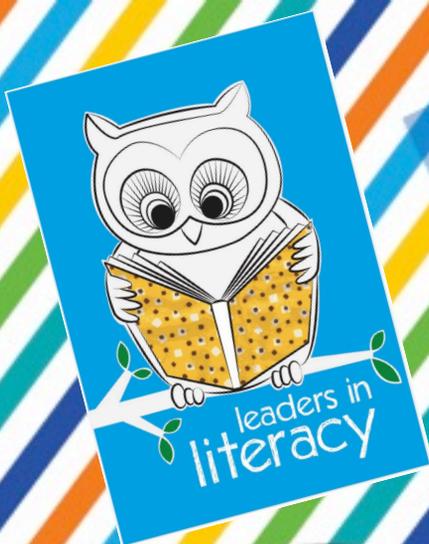
This term has got off to a great start with the return of the children, and a remarkably successful period of settling in. The Start Up Learning Program has served to reinforce the values at Heidelberg Primary (Care, Cooperation, Respect and Integrity), as well as push the message with the students that leadership is high on the agenda at this level of the school. Election of School Captains and House Captains will take place shortly after our return from Sovereign Hill, and children have been given a lot of background information to help them prepare for these new roles.

Overview Cont.

Thank you for your patience while we create our new passive space in the top school. With the works this term we ask that if you normally pick your child up in the top school that you endeavour to meet them on the tiger turf. With any luck the space will be finished in the coming weeks and ready for the children to once again enjoy!

We are all looking forward to a busy year this year and are very excited for all the challenges it may bring.

- Miss Jamie Whitfield, Ms Sonia McAllister and Miss Tahnee Pape



Reading Groups

Our students will be reading a variety of fiction and non fiction texts. We will be focusing on strategies such as finding the main idea, recalling facts and details and understanding sequence. We will be introducing some CAFÉ strategies to support and enhance our programs.

Writing

This term we will be focusing our writing on narrative and persuasive text types. We will continue to develop our spelling and grammar conventions through our writing and in dedicated focus tasks.

Spelling

This term in Spelling we will be using the Soundwaves program to develop our knowledge of sounds of letters and letter blends in order to hone our spelling strategies. The sounds we are focusing on this term are: *b* as in balloon, *a* as in apple, *k* as in kite, *e* as in egg and *d* as in duck.

ICT and Literacy

Students will also engage in ICT throughout our Literacy program. There will be writing projects in which a range of apps will be used, the Pages app will be used quite considerably, as well as other apps such as 'Quickvoice' for reading groups.

A cartoon illustration of a young girl with long brown hair, wearing a blue shirt, holding a calculator. The background is a colorful striped pattern.

Numeracy

This term in Maths, students will continue to develop the fundamental skills that underpin all areas of Mathematics. They will build upon their knowledge of place value of whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Students will also extensively explore the four processes (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) to further consolidate and extend skills learned in previous years.

Students will also have the opportunity to engage in other areas of Mathematics including estimating, measuring and identifying angles, connecting 3D shapes to their nets and collecting, displaying and interpreting data.

Numeracy Cont.

As in previous years students will be encouraged to work in a range of different structures including individual work, targeted group work and one on one with their teacher. Students will work primarily in similar ability groups with differentiated learning both supporting those who need extra support and extending those who need to be challenged. The children will complete daily problem solving in their classrooms aimed at developing their skills at thinking outside the box and consolidating what has been taught.

Welcome Ms. Dawson!

This year we are very lucky to have Ms Dawson supporting the 5/6 team, and students, in both Maths and Literacy. She will run support sessions for each 5/6 class and extension for the 5/6 group as well.

ICT and Maths

ICT will feature prominently in Mathematics. The school has purchased the Mathletics program and students will access Mathletics several times a week both to stimulate and challenge them with their learning. A variety of other apps will be used for number fluency activities, as well as for general classroom activities in the Mathematics area.

Integrated Studies

IDENTITY

This term we will be looking at strategies that will allow the children to capitalize on their strengths and challenge their weaknesses. In order to do this there will be a focus on a better understanding of how the human body and emotions work and how these change over the course of a lifetime. During this unit we will be working with the children to develop strategies to help manage the 'curve balls' that life throws at them. This is particularly relevant given the students will be moving onto secondary school in the coming years and will have to deal with all the changes that this will bring to their life.

Habits of Mind

This term, as part of our unit on Identity we will be focusing on the following Habits of Mind:

Taking Responsible Risks: *Venture out!* Being adventuresome; welcoming challenges, it's how you improve! Try new things constantly. Don't worry about making mistakes

Thinking about our Thinking (Metacognition): *Know your knowing!* Take time to think why you are doing what you are doing.

Habits of Mind in the Classroom

The Habits of Mind are integral to our life at H.P.S. They feature prominently as part of our Achievement of the Week and are referred to daily during lessons. This term we will be using Habits of Mind to form the basis of our goals and help the children to self reflect and think about the way they are learning and thinking.

Leadership in the Senior School

As leaders in the school, Grade 5/6 students are expected to set an exemplary example for other students. There are many opportunities for students to demonstrate leadership for example, looking out for their buddies and being an excellent role model at JSC meetings.

This year grade 6 leadership expectations are more defined with each 'captain' having a clearly defined job description with set responsibilities devised jointly by students and teachers. Students will be expected to sign a code of conduct if they are elected a captain (school, vice or house) and maintain a certain level of integrity and commitment to the role.

Students who hold leadership positions will have responsibilities including: speaking at assemblies, responsibilities at sporting events, regular entries into the Capers newsletter to name just a few.



Homework Expectations

In Grade 5/6 students will receive their homework every Monday and it will be due in on Friday morning. Although homework is due on a Friday, we will accept homework on the next Monday morning, however it will not be corrected as the class corrects homework on a Friday. The homework will be made up of four different tasks throughout the week. These tasks are:

Each week students will complete a Maths sheet aimed at consolidating what has been learned in the classroom. Occasionally we will ask the students to refresh their understandings of different concepts in preparation for the coming weeks lessons. The children will also be required to complete a multiplication grid from their multiplication booklet aimed at improving and consolidating the students automatic recall of their times tables.

Maths

Reading

Each week students will be required to read a minimum of four times a week for at least twenty minutes at a time. They are to record their reading in their school diaries and have this signed by a parent or guardian each week. School diaries will be required at school every day so that classroom teachers can check on the children's progress with their reading.

Spelling

Each week in class students will be given spelling words. For homework they are required to complete three spelling activities from the spelling grid. They must use all their words for each activity unless stated otherwise. On the spelling grids there is a **bolded** activity. This activity is compulsory each week and students may choose the other two that they complete.

ICT

At times students will be required to access homework activities via their classroom blogs. There will also be an opportunity for students to use different applications such as Spellboard to support certain aspects of their homework. Occasionally the children will be asked to complete set tasks via the Mathletics application. If your child does not have access to an iPad at home there will be alternative arrangements made to accommodate this.

L.O.T.E

こんにちはみんなさん. (konnichiwa minnasan) Hello everyone and welcome to yet another year of Japanese at Heidelberg Primary School. This year promises to be packed with learning experiences and challenges. In the first couple of weeks students will re-establish classroom routines and expectations. This term Students will take part in diverse tasks aimed at getting them to use the language they have learned in previous years. This language includes talking and writing about themselves, likes, dislikes, family, friends and everyday language such as greetings and requests. They will learn fun new Japanese song and play lots of language games designed to get them to use the language as much as possible during every lesson.

P.E

Students in grade Five and Six will participate in one 50-minute session of Physical Education each week. During the first term students will focus on developing their fitness and refining their movement skills of The Run, The Hit and The Catch through participation in fitness lesson and the sports of Hockey and Volleyball. Each student will be provided with the opportunity to develop their fitness skills in the lead up to cross-country in term two. During Health lessons students will focus on what constitutes a health service and health products available. Students will also have the opportunity to be apart of The Heidelberg Hippo - HPS's school swimming team which train on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7:30am - 8:30am. All students who can swim 25m of freestyle are invited to participate - even if they don't feel they are ready to compete for the school at the District Swimming Carnival. Students are reminded to wear the school shorts or skorts, school polo or house t-shirts and runners to school on Physical Education days. They are also reminded bring a hat for outdoor activities.

Art

The Visual Arts focus in Term 2 is clay sculpture and modelling. Students will explore the various shapes, markings and contrasts that can be created using various implements and tools. They will also learn techniques for 'slipping' and joining pieces of clay together.

Students will have the opportunity to use terracotta and (white/grey) clay to sculpt a three-dimensional head.

Each student will work collaboratively with classmates to create a special piece of class artwork, which will be on display in the school's art gallery.

ICT

This term students will have one fifty minute session per week of ICT with me working along side classrooms teachers using iPads. The classroom teacher will also take additional ICT sessions. Our focus will be on how to keep the iPads, and the students safe, with a focus on cyber safety. When students can demonstrate they understand how to be safe, responsible and polite users of Digital Technologies, they will be awarded their Digital Technology Licence for 2015. During the term we will also explore tips and tricks for using iPads in the classroom, including creating and sharing documents. Please note that due my assistant principal duties and the 5/6 camp, ICT lessons will not commence until week 4.

Science

During Term 1, students will be studying various aspects of "Our Earth". They will have the opportunity to learn and practise a number of different skills in completing activities and experiments that relate to: 1) The structure of the Earth; 2) Landforms; 3) Rivers and Inland Water; 4) Coastal Landscapes; and 5) The Ocean. These skills include such things as dictionary skills, map reading, atlas skills, labelling diagrams, matching text explanations to diagrams, making predictions, model making, interpreting text using diagrams, designing an experiment for a given purpose, following procedures when doing an experiment, recording and interpreting results, relating experiments to actual events, and research using selected web sites, etc.

5/6 Blogs

In 5/6 each classroom teacher runs their own blog. The blogs are used to support learning both in and outside the classroom. On occasion students will be asked to complete homework tasks via their classroom blogs. Please note while every effort will be made to ensure the blogs are consistent, on occasion there will be some differences. Please feel free to log into your child's classroom blog and have a look around.

Room 1: <http://hpswhitfield.global2.vic.edu.au>

Room 2: <http://hpspape.global2.vic.edu.au>

Room 3: <http://hpsgrade56m.global2.vic.edu.au>

Bounce Back

This program focuses on classroom strategies and activities that teach students those positive social and emotional skills that might best be described as 'life skills'.

This term we are working through our values such as respect and cooperation and accepting people as unique individuals.

INTER SCHOOL SPORT

Each Friday Grade Five and Six students play against other schools in various sports as part the Heidelberg District School Sport Association Inter School Sport Summer Season. Sports on offer for term one include Bat Tennis (boys and girls), Cricket (boys), Rounders (girls) and Softball.

Important Dates

Get out the school diary....

February:

10th-13th- 5/6 Camp to Sovereign Hill

19th- Parent teacher interviews

26th- District Swimming

March:

6th- Movie Night

9th- Labor Day Holiday

10th- Curriculum day

27th- Last day of term (early finish)