

Year 4 and 5. Term 3, 2018

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Welcome to Term 3, over half the year has gone already! This semester sees us focusing on becoming successful independent learners. The students will be expected to produce work of a high standard, practicing their editing skills and extending and challenging themselves as they work towards Year 5 and 6. This term sees a heavy emphasis on Science and problem solving.

Week 6 we have an open morning to display some of the exciting work our school has been doing in STEM. Week 8 will see us involved in the swimming program at The Aquatic Centre and Week 9 we will be involved in our regular yearly Sports Day. More information about these events will come out in the newsletters and on the school's website closer to the date.

Homework will continue to be given out weekly, as it is our school policy that all students complete homework each week. Year 4 - 2 hours per week and Year 5 - 3 hours per week. (This policy can be found on our school website.)

The following explains what we hope to be covering this term – depending on individual student's needs.

English

Spelling – we are continuing our work with the “Words Their Way” program. This involves exploring word families and spelling rules such as suffixes and prefixes.

Grammar – looking at consistency with sentences – full stops and capital letters, apostrophes, speech marks, paragraphs, conjunctions, adjectives, binding conjunctions and ‘proper’ sentences.

Writing – our Genres this term are Historical Recount, Explanation and Report Writing. This aligns with our work in History, Science and STEM.

We will be working with the support of our EALD teachers to make sure that the English curriculum is accessible to all students in our class.

Reading – This term our focus will be on comprehension and fluency. Students will be grouped for “Book Club” and then choose a novel to read and discuss (chapter by chapter) weekly.

I will be working with students in small groups and individually to practise reading aloud with fluency and expression.

We have Book Week this term, so we will be looking at some of the short-listed books.

I will also continue to read our class novel daily – we have been reading historical novels set in colonial Australia.

Maths

Number and Algebra:

Year 4 – students will practise and recall multiplication facts up to 10×10 . They will develop efficient mental and written strategies for multiplication and division where there is no remainder. Students will also investigate equivalent fractions, count by quarters, halves and thirds including with mixed numerals. They will make connections between fractions and decimals and locate and put fractions on a number line.

Year 5 – students will learn and practice different strategies to multiply one and two digit numbers together as well as division strategies to solve problems involving division by one number, including remainders. They will be also working with fractions this term. Students will place unit fractions on a number line, add and subtract fractions with the same denominator using different strategies. We will also look at and revise proper fractions, improper fractions and mixed fractions. Depending on the time frame we will then relate this to decimals and look at comparing, ordering and representing decimals.

Throughout the term we also continually revise and practise concepts we have previously experienced such as time, measurement, shape and geometric reasoning.

Science and HASS

There are four main areas we will be looking at during the next two terms – Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences and Physical Sciences. This term we aim to cover Earth and Space and Physical Sciences. We also investigate how science involves making predictions and describing patterns and relationships and how science helps people understand the effects of their actions and the world around them. Students will be questioning and predicting, planning and conducting experiments and investigations. They will evaluate and reflect on their experiences and communicate their findings and learning to their peers.

Year 4 – Students will investigate the concept that Earth’s surface changes over time as a result of natural processes and human activity. They will explore their local environment, looking at how it has changed over time. They will also look at the effects of floods and extreme weather on Australia’s landscape.

Students will also be investigating how forces can be exerted by one object on another through direct contact or from a distance. They will look at the forces of push and pull, friction, attraction and repulsion.

Year 5 – Students will investigate how Earth is part of a system of planets orbiting around a star (the sun). They will make models to represent this, discuss and research the size and distance between planets and the time they take to orbit the sun.

Students will also investigate how light from a source forms shadows and can be absorbed, reflected and refracted. They will investigate properties of different materials such as transparent, opaque and clear.

HASS – This term we will be doing some work in the area of Civics and Citizenship. We will look at our place in the local and wider community. Students will also look at the importance of laws and the legal system.

Technologies and STEM

This semester students will be involved in some problem-solving activities. Students will be using tools and materials in the new STEM room to create solutions to questions and challenges posed (for example – “Can you make a maze that will take a marble more than one minute but less than two minutes to pass through?”)

We hope to also do some fun experiments involving chemical changes.

