

Year 7 Newsletter

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Mawson Lakes School

Term 1 Overview W31 + W32

Week 2 - Term 1

Dear Families,

Welcome to our first Year 7 newsletter for 2019. We hope everyone has had a great summer break and you have returned refreshed, ready for the new school year. Below is an outline of the learning that will take place in term 1.

Weeks 1 + 2:

Students will revisit what is a growth mindset, the importance of entering the learning pit, and what makes a good learner. During this time, we will participate in some ice breaker activities, where students will learn about class peers and what are the expectations for 2019. Students will be exposed to the Australian Curriculum general capabilities, learning about skills, behaviours and dispositions that will assist students to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century.

Mathematics:

Students will explore number sense and place value. This includes students investigating what is index notation and understanding the term square root. Students will discover associative, commutative and distributive laws, where numbers in addition and multiplication equations can be swapped around, yet still get the same answer. Year 7 mathematics program will also include comparing, ordering, adding and subtracting integers (positive and negative numbers). In patterns and algebra, students will be introduced to the concept of representing numbers using letters, and to recognize and create basic algebraic expressions.

During this process, students will develop and consolidate a range of mental computation strategies, including exposure to mental routines to develop their recall of number facts. Students will solve everyday situations and reflect on their work and the work of others. W33 will work along with W31 to meet a variety of learning points by providing a range of learning experiences. This involves a program that is differentiated, aiming to tailor learning appropriate to your child. Students will also analyse their own data to move their own learning forward.

English:

Our English program will cover essential skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing.

In writing, students will learn about the text structure and organisation of two text types - narratives and explanations. This will involve students planning, drafting and publishing their own text. In exploring narratives, students will discover what is figurative language, and include devices such as, metaphors, similes and personification in their writing. Students will learn about types of sentences and understand how nouns, verbs and conjunctions work together to form sentences. Students will learn a variety of narrative strategies to make their writing more interesting like, starting with the action and then backfill as the action unfolds and, writing great tension scenes with detail to make the reader feel like they are right there with the character. Students will understand the purpose and structure of explanations, integrating this text type with chemical sciences, where students will investigate separation techniques and HASS, explaining where is water in the world.

Guided reading will develop reading fluency and reading comprehension. This involves the whole class deconstructing a text, with a follow up learning experience. Students will view texts from a variety of genres and beware of a variety of reading comprehension strategies like inferencing, meaning students '*read between the lines*' when the author implies something but doesn't exactly state it.

Humanities & Social Sciences:

HASS comprises of four subject areas - History, Geography, Economics and Business and Civics and Citizenship. In term 1 geography will be the focus, with Year 7's focusing on water in the world and how it is a renewable resource. This unit will also examine the many uses of water, how it is valued and the ways it connects places as it moves through the environment.

Science:

This term, W33 will learn about Chemical Sciences, where students will develop an understanding of mixtures that contain a combination of pure substances

that can be separated using a range of techniques.

STEM:

Students will undergo an engineering design process where they plan, design a prototype and construct a unit that will store, charge and keep safe 15 new iPads.

Digital Technologies:

Students will learn about flowcharts, and engage in various online and hard copy examples to invent flow charts of their own.

NIT: Japanese, Arts, PE/Health

Japanese is provided by NIT teacher Erin Millar and Huong Phi. The arts curriculum includes dance, drama, media arts, music and visual arts. Majority of art is delivered by NIT teacher, Katherine. PE and Health is taught by PE NIT teachers Michael and Des.

Homework / Communication:

Homework will be given on a weekly basis. It will routinely cover aspects of the curriculum and specific areas of focus. This will be communicated via an online program called Edmodo. Students will also receive a personal school email.

In a move to improve home-school communication, we are adopting a more paperless approach to contact parents and caregivers also. We hope you join us in completing a note (coming soon) to request an updated parent email address to enable effective communication between ourselves and families.

Please make contact to introduce yourself or to discuss your child's needs at any time. I look forward to what will be a successful and enjoyable term.

See you soon!

Yours kindly,

Ali Lovegrove - Room W32

Ali.Lovegrove76@schools.sa.edu.au

Whitney Schultz - Room W31

Whitney.Schultz190@schools.sa.edu.au