



# Term 2, 2021 Newsletter

Grade 5/6

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Welcome back to another busy term! We have many exciting events planned, including excursions, Interschool Sport competitions and a family evening of star gazing! This term we will also farewell Christine (Week 2) and Lacey-Rae (Week 10), as they begin their leave and welcome new additions to their families. Please see below for some important dates relevant to the 5/6 students.

### Important Dates

- Science Works Excursion: May 6th
- NAPLAN: Week 4
- GRIP Excursion (Grade 6s): May 25th
- Star Gazing Family Evening: June 17th
- Penola Excursion (Grade 5s): June 17th
- Book Fair: Week 5 and 6

### General Reminders

- Diaries to be neat and kept up to date with Homework
- iPads need to be fully charged and at school each day
  - If your child's iPad battery is showing signs of age and not holding its charge, please make sure that your child brings their charger to school each day
- iPads must have approved school apps only
- Please bring rubbish-free lunches
- Hats are to be worn until the end of April

## Inquiry

During Term 2, the 5/6 area will be focusing on the Earth's place in our solar system, changes on its surface caused by natural disasters and the exploration of how these may be mitigated. Learning experiences in this unit further develop students' understanding of the Earth, its position in the solar system and as a dynamic part of a complex, interrelated system. We will be creating the Earth, it's Moon, and the Sun using different hands on materials, as well as researching 'wonderings' that the students have created.

## English

In Reading, we will focus on reading non-fiction texts for a purpose. Students will participate in Reciprocal Reading groups, taking on the role of Predictor, Clarifier, Questioner and Summariser. We will carry out research about our place in the solar system, making use of different non-fiction text features: glossaries, indexes and technical vocabulary.

This term in Writing, students will use the research and knowledge gained during Reading and Inquiry sessions to participate in a debate about whether humans should colonise Mars. They will form arguments and write their own persuasive piece to convince their reader that we should colonise Mars. Students will also create their own non-fiction texts, which link to our topic on Space.

They will continue to 'plant and grow seeds' in their Writers' Notebooks, practising writing for a purpose building writing stamina and especially enjoyment.

## Mathematics

In Number this term we are targeting the four operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, of whole and decimal numbers. Mental and written strategies will be covered, and tasks involving money will assist with making connections to real life contexts. Students will explore open tasks and investigations using concrete materials and will collaborate with their peers to work through 'Learning Pit' experiences.

In Non-Number, we have three key areas to explore including Location, Angles and Data. Students will use maps and coordinates to strengthen their understanding of grid reference systems. They will use protractors to measure and draw different types of angles. Maths games will also be used to create and collect data, whilst we make and analyse different types of graphs.

## STACS (Science, Technology, Aboriginal Culture & Sustainability)

This term students will be learning about and constructing Goldberg machines (check them out on YouTube – very cool!). Combining science, technically and engineering, as well as the ethos of re-using and recycling, students will learn about the six simple machines that most bigger machines consist of and will employ this knowledge to plan and build their own Goldberg machine. This will, in turn, be joined to others' machines until a much larger machine results – should be fun! Start saving up things like cardboard tubes as these will be really useful when we begin building.

## Homework

Students are expected to read at home three to five times per week and complete some Mathematics tasks. See your child's classroom teacher for further details.

If you have any further questions, please contact your classroom teacher.

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