

YEAR 6 NEWSLETTER - TERM 1

Dear Parents/Guardians,

To keep everyone updated we have a quick snapshot of what we are doing in our classes at the moment and any other important information.

If you would like to contact your child's teacher via email, please see the below addresses.

GRADE 6 TEACHERS

6B - kara.brereton@woodlandsps.com

6J - briony.jenner@woodlandsps.com

6S - adam.salerni@woodlandsps.com

6W - harry.whitehead@woodlandsps.com

We hope you find this a quick and easily accessible mode of two way communication.

IMPORTANT DATES

Week 2 - Leadership Photos (Friday)

Week 3 - Canberra Camp (Monday to Thursday)

Week 4 - Parent Teacher Interviews (Monday and Tuesday)

Week 5 - School Photos (Friday)

Week 7 - Labour Day Public Holiday (Monday), Athletics Day (Tuesday)

Week 9 - Last day of school 2:30 finish (Friday)

Transition

Kara Brereton is responsible for transition so if you have any questions about this process please contact her (email is preferable).

At the start of Term 2 students will be given a Transition Pack. This will include application information for all Government schools.

The Department of Education will release more dates sometime over the next few weeks. We will communicate these with parents as soon as we receive them.

Homework

Homework has not been compulsory at our school in previous years (apart from expected reading). However, as the students are moving towards secondary school we see a small amount of homework as beneficial for students to begin a good routine and improve organisational skills.

This year, students are expected to complete nightly reading, practise weekly spelling words and any other homework that is given out. Most often, it will be work that isn't completed in class

or project work. This homework shouldn't be too difficult and if it is, please contact your child's teacher to make alternative arrangements.

If there is no homework given out, 2.5 hrs of reading must be completed.

Diaries

Diaries have now been handed out to all Grade Six students. These diaries are for school use. They are an excellent tool for the students to keep organised. Important dates, homework tasks and reading are some things that should be written in the diaries.

Seesaw

After a busy start to the year, we are all almost ready to start using 'SeeSaw' again. Please use the QR code sent home with your child to connect to their journal and see what we are doing in class!

Welfare

This year we are continuing our "THRIVE" program, which focuses on student wellbeing. This program will run across the year, with a different theme each term. Students will be involved with weekly lessons based on different concepts, for example, "understanding anger".

Maths Unit – Place Value / 4 Operations

We are currently in the middle of our Place Value unit. Students have been familiarising themselves with terms such as square and triangular numbers, while reinforcing their knowledge of prime and composite numbers. Students have worked hard in enhancing their skills through regular Number Talks, allowing them to learn and develop efficient mental strategies and verbalising their answers with greater clarity. Throughout this unit, we will also be looking at strategies to solve problems involving positive and negative numbers. At home, discussing things such as temperatures from around the world (positive and negative temperatures) can further enhance their understanding of this concept.

Our next maths unit is 4 Operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Our focus will be on accurately completing problems involving all 4 operations using both whole and decimal numbers. There will be an emphasis on using these skills in real life situations towards the end of the unit.

Please encourage your child to learn/revise their times tables. A lack of knowledge in this area is holding some students back.

English

In literacy we have been working on a range of skills including reading, writing, spelling, speaking and listening. In writing, we have been working through recounts of our summer holidays and have been moving towards information reports, which will revolve around our recent Canberra trip. Students will be doing several "Big Writes" throughout the year, where

they write about a topic for 40 minutes. The topic of these “Big Write” sessions will be given out before the session so that students can discuss it at home.

We will also run Literacy Group rotations this term, where students work towards a range of different activities throughout the week. The focus of these sessions include reading to self, grammar work, reading comprehension activities and writing tasks. Students are continuing to work through our spelling and grammar program called ‘Jolly Phonics’ which was successfully introduced across the school last year.

Inquiry

This term, our inquiry unit is based around “The Australian Government” which links nicely to our trip to Canberra. Below is our overall statement and key inquiry questions.

Our key questions to focus on will be:

1. What are the roles and responsibilities of our three levels of government?
2. Who are Australia’s great change makers, and how did they impact society?
3. How are our leaders elected?

To start with, students will explore the rights and responsibilities that come with being a citizen of Australia. In assigned groups, students will create their own political parties, applying their political understanding to campaign in our very own election. They will create posters and a short video advertising the values of their political party. Later students will study major events that lead to Australia becoming a nation. Students will then become experts on specific people, places and events from our past, presenting this new found knowledge with the class.

Thank you,

The Grade Six Team