



Senior School Newsletter - Term 1 - 2017

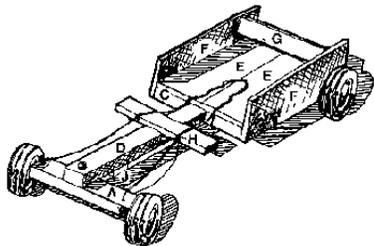
Our team this year is:
Year 6: Clio Williams, Chris Athanasiadis & Sonia Hanley
Year 5: Sally Marsh, Laura Ellenby

Inquiry

Year 6

Billy carts leadership

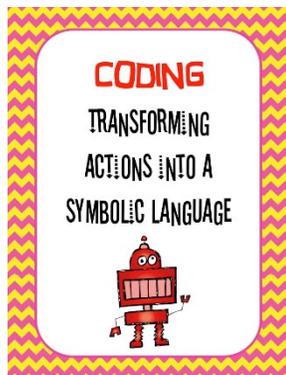
Over the first semester the year 6 students will be working in teams to create and race a billy cart. This brings in many aspects of the curriculum including Personal and Social capabilities, Design and Digital Technologies, Science, Ethics and Critical and creative thinking. This is an exciting part of the Year 6 agenda. The leadership expectations and experiences include communication, teamwork, flexibility and resilience.



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Coding

As part of our commitment to 21st century skills and the Technologies curriculum we have introduced weekly coding sessions with an educational provider, ScopeIT. They are running sessions that build on previously learned coding skills, increasing in difficulty each week. We will complement these lessons through our literacy and inquiry sessions through investigations into game based narratives.



Year 5

Year 5 students will be exploring games through the lenses of community, teamwork and personal and social learning in our Inquiry Unit titled, Game Over! Play Again? We intend to integrate digital technologies in this unit as part of the coding program.

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Upcoming Events

Inter School Sport

Fridays Week 3 – 7

District Swimming

Monday 20th Feb

Yr 6 Billy Cart Incursion

Friday 24th Feb

Curriculum Day

Tuesday 7th March

Year 6 Canberra Camp

Term 3 30th July – 4th Sept

Year 5 Camp

Term 4 – To be confirmed

Home Learning

Home learning begins in Week 5. It will consist of a grid where students have some choice of learning tasks along with some set requirements.

Daily reading is a requirement as is Athletics.

The Home Learning will be on a two week cycle, being sent home on a Monday and must be returned to school on the Friday of the following week.

English

Year 5

The focus in reading this term will be developing and strengthening comprehension strategies. These include making connections, predicting, questioning, self-monitoring, clarifying and summarizing. We will teach these strategies during whole class explicit teaching and reciprocal reading groups.

Our writing this term involves teaching narrative writing, using quality writing as a model. The students will also focus on text structure, using vivid language to describe the setting and characters, engaging the audience using different techniques. Spelling will be taught explicitly based on individual student needs.

Reading
At least 15 mins of reading a night.
Please listen to your child read aloud – it's very important.
Model what a good reader sounds like.
Enjoy a book together!



Year 6

The focus in reading this term will be Literacy Circles where students will explore features of texts to identify, describe, and discuss similarities and differences between texts. These include texts by the same author or illustrator, and evaluate characteristics that define an author's individual style. Students analyse and evaluate similarities alongside differences in texts on similar topics, themes or plots. They will also be using comprehension strategies to interpret and analyse information and ideas, comparing content from a variety of textual sources.

The Writing Process



In writing students will practise, consolidate and extend what they have learned based around the genres of narrative, letters and factual reports. They develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of grammar and language, and are increasingly able to articulate this knowledge. When speaking and listening, students will be developing interaction skills, and varying conventions of spoken interactions such as voice volume, tone, pitch and pace. Students Action Team Leadership roles will give students opportunity to challenge themselves in this area.

Mathematics

Year 5

The focus in maths this term will be developing and strengthening our understanding of place value through rich tasks. Students will work in targeted maths groups to focus on foundational aspects of numbers and various problem solving strategies.

Year 6

This term, Year 6 students will focus on the number and algebra strand, with a particular emphasis on properties of numbers. The students will be exploring prime and composite numbers, square and triangular numbers as well as developing strategies to identify the prime factors of any given number. There will also be a focus on developing students' knowledge and understanding of positive and negative integers and their relationship within the Cartesian Plane. Students will also explore the relationship between decimals and various forms of measurement.

Over the first semester, the Year 6 students will be implementing an Earn 'n' Learn Program. This financial learning program asks students to apply and develop their financial money management skills in several real life contexts including handling money, running a business and/or working for an income and paying weekly expenses such as rent.

The Senior School will also be using Target Math Groups that focus on individual's learning points of needs in small groups.