

GRADE 5 NEWSLETTER

~ Term 3, 2015~

Dear parents/guardians,

Semester 2, already! We hope you all had a restful break and are ready for another busy term. It was great to meet many of you again at the mid-year parent/teacher interviews.

Some key dates for your diaries:

Literacy/Numeracy Week - Monday 17th to Friday 21st August

Wyndham Spelling Bee - Tuesday 18th August (one representative from Grade 5/6)

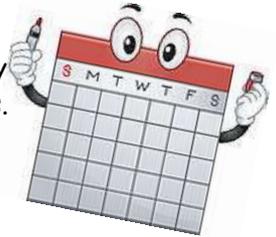
Science Excursion - Tuesday 18th August

Australian Maths Competition - Thursday 30th July (selected extension students - 3 per grade)

School Athletics Carnival - Thursday 18th July @ the V.U. Athletics track

Grade 5/6 Hoop Time - Friday 11th September

End of Term 3 - Friday 18th September



Grade 5/6 Hoop Time

Mr Downing is planning to run trials for the forthcoming District Hoop Time basketball competition. This is not compulsory, but will be an opportunity for our students to showcase their basketball skills. There are different levels of competition ensuring all students can take part, have great fun and demonstrate a high level of teamwork.



2015 Grade 4/5 Camp Program

We have had a good response for this year's Grade 4/5 School Camp, to be held at Arrabri Lodge, Warburton (Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th October - second week of Term 4). Thanks to all the parents who volunteered to help (we had 30!). We have selected a spread of parents from across the team, and look forward to their participation, which for many will be their first camp experience - good luck!

In the next few weeks, we will be sending out medical and dietary forms and we ask that these are returned promptly, along with any outstanding payments by the due dates (next instalment of \$70 is due by 31st July), in order that we can make the best preparation for another fun camp. Towards the end of term, students will have some 'teamwork' sessions, where they will learn more about what will happen at camp, be issued with equipment lists and they will be able to select their own cabin groups.



Blogging

In Semester 1, students studied cyber-safety issues and appropriate online behaviours. They were then introduced to the use of class blogs. These class blogs were launched last term with great success, acting as a 'window into our classrooms' to help celebrate the great work being done in school. Our class blogs can be accessed via the following sites::

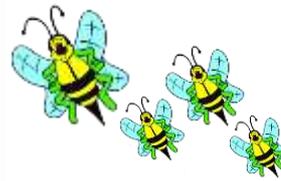
Grade 5A: <http://grade5a2015.global2.vic.edu.au>

Grade 5B: <http://grade5b2015.global2.vic.edu.au>

Grade 5C: <http://grade5c2015.global2.vic.edu.au>



Access passwords are provided to students (please ask your child) and all comments are checked before posting online. We welcome your feedback on how we are doing.



Grade 4/5 Sport Rotations

The Grade 4 and 5 teams will be running a series of sport rotations this term, introducing students to new sports and skills. This will be an opportunity for students to work in teams, develop sportsmanship qualities, and work with different teachers across grade levels, in preparation for the Grade 4/5 camp program at the start of Term 4.



Maths in Term 3

Some key concepts being covered this term include: perimeter, area, volume, capacity, mass, factors, multiples, number patterns, fractions, decimals and two and three-dimensional objects. Our Grade 5 students will continue to be involved in the whole-school problem solving challenges released every few weeks by Mr Shaam, where they apply a range of problem-solving strategies to open-ended problems, differentiated for each year level. Maths rotations will continue this term, once a week, offering support and extension opportunities. Students in the extension group will be participating in a series of projects to extend their application of advanced mathematical skills. Nine students have also been selected to take part in the Australian Mathematics Competition. We will be running an in-house 'Maths 24' competition, allowing small class teams to challenge their mental arithmetic skills with other talented students. There will also be an Amazing Race this term, where students will work in teams to solve a range of maths problems.



Literacy in Term 3

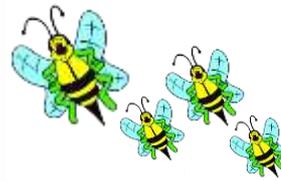
This term, our Grade 5 classes will continue working on 'Book Clubs' within our reading sessions, focusing on applying a range of comprehension strategies to whole-class texts. In writing, we will be studying procedural writing for the first four weeks of term, and then focusing on explanation writing for the remainder of the term. This term, all classes will be running spelling competitions in order to select entries for the 2015 Wyndham Spelling Bee competition. There will be one entry at the Grade 5/6 level, with the Wyndham final to be held on the evening of Tuesday 18th August. Each class will continue working on weekly 'Spelling Investigations', where we focus on learning the sounds within words, and understanding a range of spelling generalisations. We will also continue with a weekly grammar focus, to further develop students' writing skills.



Term 3 Inquiry Unit- Our Place in Space

This term, we will be completing a science unit, learning about the make-up of our Earth and its place in the Solar System. Students will conduct a variety of experiments to see how different materials change between states of matter. They will then explore the wonders of the universe, looking at famous scientists and important discoveries.





Green Screen Technology and Multi-media Project

So far this year, students have learned various movie-making techniques, including creating short claymation movies and preparing short sketches using FLIP cameras, to support our School Wide Positive Behaviours Program. This term, we will look at advanced animation techniques, using software such as Kahootz and Pivot. Students will be introduced to 'green screening'. This involves capturing short pieces of video and super-imposing these into a variety of virtual backgrounds. They will then create a multi-media project using these techniques. 'The Universe is their oyster!'



Earn and Learn Program and School Wide Positive Behaviours - Rewarding Great Effort

Last term, many students enjoyed a 'gold class' party session for their outstanding efforts in class and on homework tasks. We will continue with our class rewards program, where students can earn money tokens for good work and leadership behaviours. They will have further opportunities to purchase a variety of rewards this term.

Our school-wide 'bee' token reward system will also continue, including opportunities for whole-class rewards. Our Grade 5s have accumulated multiple bee hives/tokens, which they will be able to trade in for some bumper prizes. Let's aim for the magic 100 bee hives for the BONUS COMBO AWARDS!

Active Travel program

This year, our school is implementing an Active Travel program, to encourage students to live healthier lifestyles, and reduce traffic congestion and safety issues around our school during peak drop off and pick up times.

Every Wednesday is 'Wheel and Walk Wednesday', where we encourage students to walk or ride a bike, scooter, or skateboard to school. For those that live too far from school, we ask that you get dropped off away from the school grounds and walk or ride the rest of the way.

We have already seen great improvements in our active travel rate each week from the beginning of the year, and look forward to seeing this rate continue to improve. Keep your eye out for some exciting changes around our school over the next two terms as we continue to work alongside Wyndham City Council on this initiative.

We look forward to working in partnership with you again this term and achieving further great success.

Regards, Grade 5 Team. ☺