

TERM 1 2019 NEWSLETTER

TEAM 4, YEAR 5/6



Welcome all to 2018! We, the staff of Learning Team 4, are looking forward to developing the partnership between home and school to develop your child's potential. There will be many opportunities throughout the year for your child to experience a vast array of curriculum challenges as well as opportunities to experience and work towards leadership and personal goals. This term, it is important to establish routines and expectations and to encourage students to develop a positive attitude and aspire to do their best. Following are a number of details that we would like to share with you.

STAFFING

This year there are five classes of Year 5 and 6. The teachers are Igor Koval (5/6 IK), Jenny Wheatcroft (5/6 JW), Monica Scuderi (5/6 MS), Evelyne Murray (5/6 EM) and Andrew Stocker (5/6 AS). Also working in our area will be Molly Cook who will be working in a reading intervention role and Joanna Vellis who will be working as our Student Wellbeing Officer.

CURRICULUM



English: Our focus is to develop independent reading and writing skills through targeted teaching which will include time for sustained reading and writing. Narratives, Information Reports and Persuasive texts are our areas of study.

Mathematics: We have begun the year with assessments which have informed our placing of students into fluid groups for number. This term we will cover number and place value, data representation and interpretation, location and transformation, as well as chance and data.

Inquiry: This term's unit is entitled, 'You're the Voice'. Students will learn about the nature of Australia's democracy that developed as a result of Federation. They will be introduced to the three levels of government and some of the key functions of each level. They will learn about the basic elements of Australia's federal parliamentary system and key democratic principles and values such as freedom of speech and equality before the law.

CANBERRA



Our Year 5/6 Canberra Tour is approaching fast for our 50 students and 5 staff members who will be participating. All parents/guardians need to ensure that medical forms are returned as soon as possible. The 5 staff members attending the Canberra tour this year are Paula Cosgrave, Evelyne Murray, Monica Scuderi, Andrew Stocker and Tegan Murray. Paula is our first aid trained staff member who will be our 'nurse' throughout the trip. This is a great experience and we are all excited and looking forward to it. Check out the temperatures in Canberra to

ensure you pack appropriate clothing.

Canberra Tour Information Evening: The purpose of the evening is to share information related to the tour and answer questions that you may have.

Date of Information Evening: Thursday 14th February, 5:30 to 6:00pm BER building.

Date of Tour: Monday 25th February 7:00am to Friday 1st March about 5:00pm.

For those not attending the camp, they will be combined into three classes with Igor Koval, Jenny Wheatcroft and another staff member providing an alternative program with a strong emphasis on our inquiry unit relating to increasing their understanding of our democratic system of government. There will also be a free incursion on Friday 1st March, where staff from the **Victorian Electoral Commission** will run a mock election with the students.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

Approximately half of our Year 5/6 students have been selected to play a summer interschool sport this term, while next term there will be a new opportunity to play a winter sport. This term we are competing against schools in our area in Hot Shots (modified tennis), Volleyball, Cricket and Tee Ball. The coaches are Igor Koval

(Hot Shots), Monica Scuderi (Tee Ball), Andrew Stocker (Cricket) and Jonathan Brown (Volleyball). Our games are a mixture of home games and away games. Our first interschool match is on Friday morning the 15th February with training starting at 8:15am. You are welcome to watch and please make sure all permission forms are returned so that your child can participate.

BUDDIES

This Term, the Year 5's and Year 6's not involved in interschool sport are looking forward to being the Big Buddies to our Foundation students (Little Buddies). The Big Buddies will be developing strong leadership and mentor skills, by planning, organizing and running activities with their Little Buddies every Friday morning. They have already brainstormed some wonderful, educational and fun lesson ideas, such as creating paper planes, running coke and Mentos science experiments, leading soccer clinics, making friendship bracelets, origami, dance routines, cooking yum yum balls, planting seeds, writing picture story books and much, much more!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Findon's Primary School Uniform Policy states that children are expected to wear uniform every day. If circumstances make it impossible for a student to wear uniform on a day, a note is to be forwarded to the class teacher or a phone call made to the office. Where students have outgrown their uniform, there are some second hand uniform items available through the school. The Year 6 bomber jackets and tops will arrive within the next week or so, but please remember to label them with a permanent pen. We look forward to our students wearing these with pride. Please remember Sun Smart hats and sunglasses are compulsory in Term One and Term Four. We would appreciate your support in this regard.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

We encourage children to bring healthy snacks and lunches to school. It is important for our children to have good nutrition throughout the day if they are to maintain energy levels and concentration. Foods that are high in fat and/or salt and/or sugar, such as chips and chocolate, do not provide the nutrition necessary for our children to make the most of their learning opportunities at school. Behaviour can also be influenced by what we eat. Children who don't have adequate nutrition throughout the day may be tired and irritable. This often has an impact on the way they relate to those around them as well as on their learning.

The school encourages the routine of fruit and half a sandwich at recess times. Our students are also encouraged to have a bottle of water to maintain hydration throughout the day. Please help your child make good choices that will enable them to make the most of their time at school as well as making a valuable contribution to their health and wellbeing.

It is a time of physical change and growth for many of the students over this period of their lives. Adequate sleep is crucial for coping with the demands of school life. Screen time should be limited during the period before bedtime so that falling asleep does not become an issue and devices should be definitely kept out of bedrooms. The warm weather brings out the need to apply deodorant prior to coming to school and the realisation that students need to keep their hair, skin and clothes clean.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Absences:

As is school policy, if your child is absent, the **absence needs to be explained** through a note being addressed to the class teacher or a phone call to the office.

Netbooks:

Netbooks need to be charged each night prior to school to enable every student to successfully use their netbook in a variety of situations throughout the school day. Also payments need to be made on time to allow your child to use their netbook effectively and to avoid the frustration of having netbooks repossessed.

Leadership:

Every student, particularly those in Year 5 and 6, is regarded as a leader in their own right within the school community and as they are in their final years of primary schooling they are therefore expected to uphold the school values at all times. Congratulations to the students who have taken up **leadership opportunities** as School Captains, Junior School Council, Environmental Leaders and Class Leaders. We wish all students good luck in their aspirations as leaders. Class Leaders will be recognised at assembly this week.

Leadership excursion:

A group of 22 of our student leaders, comprising of two school captains, eight house captains, ten JSC representatives and two sustainability captains, will be attending the GRIP leadership conference on Wednesday 13th March. The conference concentrates specifically on training student leaders for their role as SCHOOL LEADERS. The style, topics, and content of the conference will focus on what the students can do RIGHT NOW. The goal is for the student leaders to leave the conference with a clear vision, a solid understanding and dozens of ideas for their time as a leader.

Meet and Greet :

Meet and Greet enables teachers, parents and students to share information and goals. This event has been advertised through the school newsletter and notes were sent home to organise times. You should receive your interview time on Friday 15th February.

Meet and Greet is on: **Wednesday 20th February from 11:00am – 7:00pm**. See you then!

Transition to Secondary College:

For students in Year 6, information will be delivered to you regarding the process for **secondary school placement** as it comes to hand. Evelyne Murray is our Year 6 Transition Coordinator and will keep you posted. Keep a lookout for updates in the school newsletter. Please make sure you attend the various open days that secondary schools organise so that you can decide on the secondary college that best meets your individual child's needs.

Homework:

This term, LT4 are focusing on developing good study habits with a strong link between school and home learning. In replacement of set homework tasks given out weekly, students will be asked to complete unfinished or small activities set by their teachers. Students will also be asked to work on their individual learning goals at home, relating to Literacy and Numeracy. It is pivotal that as students are approaching secondary school, they develop positive time management and home study routines. Student diaries will become a critical element of this process, as students will record and track their work independently. It is important that parents and carers are supportive throughout this process, as study habits cultivated in the home help shape a child's attitude towards learning. It is still a part of the expectation that students read 20 minutes per night and access Mathletics and Reading Eggspress 2-3 times a week. Students have been given these login details in Week 1. Please see your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions.

School Newsletter:

The School Newsletter is available on the website but if you would like a hard copy please inform the office. It is very important that you keep informed and are aware of what is happening around the school.

Looking forward to a busy and exciting term ahead.

Regards,

Year 5/6 Teachers- Andrew, Evelyne, Igor, Jenny and Monica