

TERM 1 2020 NEWSLETTER

LEARNING TEAM 4, YEAR 5/6



Welcome all to 2020! 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), Laura Sansonetti (5/6 LS), Monica McMugh (5/6 MM), Evelyne Murray (5/6 EM) and Andrew Stocker (5/6 AS). Also working in our area will be Tegan Murray who will be working in a literary 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. Students will participate in the workshop model in both reading and writing, setting SMART goals throughout the term.

Mathematics: We will have a focus on improving mental strategies and speed with basic number facts as well as interpreting maths questions. This term we will cover place value including reading numbers into the one millions, data representation and interpretation, chance, and location and transformation. We will begin Mathematics with a Number Talk, which are brief discussions (5–15 minutes) that focus on student solutions for a single, carefully chosen mental math computation problem. Students then share their different mental math processes aloud while the teacher records their thinking visually on a chart or board. This helps students to approach solving Maths problems in multiple ways.

Inquiry: This term's unit is entitled, 'From First Footprints to Federation'. In this history unit we will learn about the prehistory of Australia, through to federation and more modern times. Students will investigate historical events and people, while learning about life from both European settlers and Indigenous peoples perspective.



From First Footprints to Federation
The prehistory and history of Australia

INTERSCHOOL SPORT AND BUDDIES



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 Andrew Stocker (Hot Shots), Monica McHugh (Netball) and Jonathan Brown (Volleyball). Our first match is on Friday

morning the 8th February with training starting at 8:15am, with



respective coaches. You are welcome to watch and please make sure all permission forms are returned so that your child can participate. The rest of the cohort will be participating in our Buddy Program, with Laura Sansonetti, Evelyn Murray and Igor Koval. During the program students will be learning how to be a good role model and leader to Findon's new Foundation students.

SCHOOL UNIFORM



Findon's Primary School Uniform Policy states that children are expected to wear their 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 items available through the school. The eagerly anticipated Year 6 bomber jackets and tops will be distributed shortly. 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 do not provide the nutrition necessary for our children to make the most of their learning opportunities at school.

Food such as chips and chocolate do not provide children with the sort of energy that will sustain them through periods of physical and mental activity. These foods are considered 'sometimes' foods. 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.

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.

This 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. We recommend that devices should be kept out of bedrooms.

The warm weather brings out the need to apply deodorant prior to coming to school and the realisation that the students need to keep 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. **On Thursday 13th February there will be a Netbook Presentation Night from 5:30pm.**

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. There are still a number of **leadership opportunities** open for students to aim for, including Environmental Leaders, Green Team Representatives and Class Leaders. We wish all students good luck in their aspirations as leaders. Class Leaders will be recognised at assembly in Week 3.

Congratulations to our newly elected School Captains, Junior School Representatives and House Captains, these students will be presented with their badges at assembly in Week 2, where a special Week That Was will be shown introducing them all to the Findon community.

Leadership excursion:

This term our student leaders will be attending the GRIP leadership conference on Tuesday, the 17th of March, where they will learn skills and tools to bring back to Findon, to better themselves as young leaders.

Meet and Greet :

Meet and Greet enables teachers, parents and students to share information and goals. This event will be advertised through the school newsletter and notes will be sent home to organise times. Meet and Greet is on **Wednesday 26st February from 11:30am – 7:30pm**. 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. Laura Sansonetti is our Year 6 Transition Coordinator and will keep you posted. 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 will be given to students in their homework books and needs to be completed on a weekly basis. These tasks are designed to support your child's learning, not teach new concepts. Tasks should be returned for correction on the day that they are due. Nightly homework should not take more than 45 minutes which includes personal reading. Each week students will be expected to complete a Maths activity **AND** an inquiry task/life skills activity **OR** word work/reading response and engage in personal reading for at least 20 minutes per night. Please encourage your child to use their diary to aid their organisational skills, they are expected to take it home and bring it to school every single day. The diary can also be used as a communication tool between parent and teacher. Please contact your child's teacher if there are any issues with homework.

School Newsletter:

The School Newsletter is available on the website but if you would like a hard copy please inform the office. The newsletter will keep you informed of important dates and events, as well as what's happening around the school.

Looking forward to a busy and exciting term ahead.

Year 5/6 Teachers:

Andrew, Evelyne, Igor, Laura and Monica