

TERM 2 UPPER SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
LEVELS 3-6

English

This term we will continue to work on our CAFE program and the Daily 5. Students will be encouraged to monitor their use of comprehension, accuracy, fluency and expanding vocabulary skills in English sessions.

In writing sessions we will be using the VCOP program. We will continue to develop these skills as part of our writing sessions. This term our writing will target persuasive, reporting, explanation, narrative and poetry. Students will also continue to use their Seed books as inspiration for their writing.

Mathematics

Throughout this term students are working exceptionally hard to continue developing their mathematics skills. Students will continue to focus on developing their addition and subtraction skills, with a particular focus on multiplication and division and the links between them. This term there will also be a focus on investigating percentages and studying forms of data representation.

In years 3/4 it is important for students to have a good understanding of multiplication and division facts and the relationship between the two. We encourage students to practise and revise these areas as they have their set times table goals to work on each night at home.

In years 5/6 it is important for students to have an understanding of number facts. These skills help the process of learning new mathematical concepts. We encourage all students to practise and revise their times tables and number facts on a regular basis.

Some topics of focus in Term 2 are as follows:

Number and Algebra: Place Value(cont), Four operations(cont), Number facts(cont), Fractions, Angles, Money, Odd and Even numbers.

Measurement and Geometry: Mass, Mapping, Transformations, Volume, Temperature, Length.

Statistics and Probability: Graphs, Chance and Data.

Integrated Unit:

As part of our Living Off the Land Unit, students will look at ancient, current and future farming practices, including equipment, types of farms and what products farms produce. Students are looking at the farming practices of ancient cultures, such as the Egyptians and comparing and contrasting with the current farming practices of first world countries, like Australia. Students will further explore where farming is heading and whether it may be possible for humans to start farming on other planets.

Garden News:

As well as general farm maintenance that is done weekly, this term students are harvesting the produce that is picked fresh from the farm to sell after school on Monday's and possibly Tuesday's. The money raised from the sales will go directly back into the farm.

Special Event - School Incursion

In week 10 we have a production company coming out to present a play titled 'The Human Race'. The Human Race reinforces resilience and provides resources to help reduce the incidences of bullying at school and online. It encourages tolerance, kindness, respect and empathy.

Dunc's loyalty, honesty and tenacity are his greatest strengths but, if he is to win the physical, artistic and mental challenges in the Human Race, he will have to overcome his low self-esteem.

Deedee has lied about her age and alienated people by posting mean photos and comments. She is horrified when she has to enter the race with Dunc, the 'daggiest' kid in the whole school.

They win because they are resourceful, compassionate, play by the rules and do their best to reach their potential as citizens of the world.

Student diaries:

A reminder that all 3/4 students are to bring their diaries to school every day. These are a valuable organisational and communication tool. Students are encouraged to write reminders or notes in their diary. This can also be used as a communication book for you and your child's teacher. 5/6 students are using the application 'tiny calendar' to assist them with their daily and weekly organisation. For those that have apple devices you can sync these to their calendar however we still want the students to start to show independence to manage their organisation themselves.

Cross Country:

It's been exciting this term leading up to the Whole School Cross Country Carnival. Last year we had our whole school compete in the carnival and this year was even bigger and better because the whole school was running at the same location. There were some amazing achievements from our students and a great day was had by all. Successful students from the event have the opportunity to represent the school at the District Cross Country Carnival on Wednesday 31st May.

Science:

This term our focus for science is Earth Science. These fortnightly lessons are focussed on Earth's dynamic structure and its place in the cosmos. Students are learning that earth is part of a solar system, which is part of a galaxy. They are exploring the seasons related to the earth's rotation and its orbit around the sun. Students are investigating the processes that result in changes to the earth's surface such as natural disasters and, recognise that earth has evolved over 4.5 billion years. Students will explore the ways in which humans use resources from the earth and understand the influence of human activity on the surface of the earth and the atmosphere.

Edendale

On June 7th the Upper School students will be attending the Edendale Farm in Eltham.

The excursion incorporates activities from water, waste, food, biodiversity and energy and draws together some of the key issues that help us to live more sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint.

- Consumption Down!
- Water Heroes
- Cut Your Carbon!
- Indigenous Plant Propagation/planting (seasonal)
- Food Footprint (environmental impact of what you eat)
- Tale of a Creek

- Sustainable Edendale (farm tour)

Camps

It's a very exciting time for the 5/6's as our 5 day camp to Rumberg in Foster is fast approaching. Please ensure that you've returned your expression of interest form back to your classroom teacher by the expected due date and paid your \$100 deposit.

Our expression of interest forms for the Middle School Camp to Waratah Bay in October will be sent out towards the end of Term 2. Please keep an eye out.

Homework

At this stage of the year, students should be more comfortable with prioritising their workload to ensure that they complete some homework each night so that they are not overwhelmed when homework is due. In addition to nightly reading and spelling as required, students will be given set homework tasks that will be given out on a Tuesday and due back the following Thursday. This term the Upper School has set a homework project and will be holding an Expo on the last Thursday of term, parents are invited to attend.

iPads for Learning:

Students must bring their iPads to school **each day**, fully charged and ready for use in the classroom. Please encourage your child to be responsible for this, as we do not have a range of chargers at school.

Interschool Sport News

This term students are representing the school in one of four sports; netball, soccer, softball and football. The students are challenging themselves and trying their best. We have been proud to see the students use game sense skills they've learnt in Term 1 P.E and adapting them to this term's sports. Swimming has started in the 5/6 area and the children are enjoying themselves, they're working on different stroke techniques and also the education side of being in the water. The 3/4's will be swimming in weeks 7,8 & 9 of the term.

Upper School Team: Joel, Travis, Jenny, Brendan & Glenn