

2020 TERM 1 UPPER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TEAM STRUCTURE

Welcome all of our new parents and families to the Upper School. Our 2020 structure consists of two grade 3/4 classes and two grade 5/6 classes. This year, we welcome Mr Wayne Askwith to the Upper School Team in Grade 5/6A. Ms Mim Tsantis will be teaching Grade 5/6T. Ms Jenny Donald/Mrs Johnson and Mr Travis Pain will be teaching the two Grade 3/4 classes. Jenny will be in the classroom on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. Mrs Michelle Johnson will be in the classroom on Tuesday, whilst Jenny runs the kitchen classes.

Jenny is the Team Leader of the Upper School and is available for any questions that you may have regarding the Upper School.

Levels 3/4 and 5/6 will continue delivering level appropriate curriculum and running independent programs. All teachers will meet weekly to plan and collaborate when implementing programs across the team.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our 2020 School Captains are: Dylan Keating: Sports Captain

Ella Gillottie: Social Justice Captain

Rachel Cooper: Environment Captain

Tamzyn Stephens: Arts Captain

Riley Keating: Media Captain

On 20th March, Ms Tsantis will be taking our school captains to the *National Young Leaders Day*, where they hear from prominent leaders from all walks of life.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCILLORS & GREEN TEAM

Students have voted within their classes for a Junior School Council & Green Team representatives.

Congratulations to the students who displayed courage and leadership in applying for these positions.

Badges will be presented at assembly once we have them. Parents will be notified of this date.

The successful candidates were:

3/4DJ: Junior School Council representative:

Darcy G

Green Team Representatives :

Lucia D

Caspian L

34P: Junior School Council representative: Harvey G

Green Team Representatives : Jai G & Madeleine G

5/6A: Junior School Council representative: Beau S

Green Team Representatives: Lucy G, Jess T & Rachel C

5/6T: Junior School Council representative : Matthew W

Green Team Representatives : Bailee O & Gabby G

MINDFULNESS

We are very excited to participate in the practice of Mindfulness in the Upper School. This practice has become popular in recent years with highly regarded institutions such as Monash, Melbourne, UCLA, Harvard and Oxford Universities developing studies revealing the positive impacts of Mindfulness. Research has shown that practising Mindfulness can reduce stress, increase resilience, increase positive emotion and self-esteem. We have noticed a sustained improvement in concentration levels during class time as well as students experiencing a clearer, more focussed and reflective approach to learning, improved memory and attention, and heightened performance. We see this as a lifelong tool to transform the way we all learn and live. We may use a variety of programs, the most common one, <http://smilingmind.com.au/>. We also use mindful colouring in as a reflective activity. Mindfulness is practised most days after a recess break where practicable..

KITCHEN/GARDEN

The kitchen garden program is based on the importance of connectedness to the earth and how we can best develop an understanding of how we rely on the earth for our survival and how to look after our earth and ourselves and live more sustainably. Eating healthy, fresh foods and enjoying sharing a meal with others is an important socialisation activity which can set up good life habits. The Upper School is currently participating in the Kitchen program. Thank you to parents and grandparents who are helping out. In each session students are responsible for reading and understanding the recipe, following the instructions and making adjustments where necessary. We prepare, cook, clean up and share the dining experience. Real life Literacy and Numeracy understandings are developed in each session.

STEAM

SPORTING NEWS

Students have been given the opportunity to represent Streeton in Basketball, Rounders, Bat Tennis and Cricket. The students have been such a pleasure to watch and coach, their response to feedback has been positive and their attitude to teamwork and good sportsmanship amongst their teams and towards the other schools has been fantastic. Games are played on a Friday morning, earlier in the year your child was given a fixture of all the games.

It has been great to see a high level of interest from students in trying out to represent the school in swimming at a district level. Excitement for more district events will increase as they come closer with Cross Country in term 2 and Athletics in term 3.

GREEN TEAM

The Green Team is in action once again this year. Each class will have two representatives on the Green Team. We will hold our first meeting shortly. Any other interested students are welcome to participate in Green Team activities. We focus on environmental aspects of school life. We also look after the gardens and grounds, weeding, watering, planting. We are passionate about sustainability, refusing, repurposing, reducing, reusing and recycling as much as we can. We are responsible for organising the Red-Cycle soft plastic recycling program, the Visy paper recycling program, the Banyule Council recycling bin and composting throughout the school. Lunchtimes are very busy for us and all our helpers.

LABELLING SCHOOL CLOTHING

Please ensure that all items of your child's clothing, including hats are clearly named. If any item of clothing does not have a name on it, it will be sent to the lost property bin located near the disabled toilets in the main building. We have a lost property basket in the hallway at the entrance to C-wing. It is already full.

SUPPLIES

Thank you to those who have already brought their two boxes of tissues to school; if you haven't, the students would greatly appreciate them to share with the grade. We have found this is the absolute minimum required to last the year.

If your child has a diary, it should be brought to school daily.

Students need to remember to bring their iPads to school each day fully charged and ready for learning. Appropriate use of the iPads in class by the students, as per the User Agreement Form, will be closely monitored at school. We thank you for your continued support in this matter.

iPads

Please make sure your child has all the required apps downloaded. If you are unsure there is a list attached.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 20th Young Leaders Conference

Term 2: Naplan 12th-14th May.

Whole School Cross-Country will be held in Term 2.

ENGLISH

This term students have been encouraged to express their writing creativity by using a 'seed book' to plant their ideas in. They can bring anything that may help inspire them such as photos, tickets from events and even brochures from places visited.. Along with using their seed book, students will continue to develop their writing skills this term focusing on the 6+1 Traits of writing..

Other aspects of our Literacy program will include the Cafe program focussing on strategies to help students with their reading skills. Students will take part in reading to self, buddy reading, working on writing, word work and listening to reading in Cafe sessions.

Year 5/6: Throughout Term 1, students will work in ability-based groupings, exploring the following comprehension strategies: Main idea & details, Drawing conclusions, Sequencing & Making predictions. Within Reading groups, students will work through a range of activities ranging from task cards, multi modal texts, such as Behind the News & Horrible Histories, novel study, Cloze comprehension units, Soundwaves and grammar tasks.

Year 5/6 Grammar: In Grammar, we will be covering: common & proper nouns, collective nouns, abstract nouns, technical nouns, singular & plural nouns, personal & possessive pronouns, relative & demonstrative pronouns, adjectives & adjectival phrases.

WRITING 6+1 TRAITS

This year we are continuing to develop the 6+1 writing model as the basis for our writing program. This model provides our students with a range of writing skills to improve their writing, these include-

Ideas: The meaning and development of the message.

Organisation: The internal structure of the piece.

Voice: The way the writer brings the topic to life.

Word Choice: The specific vocabulary the writer uses to convey meaning.

Sentence Fluency: The way the words and phrases flow throughout the text.

Conventions: The mechanical correctness of the piece.

Presentation: The overall appearance of the work.

MATHEMATICS

Year 3/4 - This term we will be focussing on Number, odd and even numbers, Shape and Geometric reasoning, Data Representation and Interpretation and Patterns and Algebra.

Year 5/6 - Students will continue to develop their understanding of Mathematics through participation in differentiated learning activities. This term students will be exploring place value concepts to 9 digits, order of operation (BODMAS), integers, prime & composite numbers, area & perimeter, mass & capacity and 2D & 3D shape.

INQUIRY

In Term 1, we will be looking at 'Growth Mindset'. Students will reflect on what they have achieved both in and out of the school setting and will set goals for themselves to aim for and keep focussed on throughout the year.

We are also looking at 'Cyber Safety' Students will explore deeper into topics on cyber safety, appropriate use of the internet, cyber bullying, the authenticity of internet sites and innovative educational applications for education

THURSDAY ROTATIONS

This term students will be participating in rotations on a Thursday.

The rotations will consist of the following depending on the week.

PE - Cricket, Tennis, PE Games, plus 1 more sport to be decided.

27/02 - Tennis 1. Hand-eye racquet and rally skills. 2. King of the mountain tournament. 3. Tennis ball machine forehands for newer players. 20/02 - PE Games (District Swimming Event) Cone soccer, continuous and knock-out. 13/02 - Cricket Skill: Batting and Bowling 1: Bowling and batting skill and practice 2: Ball machine - Each player faced 6 balls then rotated. 3. Fielding catches and throwing at stumps. 06/02 - Cricket Skill: Fielding, throwing, catching, aiming, striking, running. 1: Throw down stumps, 1-2-3 then the base. 2: Kanga cricket 6 balls per pair, 5sec change-overs, rotate field, teacher bowler. - Mr Askwith

Earth - Ms Donald. This activity used to be Farm, but now we are broadening our scope to include being environmentally aware and sustainable, trying to do our best to look after our earth.

History-The Gold Rush- Students will investigate Australia's Gold Rush period, from the mid-to-late 1800s-Ms Tsantis

S.T.E.A.M - Mr Pain - students this term are investigating an animal of their choice and creating an information poster.

HOMEWORK & HOME READING

Homework is an important part of your child's learning. It teaches children to prioritise their workload and aids in the revision and reinforcement of what is studied in the classroom. Homework will be given to students on Mondays and due back the following Monday.

In Grade 3/4 students are to read most nights and record their reading in their diaries or reading log. Spelling words will be given out on Mondays with a test on Fridays. There will be a spelling activity set also, in first term this will be *Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check*. Students may receive a maths activity such as time tables practise or a Study Ladder task.

In Grade 5/6, it is expected that students complete approximately 30 minutes of homework per night; consisting of reading a 'good fit' book; practising spelling words and putting these words into sentences, and completing a mathematics component. Homework will be sent home on Mondays and is due back the following Monday. Spelling tests of weekly words will occur on Fridays.

DIARIES

3/4 students are to use their diaries as an organisational tool. It can also be used as a communication tool between school and home. Students will use their diaries to record their home reading in 34DJ. Mr Pain is using a reading log in their homework book. Diaries need to be brought to school daily.

SEESAW

This year the Upper School will be using a program called Seesaw. All students have been asked to download the *Class* program on their iPads, with parents downloading the *home* app. This amazing program allows students to communicate in real time, their learning, to parents or other approved adults (great for interstate family members).

HOME READING

Reading - it is expected that students will read at home at least 3-7 times a week. Students in 3/4 will record their reading in their diaries or reading log, including the name of the book and either pages read or total reading time and have it signed by an adult.

Kind Regards,

Upper School Team.

Jenny Donald, Michelle Johnson, Travis Pain, Wayne Askwith and Mim Tsantis.