Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Term two. We hope you had a relaxing and fun holiday and enjoyed the sunshine while it lasted.

Term one seemed to fly by, ending with the camp at Sovereign Hill. Do stop by and look at the photographs displayed in the classrooms. What a wonderful experience it was and it certainly built on the prior knowledge children had about The Goldfields. It also provided a basis which linked perfectly to conclude our history investigation in the form of an ERP.

Year six parents will have received an Application for Year Seven Placement 2015. If you live outside the designated zone for the school you wish to apply for, you will need to write a compassionate letter for out of zone application and include this with your application. If you have any questions regarding this please speak to your child’s teacher or Toni Blizzard the Transition Coordinator.

We have a very busy term ahead please take note of the following dates.

Excursions/Incidursions/Special Events

- **Education Week:**
  - Monday 19th May – Book Character Parade & 5/6 Hands On Science Incursion
  - Thursday 22nd May – Australian Opera Incursion
  - Friday 23rd May – Interschool Sports (BUPS vs. Maranatha @ BUPS)
  - Friday 30th May – Interschool Sports (BUPS vs. Nar Nar Goon @ Nar Nar Goon PS)
  - Thursday 12th June – Sustainability Fair – Film Festival
  - Friday 13th June – Winter Interschool Sports Lightning Premiership

**Approximate Costs:**

- Winter Interschool Sports Competition ~$10
- Hands On Science Incursion ~$5
- Winter Lightning Premiership ~$10
  **If your child is involved in additional activities (e.g. District Cross Country) then you will incur additional costs.**

**NAPLAN for YEAR 5 will be from May 13th -15th.**

In Year 5 students participate in the national NAPLAN tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. These national tests provide information on how students are progressing, support improvements in teaching and learning, and provide a framework to compare student performance around Australia.

This is only one indicator of your child’s progress. As classroom teachers we regularly assess your child’s progress in a range of ways and on many different learning tasks throughout the year. This gives us a more complete picture of achievement as it covers task work over a period of time, not just one day.

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What’s Happening in Curriculum?

**Literacy**

Term Two will see the grade 5/6 children focussing on Narrative writing using the Seven Steps to Writing Success. We will be revising the steps which include, Plan For Success, Sizzling Starts, Tightening Tension, Dynamic Dialogue, Show Don’t Tell, Ban The Boring Bits and Exciting Endings.

Children will then work their way through the steps of Plan, Draft, Revise, Edit and Publish to produce an outstanding piece of narrative writing.

We will also be teaching and revising areas of grammar including quotation marks, paragraphing, other words to use instead of..., apostrophes, commas, adjectives, adverbs, how to effectively use a dictionary and thesaurus, tenses and conjunctions.

Our Literature Circles sessions will commence this term. Children from all three grades and four staff will work through appropriate texts in small groups of similar reading ability. They will read sections of text, discussing their reading for that session to clarify understanding, reflect and enjoy before they move on to the activities, responding through the various roles including Travel Tracer, Connector, Illustrator, Discussion Director, Word Wizard, Investigator, Character Captain, Cool Quote Finder and Summariser.

We will watch episodes of Behind The News on a weekly basis, participating in note taking and involving class discussion afterwards of current affairs and world events. Children will be encouraged to share their ideas and opinions in a safe environment while also respecting the opinions of others and to take on the roles of Note Taker and Chairperson.

**Numeracy**

During Term Two we will be revising the topics taught in Term One: Place Value, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Measurement, Time and Money on a regular basis. We will also be teaching Division, Fractions, Chance and Data, Graphing, Location and Grid References, Area and Perimeter, 24 hour Time, Shape, Symmetry and Translations of Shape. There will be explicit teaching sessions, clinic groups for common misunderstandings in topics, Maths Menu sessions weekly across all three grades involving group work and open ended problems, Question A Day based on common errors in past Naplan tests.

Children are encouraged to use concrete materials to show full understanding before moving to written algorithms. Times tables should be practiced on a regular basis as the automatic recall of these facts is essential to progress smoothly in Maths.

**ERP’s**

During the holidays many of you would have discussed the ERP proposal that was included as part of the homework task. For the first part of this term we will be working on our first Education Research Projects (ERP’s). Students will be completing their proposal, conferencing with their teacher and discussing their personal goals. Our ERP’s are based on the broader topic of history, a study of colonial Australia in the 1800s, from which students choose their area of interest to investigate. The ERP involves project work based on the student’s individual area of interest, where students develop a series of questions to guide their investigation. Throughout students will develop their historical knowledge and understanding and historical skills. An emphasis is placed on skills of research and literacy and numeracy skills within the ERP, which is a key part of the approach. As part of this personalised learning, developing skills in self-management, organising time, workload and projects is an important factor.

**Science**

In the second half of the term our Science focus is Biological Science – We will be investigating the notion that Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment and what impacts external environmental factors have on living things? Some of our key investigations will be:

- What are the features of a living thing?
- What do living things need to grow, survive and reproduce?
- Describe and list adaptations of living things in various environments.
- Investigate how changing physical conditions impacts on growth and survival of living things.
- Research how living things survive in extreme environments.
ICT

In the 5/6 area we have a continued focus on the use of managing and maintaining data on different storage mediums. Students use ICT to present ideas using a variety of thinking and publishing tools.

We use CyberSmart to engage students in a variety of activities to do with cyber safety and their digital footprint. This term we will be conducting a Student Technology Audit, looking at peer and personal safety online and the dangers of sharing personal information. The CyberSmart website has many valuable resources that we use in the classroom, there are many resources for parents and children on this website too. Cyber Safety is a crucial part of ICT at school and at home and we encourage all families to be as up to date as possible. Below is a link to the CyberSmart website.


Homework – year 5/6

Students are expected to read nightly, record this in their diary and have it signed by a parent. There are minimum requirements of reading nights for each term and this increases throughout the year. This term students are required to read a minimum of 45 nights signed by a parent in order to attend the end of term celebration day. Students are encouraged to practise their times tables regularly to develop an automatic recall. Homework for year 5/6 students varies throughout the year.

As an introduction to 5/6, Term 1 homework usually consists of revision of literacy or numeracy concepts taught throughout the term. Over the course of the year students may be required to carry out research and complete learning tasks at home related to their individual Education Research Project. Homework tasks may vary in length and duration depending on the requirements. As homework is distributed to students, teachers and students read through it together and explanations and clarification is given. If students are unsure of requirements or expectations they are encouraged to seek assistance from their teacher as early as possible after the homework is distributed to ensure they can complete it on time.

BUPS FL

BUPS FL will begin again in Term 2 for students in grades 3 to 6. All students in grades 4 to 6 are drafted into one of the 6 BUPS FL teams, with grade 3 students having the option to be drafted into a team. Our 6 teams; Barassi Blazers, Coventry Koalas, Dyer Bloods, Hird Honeyeaters, Skilton Sharks and Voss Vipers play one game against another team per week in term 2 (weather dependent). Special BUPS FL rules are put in place to ensure that students are playing against students of a similar age and umpires monitor the game. At the end of the season, we will finish with semi-finals; the grand final, a teacher vs. student match and the most valuable players of the season will be announced.

We look forward to another fun season of BUPS FL!

Now you can see what we meant by busy term!

If you have any questions about any of the topics mentioned, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Toni, Ash and Karine

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