Welcome to term 1, 2014

We would like to welcome your child to the senior unit for 2014. We have started Term One off with a very positive and confident approach and are looking forward to a term filled with in-depth inquiries and rich experiences for all. This year the 5/6 Unit consists of three classes with Mr. Raghdo (5/6R), Ms Ousley (5/6O) and Ms Shiels (5/6S) we are excited to once again be working with the 5/6 students. We also welcome Rob Avolino who will be involved with the integration support program. Lynette Soto, Deb Morgan, Jo Jackson and Cassie McCawley will have specialist roles in the unit. This year will also see extra support for 5/6 students with Miss McCawley spending time assisting 5/6 students in the classroom throughout the week.

We have set out below a few points of interest related to general classroom procedure at this level.

Mornings- All children are expected to be at line up by 8:45am each morning to be ready for the day’s lessons. We ask for your cooperation in getting your child to school on time so that he/she does not feel rushed or pressured when arriving in the classroom.

Homework- A Home Learning task is usually given out on a Monday and is due back on the Friday. We ask that parents encourage their children to complete homework to their best ability and on time. Our philosophy for homework is that it supports classroom learning, it develops good study habits for high school, and it gives children responsibility and ownership of their learning. It would be appreciated if you could sign your child’s homework each week.

Reading- is an important part of homework and all children are expected to read each night, choosing material according to their own level and interest. Reading Log Books need to be completed by students every day and signed by parents.

Discipline- All classes at ANPS follow a values based discipline approach and this is supported through a whole school focus on RELATIONSHIPS and LEADERSHIP. We encourage you to talk to your child about these procedures.

Diaries- Students will be actively recording reminders about personal tasks and upcoming whole school and class events in their school diaries. Parents please check and sign the diary each night.

Parent/Teacher Information sessions- will be conducted on Wednesday 26th February and we look forward to meeting all parents with the aim of sharing information about your child.

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26/2/2014</td>
<td>Parent Teacher information session</td>
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<tr>
<td>14/2/2014</td>
<td>Interschool sports begin</td>
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Curriculum Overview

Literacy

Within Literacy students will be looking at Narratives and persuasive texts in term 1. Students will have opportunities to investigate a chosen leader through reading and researching. They will make speeches, write reports and present what they have found out, including completing a powerpoint presentation. Students will discuss their own strengths and then set goals for their own learning.

Students will be using classroom libraries on a daily basis and developing comprehension strategies to improve their reading. Their ideas and insights will be displayed on classroom “Literacy Walls”.

Students will undertake various reading and writing tests at the start of the year. These will assist teachers in planning programs which meet students’ needs.

This year, Writers Notebooks and writing conferences will continue to be developed as tools to enhance the students writing and learning experiences.

Numeracy

In Numeracy, students will be involved in online on-demand testing and scaffold testing in term one.

This will assist teachers in addressing the specific needs of each student. Specific areas of study will include developing addition, subtraction, strategies, place value knowledge and skills of whole and decimal numbers. Students will also complete a measurement unit where they will find and measure angles, perimeter and area of shapes. Students will also explore the concepts of 2D shapes.

Students will have many opportunities to engage in problem-solving to improve their ability to apply strategies like addition and multiplication to new situations. This problem-solving will include ‘open-ended’ problems which may have a number of possible answers. Their ideas and insights will be displayed on classroom “Numeracy Walls”.

Inquiry Unit

This term the first unit of inquiry is called “Relationships and Learning - Leading The Way”. It will be based around the concepts of values, responsibilities and leadership. There will be a focus on Interpersonal Development, Personal Learning and Thinking. The major understandings to be explored and developed within this unit of inquiry will be:

- Values and Attitudes affect all aspects of our lives which may influence our rights, responsibilities and consequences.
- Leaders may recognise and use individual learning styles to create change.

Students have already begun investigating leadership attitudes and values.

Our inquiry unit in the latter part of term 1 will be ‘Healthy Mind Healthy Body.’ The major understanding to be explored will be:

- an understanding of what is a healthy body.
- how healthy choices impact on our long term lifestyles.

Leadership- Grade 6 students will have the opportunity to make speeches in respect of House Leader and Peer Leader positions. School Captains and House Captains will take part in the Young Leaders’ Day Conference on the 24th of February 2014. This is a marvellous opportunity for the students to listen to the leadership views of inspirational and positive role models. An objective of the day will be to empower students with practical skills and motivation to positively contribute to the school and their own personal lives.

Summer Interschool Sport begins on Feb 14th with teams representing Softball, Bat Tennis, Cricket and Newcombe. All students will be attending the sports this year.

Grade 6 Transition- Parents of grade 6 students should be thinking about which school they would like their child to attend in 2015 as a Year 7 student. More details about this will be coming home in the next few weeks. It is now a good idea to be taking tours of local High Schools and attending information sessions, to begin the decision making for this big step in your child’s education.

Many thanks from the 5/6 teaching team
Vanessa Shiels, Lisa Ousley, Wally Raghdo and Rob Avolino
ART
During term 1, the children will revise their knowledge of the elements of art, such as the use of lines, shapes, patterns, texture and colours and will use this knowledge to develop more detail in their art work. The art work of Wassily Kandinsky will be used as inspiration.

In the lead up to Harmony Day, the children will briefly learn about different cultures and complete activities, including a sculpture of a person’s head wearing a cultural headdress, relating to the theme, ‘Everyone Belongs’

The children will contribute to the Art in Public Places display at the Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre. This year’s theme is ‘The Age of the Dinosaur’.

Could children please be supplied with an art smock to protect their clothing during art classes? An old oversized shirt, clearly labelled with their name would be fine. Art smocks will not be stored in the art room and will become the responsibility of the child. Please become aware of the day that your child has art so that you may remind them to bring their art smock to school. Thank you.

Deb Morgan

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Term One will see the 5/6 students participating in fitness based programs that will encourage the students to ‘huff and puff’.

A strong emphasis will be placed on the students refining and applying their movement skills through circuit based activities. Students will participate in a 20m shuttle run test to determine their current individual fitness level and from this, set goals to improve participation and fitness levels.

The students will develop the important skills that will assist in positive team play and they will be encouraged to develop strategic thinking during match play.

The students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Inter School Sport program and represent ANPS in either Cricket, Newcombe, Softball or Bat Tennis. This is a competitive sporting opportunity being held on and off site on a Friday morning.

Lynette Soto

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS
Grade 5/6 students will explore music and song writing through the use of technology.

Students will gain an understanding of song structure and the process of creating music in a digital realm. There will be a focus on melody, chords, musical styles, song analysis and song form. Students will create and write their own songs using program, ‘Sony Acid Pro’. These will be presented, discussed and assessed within the classroom.

All students will use journals to record and reflect on their Music & Performing Arts lessons. These will also be used to write and keep any music, lyrics, practice schedules or ideas they may have in and out of class.

There will be opportunities for students to audition for the ANPS Senior choir as well as the Instrumental group. We encourage students who may study an instrument or own an instrument to practice on outside of school to participate in this program.

Grade 5/6 will also begin to focus on the development and creation of the 2014 ANPS Wakakirri entry. The students will work together to create a story and performance that has an important message to share with the community. Visit http://www.wakakirri.com to find out more.

Cassie McCawley

COMPUTERS
During this term, the children will be creating a Power Point presentation displaying the characteristics they possess.

They will be using knowledge gained through their Inquiry topic, ‘Relationships and Learning, Leading the Way’, to present their understanding of different qualities. The children will be learning to use the program, ‘Microsoft Power Point’ and the skills of how to add text boxes, word art, pictures, photos, hyperlinks etc. The Power Point will be scored using a, ‘rubric’ which the children must follow closely to receive the allocated marks available.

Joanne Jackson

SUSTAINABILITY
In grade 5/6 the students take an active and leading role in the organisation and management of the schools recycling program. Students are encouraged to be sustainable in their use of all their resources. Students are also responsible for the collection of water from the bucket that are placed under the taps in the playground, and used to water newly planted native plants in the school gardens.

This year we look forward to 2 major projects, the construction of our second “Garden wall” which will further enhance our school ground and learning landscape, and the building of the “Vegetable Garden”. Both projects are exciting initiatives in the development of the school’s environmental and sustainability program. We look forward to the student participation components in these projects throughout the 2014 school year.

Wal Raghdo