

GRADE 6 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER: TERM 1

Important Dates

Wednesday, February 20th	Meet the Teacher Interviews
Friday, March 15th	Circus of Life Performance
Monday, March 18th—Friday, March 22nd	5/6 Swimming Program
Friday, April 5th	End of Term 1



Curriculum Overview

English

In Reading, our Grade 6 students will begin the term with the **First 20 Days of Reading**. The goal of the First 20 Days is to establish the essential reading routines, expectations, and behaviours that support students when developing their skills in comprehending a range of more challenging and complex texts. Following on from the First 20 Days, students will spend a short time revising the comprehension strategies of **activating prior knowledge**, **predicting**, and **visualising**. Students will then spend several weeks developing a deeper understanding of **inferring**, using imaginative and informative texts.

In Writing, our Grade 6 students will spend the first few weeks of term learning about the routines, expectations, and behaviours that will support them to be successful writers. They will revise and build upon their understanding of the writing process from previous years, which involves students planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing a text-type of their choice. Students will begin to gain a clearer understanding of the purpose of the Writer's Notebook—a place for collecting writing ideas. Students will then begin to explore the structure, features, and purpose of **Explanation Texts**. In doing so, they will learn to follow the writing process and use the appropriate vocabulary and structure to explain the process of how or why something occurs i.e. How bees make honey.

Mathematics

In Mathematics our Grade 6 students will begin Term 1 with a **Start-Up Numeracy Program**. They will revise the problem-solving process and apply this to a range of word problems. Students will be taught different problem-solving strategies, such as working backwards and making a table. Students will also investigate how to use the Maths Trolley resources to assist them in solving problems.

Later in the term, students will be learning about **base-10 numeration**, **whole & decimal place value and operations**. They will gain experience in using their knowledge of place value and rounding to estimate the answers to problems e.g. 89×4 . Students will learn to solve multi-step worded problems using combinations of the four processes— addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They will also solve number sentences using the four operations. This will be applied to both whole numbers and decimals e.g. 17×0.6

Towards the end of the term, students will be learning about a range of essential measurement topics: **length**, **perimeter** and **mass**. They will learn to convert between formal units of measurement and recognise the relationship between metric units of measurement and the base-10 place value system.

Inquiry

Our Grade 6 students will explore two topics for Inquiry this term.

The first Inquiry topic, titled '**Learning to Learn**,' involves students learning how to strengthen and support their ability to learn and form positive relationships. They will do this by developing a growth mindset, nurturing their character strengths, and understanding how they can best develop their bodies and minds. This will support students in their roles as leaders of our school.

The second Inquiry topic, '**Healthy body—Healthy Mind**' involves our learners understanding our physical body and its needs and how it changes throughout the different stages of the human life span. The key questions students will explore are:

- How is my body changing and what resources can I use to help me manage these changes effectively?
- What are the effects of different substances on the body and mind?
- How can I incorporate healthy choices to sustain the changes my body undertakes?



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Science

During term one students will describe and predict the effect of environmental changes on individual living things. Students will learn that the growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment. They will observe the growth of fungi such as yeast and bread mould in different conditions. Students will then research organisms that live in extreme environments such as Antarctica or a desert. They will consider the effects of physical conditions causing migration and hibernation of animals in their research project.

Students will learn to explain how scientific knowledge helps us to solve problems and make an informed decision. They will study both historical and cultural contributions to science.

Students will practise following procedures to develop investigable questions and design investigations into simple cause-and-effect relationships. They will identify variables to be changed and measured and describe potential safety risks when planning methods. Students will collect, organise and interpret their data, identifying where improvements to their methods could improve the data. They will learn to describe and analyse relationships in data using appropriate representations and construct texts to communicate their ideas, methods and findings.

Art

All year levels will begin the term with learning the technique of Graffiti Art and personal design, to decorate their art journals and folders. The grade 6's will use inspiration from previous knowledge on colour theory this term to create a range of art works. They will also explore proportion to create self-portraits that will help them to recognise the importance of the placement of features within their artworks. They will also explore secondary and tertiary colours through colour mixing and knowledge of the colour wheel. The 6's will then work with complimentary colours, whilst learning about artists that use them such as, 'Pop Artist Andy Warhol'. The student's will then experiment with Monochromatic colour and create their very own Picasso inspired art piece. The students will have the opportunity to use a range of materials including pencil, paint, watercolour, crayon and pastel to create these pieces. I really look forward to working with the grade 6's this term and creating some wonderful art pieces.

Chinese

This term in Chinese, Grade 5/6 students will be focusing on Chinese character and sentence structure. Students will be engaging with oral language by active listening, observing interactions between speakers in everyday contexts, and using the spoken language in a range of forms. They will record and learn new vocabulary by using word lists in Pinyin and use Pinyin to prepare drafts of spoken texts. Grade 5/6 students will also identify the capital city and major cities in China. With teacher support, students will begin to use Chinese to communicate their own ideas. They will also make and draw some Chinese New Year feature items.

PE

Welcome back everyone! This term will be great filled with confidence building and strategy. We will begin by setting ourselves some goals on what we would like to learn this term in Physical Education. First we will look at Invasion games, making the transition between offense and defence quicker and more strategy orientated. Students will use different sports and have the main focus of also trying to be leaders and in those leader roles (like being a referee). Our Grade 6 cohort will finish off the term by creating their own invasion games, which their peers will play over a duration of the term.

All the luck and let's play ball!