

GRADE 5 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER: TERM 1

Important Dates

Wednesday, February 19th	Meet the Teacher Interviews
Monday, March 9th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Friday, March 27th	Last Day of Term



Curriculum Overview

English

Welcome to 2020! Our Grade 5 learners will engage in a rigorous and engaging literacy curriculum that will target their individual needs. In Reading, our students will begin the year by learning about the expectations for the Reading Hour, including independent reading procedures, goal-setting, and classroom library borrowing. They will learn how to use their Reading Journal and respond to their 'just right' books. Our team will read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* as a class and comprehend this text at multiple levels. They will also learn about etymology and morphology of various words to support them with their fluency and comprehension of texts. Comprehension monitoring will form an essential part of our students' reading work this year, with a particular focus on **making connections, determining importance, text structures, visualising and inferring**.

In Writing, students will create **persuasive texts**. In doing so, our writers will learn to write letters to the government, editorials, and other types of texts. Students will learn to use a formal structure to support their persuasive writing, which includes three or four arguments and support details. Throughout the term, students will also learn about the **test genre**, which includes writing to a prompt within a time limit. In doing so, our writers will build their stamina for writing. Handwriting, punctuation and spelling will also comprise a key part of our writing program for Term 1.

Mathematics

Our Grade 5 mathematicians will begin the year looking at a variety of number topics related to **Base 10 numeration**. Students will revise their knowledge of place value up to and beyond the millions. Additionally, our mathematicians will spend time exploring decimal fractions and **decimal place value** up to thousandths. Our learners will explore these concepts through targeted teaching opportunities and problem-solving contexts. We encourage the use of concrete materials and multiple representations to demonstrate mathematical thinking at this year level.

Towards the conclusion of the term, our Grade 5 mathematicians will explore the concepts of **length and perimeter**. Students will learn to convert between units of measurement involving length (e.g. millimetres, centimetres, metres, decimetres, kilometres). They will also learn the formal rule for calculating the perimeters of rectangular shapes as $\text{Length} + \text{Length} + \text{Width} + \text{Width}$ ($P=L+L+W+W$ or $P=2(L+W)$).

Inquiry

Our Grade 5 students will explore two topics of learning for 'Inquiry' this term. The first topic, '**Learning to Learn**,' involves students understanding what good learners do and think. Our Grade 5 students will learn about using de-escalation strategies, creating a 'ready to learn' plan, and the different forms that stress can take—among other things. Families will have received a Student Handbook containing various information that students have learned through the 'Learning to Learn' program.

Later in the term, our learners will begin a short inquiry unit, titled '**Play it Safe**.' The key understanding of this topic is: 'Decisions we make impact upon our health and wellbeing.' The key questions that students will seek to answer throughout the unit include:

- How do we keep ourselves safe in different situations (e.g. school, home, water, traffic, online)?
- How can we prepare ourselves to confidently refuse invitations for alcohol and cigarettes?

Our learners will explore the concepts of 'health' and 'wellbeing' and apply these understandings to their Common Formative Assessment Task. They will create a project related to keeping safe in their local community or online.



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ART

Grade 5 and 6 have already started the term decorating their art journals and folders. They are learning about face proportions to create a half, self-portrait. The students are focusing on the placement of features within the face as well as skin tone, hair colour and other personal features that they might like to add, to personalise their face. Grade 5 and 6 students will touch on primary and secondary colours to access prior knowledge, with a view to mixing tertiary colours which requires an understanding of where colours sit on the colour wheel. The students will then take the next step and work with colour harmonies, such as analogous colours - the colours next to each other on the colour wheel and complementary colours - colours that are opposite on the colour wheel. They will also be learning about artists who use these colours in a complementary way, such as 'Pop artist' Andy Warhol.

LOTE-CHINESE

Welcome back to an exciting new year! In first term, students in grade 5 and 6 will explore and discuss Chinese New Year traditions and customs celebrated by the Chinese people. They will learn to recognise and pronounce Chinese words using the correct tones. They will be learning to develop their language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing Chinese words and sentences in a range of topics. These topics will include 水果shuǒguǒ (fruit), 钱qián (money) and 买东西mǎi dōngxī (shopping), 天气tiānqì (weather) and well known places. Throughout the term, the students will be involved in various creative activities, group language practising exercises and being involved in discussions about Chinese culture and history.

Physical Education

Welcome back everyone! This term will be focused on equality of genders in sports. With that in mind, we will be using this term to get our first step in the door to prepare for Interschool Sports and competing different forms of talents. First we will look at Tennis, focusing on the Hot Shot structure and how to serve the ball in different scenarios (vs. 1 and vs 2 people). Next, we will learn the rules to Volleyball. Teaching our students how to work in a team in different game situations. After that, we will look at cricket – striking the ball and building the running stamina. Finally, we will look at soccer and the different rules and complexities that go with the game.

Get your hat, water and positive mindset ready because it's time to play!

Science

Welcome to 5/6 Science for Term 1, 2020!

We will be beginning the Term by setting up classroom expectations and discussing what the students want to gain from science this year.

We will be studying Biological science to begin with. Firstly we will define what an adaptation is and the purpose of animal adaptations. Students will then research and look into animals and give detailed examples of their adaptations. Secondly we will explore animals that are suited to Australia. We will be researching the Australian climate and how these animals have adapted to survive here. The students will match up adaptations to certain environments, such as animals adapting to survive in areas with little water.

Students will be engaged in discussions, research and will present their findings in multiple ways.

There will be lots of experiments and practical learning along the way! Through these experiments, students will have to adapt to some physical changes they will encounter.