

Term 3

2015 Curriculum News

Prep Curriculum News:

In **Literacy** we are focusing on recount and author studies (Mem Fox, Anthony Browne, Pamela Allen) in both reading and writing. Students will participate in language experience activities to help them write their own recounts by answering the 5 W's (who, what, where, when, why). Students will practise how to stretch words to listen for the sound/letter connections. They will now be expected to write two or more sentences. Reading groups will continue this term. This term students will continue to learn their set words and be encouraged to use them in their reading and writing. Children will also be practising letter formation through twice weekly handwriting sessions.

In **Numeracy** students will continue with daily counting both forwards and backwards. They will also continue to practise subitising. Children will also:

- learn to match numbers to their names (number recognition)
- learn to make groups to 20
- learn to "count on"
- learn different ways to make 10
- practise estimating how many are in a group (making a clever guess)
- learn to answer yes/no and true/false questions by looking at a graph
- learn to connect familiar events to days of the week

Our **Integrated Studies** topic this term is "Sound, Toys and Magnets". The students will be learning about how sounds can be produced and changed, useful/not useful sounds and identifying and producing different sounds. The students will use toys to explore how they move and what is required to make them move. They will also make simple toys e.g. pinwheels, paper planes/helicopters. Towards the end of term the students will explore how magnets work.

This term the Prep students will continue learning **Italian**. Our topic will be "The Seasons". Students will learn 'weather' words, how the weather makes us feel and the different clothing we wear during different seasons. Greetings, introducing ourselves, parts of the body and face, describing our appearance, feelings and food names will continue to be revised.

This term we will also begin our **Perceptual Motor Program (PMP)** which will take place during our Physical Education lessons on Tuesdays. We have a number of parents who have volunteered to help run these sessions.

1/2 Area Curriculum News:

The 1/2's have quickly resumed learning in term 3. We have already started reading groups with 11 groups from Monday-Wednesday and 6 groups for Thursday and Friday. We are learning about Information Reports for **English** in both reading and writing.

In **Mathematics** we are starting off with Place Value and Volume, then moving on to Multiplication and Time, followed by Division then Fractions and Flips, Slides and Turns.

In **Integrated Studies** we are learning about Minibeasts this term. Our focus is: Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves. They have a variety of external features and live in different places where their needs are met. Minibeasts are any animals that are invertebrates (have no backbone). They include insects, arachnids, crustaceans, annelids, echinoderms and molluscs.

To support our unit and the students' learning, we are planning an **excursion** to IMAX and the Melbourne Museum for Wednesday 19th August 2015.

3/4 Area Curriculum News

Literacy

For Reading we will be continuing with the 'Readers Workshop' model. This will allow students to read 'just right books' of their choice while still having teacher support through Guided Reading, Book Clubs and Teacher Conferences.

We will be focusing on Narratives and Explanations. Students will be given the opportunity to explore different structures and ideas when writing these genres.

Mathematics

We will continue to run our differentiated Maths groups. This has allowed teachers to design lessons and activities that cater to specific needs of their group.

We will be covering the following topics this term:

- Money and Financial Maths
- Length and Area
- Capacity and Volume
- Number Patterns
- Worded Problems
- 2D shapes and 3D objects

Integrated Studies

From week 1-5 we will be investigating Forces and how they can be exerted by one object through direct contact from a distance.

Week 6-10 will have a Geography focus. We will be looking at places around the world that are both similar and different with a focus on Australia and its neighbouring countries.

5/6 Area Curriculum News

Literacy:

This Term, the 5/6 Area are continuing their focus on Narratives in Writing in the first few weeks of the term. We are continuing to look at the features of a narrative and writing exciting narratives to engage readers. Following this we will be focusing on Explanation texts for the remainder of the term. In reading, we have Anne Jones and Sarah Castellanos coming into Andrea and Monique's room for the first 5 weeks of the term to model and implement the Reader's Workshop. We are focusing on implementing the strategies involved in the Reader's Workshop such as inferring and predicting. Anne and Sarah will be making their way into Paul & Rob's rooms to implement the Reader's Workshop at a later date.

Numeracy:

This semester, students are continuing to work in differentiated groups based on their current level on the numeracy continuum. The Oxford University Big Ideas program is still being used, with other resources and activities being added in as necessary. A focus still remains on

developing student's mental strategies and mathematical reasoning. Problem solving is also an area of focus this semester. The relevant areas of the Numeracy curriculum that we will be teaching this term include Fractions, Number and Algebra, Statistics and Probability and Measurement and Geometry.

Integrated Studies / Science:

This Term, we will have two Integrated topics, Chemical Change and Needs and Wants. The Chemical Change unit will look primarily at the states of matter and the way that chemical reactions occur around us. Students will have an opportunity to conduct experiments and begin to write in scientific journals using scientific language and procedures while conducting their experiments. The Needs and Wants unit will focus on economics and comparing things that are necessary for our survival as opposed to things that we want. Students will look at budgets and real life situations where they need to be able to manage funds in the future.

Excursions:

All of the grade 5/6 students will be going to the Medibank Ice Skating Rink at Docklands to go ice skating during week 8 of this Term. We hope this excursion will help provide opportunity to discuss the applications of chemical change in real world situations as well as discussions around the economics of running a venue and budgeting for needs and wants. We also hope it will continue to build on and foster positive relationships developed through the camping and classroom program. It will also provide opportunity for team building as the children are exposed to a more challenging environment.

Sport:

This term, the Essendon Football Club will be coming to run the Multicultural Schools Football Program. This program focuses on teaching students skills such as kicking, handballing, marking as well as strategies for game play. There is also a focus on values such as fair play, respect, teamwork, harmony and leadership. Both a girls and boys team will be chosen to compete in the Multicultural Cup at Essendon Football Ground later in the year. We will also be running practices and trials for Athletics over the course of this term.

Numeracy Report Co-ordinator: Sarah Cotton

Monika Gruss delivered Numeracy Professional Development session during our curriculum day held last term. This session focussed on the importance of using student assessment data on a regular basis to identify student's zone of proximal development and provide appropriate engaging activities.

Hands on equipment required for Maths investigations and visual tools requested by teachers, to assist with challenging concepts such as time, volume and money have been purchased. Teacher resource books containing Open Ended, Rich Assessment and Problem Solving Tasks have also been purchased. Thank you to Ester who has processed and organised these books into boxed kits appropriate to each PLT level and kept with the team leader for easy teacher access.

A busy term of Numeracy Professional Development has commenced this term, encouraging collegial discussions and development of assessment criterion and assessment tools, eventually leading into scope and sequence development.

Professional Development was provided to 1/2 Teachers about Studyladder within the first week of this term to assist with the trial of using Studyladder for Maths homework. Teachers can set specific tasks associated with the current classroom topics, for students or groups of students, according to their learning needs. Teachers can easily monitor completion of homework.

Rowena Lytton and Sarah Cotton will be attending the ACU Leadership in Mathematics Conference this month.

The Numeracy Committee will meet regularly this term in preparation for the Numeracy & Literacy Night to be held on the 9th of September.

A huge thank you to all school staff for their support, positive attitude and willingness to discuss and try new ideas, always focussing on improving student outcomes in Mathematics.

Literacy Co-ordinator: Anne Jones

Reader's Workshop

Sarah Castellás and I have introduced Reader's Workshop in the Grade 3/4 area and are beginning to implement it into the 5/6 area. We both attended a Literacy course at Bastow Institute last year, where we learnt about the process of the Reader's Workshop, as well as its benefits. This way of teaching reading differs from what we have been doing, by putting a lot more focus on the students being responsible for their own reading choices, whilst still being very accountable in the reading session.

The format of a Reader's Workshop looks like this:

- **Mini Lesson and reading of the class shared novel.** During this time the Learning Intention is discussed, so that every student knows what they are learning and focusing on in the lesson. This is discussed during the reading to the students-eg, If we are learning about predicting, we will predict before, during and after our reading of the novel and justify our predictions. This can be modelled by the teacher or a shared or small group activity.
- **Guided Reading Group or Book Club Group or Just Right Independent reading by individual students.** At this time everyone is reading or talking about their reading. They may be reading with the teacher in a Guided Reading group or discussing their ideas in a Book Club. The students who are not working with a teacher will be reading their own Just Right* book independently.
- **Independent Literacy Work-I.L.W.** At this time the students are writing about their reading. They will use one of the many strategies they have learnt or are learning about- eg, predicting, visualising, summarising, making connections, determining important events etc. They will also reflect on their feelings and thoughts about the story, characters and author's purpose. The I.L.W work is used to help the students think about what they are reading and also let the teacher 'see their thinking'.
- **Teacher conferring with individual students.** The teacher takes time to talk to individual students about their –reading goal and how they are working to achieve it, their ideas and thoughts about the novel/ book they are reading, hearing the students read out loud and checking in on the students Readers Notebook.**
- **Share Time-** At this time students share their thinking/ new strategies etc in pairs, small group or with the whole class.

*Just Right books are books selected by the students from our library or home that are not too easy, not too hard but present some challenges.

** Reader's notebook is the book the students record their thinking and responses to their reading.

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Reading Challenge will come to an end in September. Thank you to Wai Yin and Laura for coordinating this challenge.

Reading Groups

All reading groups are running smoothly. The Prep groups started earlier this year- in mid Term 1. We have been impressed with how adaptable and flexible the Prep students have been in changing groups and teachers. The students have also benefitted from these small groups and many are already reading confidently.

ICT Curriculum Report James Gagliardi (ICT Teacher)

Preps: During Term 3 Prep students will begin to practise their letter and key recognition and copy and type simple words to create short sentences. They will learn about spacing and basic corrections, along with how to resize and make simple changes to text.

They will continue to improve their ability to make precise mouse movements by exploring animation using the *Pivot* program. With the introduction of iPads later in the term, the students will learn how to perform basic functions and how to take care of the device. They will also have an introduction to coding and story making using apps designed for younger learners.

Grades 1/2: During Term 3, Grade 1/2 students will continue to develop their formatting techniques to change the look of text, shapes/images and page designs as they learn to create their own Mr or Little Miss characters to animate in a story across multiple slides in Microsoft PowerPoint . With the introduction of iPads later in the term, the students will learn how to perform basic functions and how to take care of the device. They will also have an introduction to coding and a range of story making and content creating apps which they can use in the classroom.

Grades 3/4: During Term 3, Grade 3/4 students will continue to learn about Cybersafety and appropriate digital behaviours as they begin to manage and use their school email account to send and respond to emails from their peers. Students will learn how to use specific search terms and how to evaluate search results when conducting online research. Later in the Term, the students will participate in activities that will help them use the iPad in the classroom for research and for the creation and publishing of different types of original digital work.

Grades 5/6: During Term 3, Grade 5/6 students will also be learning to appropriately use their school email accounts to appropriately send and respond to emails from peers. They will continue to use online Cybersafety resources, which are designed to help raise awareness amongst students of the different issues involved in the use of social media and the Internet. The students will continue to learn about effective online research techniques and how to collect and graph data. Later in the Term, the students will participate in activities that will help them use the iPad in the classroom for research and for the creation and publishing of different types of original digital work. Grade 5/6 students will continue to learn about how coding is used in different ways.

Physical Education / Sport Coordinator: Stephen Lytton

In Prep we are running the Perceptual Motor Programme in the Physical Education Lessons. This programme aims to teach the children perceptions and understandings of themselves and the world through Movement and Motor experience. There is a strong focus on both gross and fine motor skills across all activities. We have 3 full time parent helpers (who help in all 3 Prep grades) as well as a bank of 4 additional parent helpers to support the programme.

In Year 1-2, we look at major fundamental motor skills such as kicking, throwing, catching and dodging. At the start of the term we will look at AFL skills (Handballing, marking and kicking). In the middle of the term we will focus on gymnastics and dance. The last 3 weeks of the term will be focussed on soccer skills (kicking, blocking, dodging) and rounders skills (hitting, catching, throwing and tagging). These will then cumulate in a simple structured game (handball footy, soccer-tag, etc).

In the senior school (3-6), the focus for the first 7 weeks of the term is Athletics. Our athletics carnival is in early September and we plan to take 54 students in the 10, 11 and 12 year old age range. The students will learn and compete for track events (100m, 200m, 400m, 100m Relay and 800m) and field events (Shotput, discus, long jump, high jump and triple jump). We will finish with 3 weeks focussing on an intraschool AFL Nine's competition.

This term the senior school are also participating in a 6 week football clinic running by Essendon Football Club and Seda. This will happen on Fridays (starting 24th July) and is in addition to the Physical Education and Sport Lessons.

From our Interschool sports that was run in the first half of the year, our Softball Team (from Term 1) and football team have finished top of their district and have to play in the finals.

The Softball team will play on September 4th (Date TBC) and the football team will play in the division finals on July 30th. Our Term 2 interschool sports results were:-

Boys Soccer - 2nd

Girls Soccer - 2nd

Girls Netball - 2nd

Mixed Netball - 4th

Football - 1st (Premiers)

Visual Arts Coordinator: Lyn Preisig

This term, children will be working on the following areas:

Preps: Will be exploring the properties of paint in the first half of the term and will then move on to exploring the properties of paper. They will have experience with constructing using a variety of media. Throughout the term, the children will be becoming familiar with the elements of Art such as shape, pattern, colour and texture.

Grade 1/2: Will be working on **drawing** through “mark making” using pastel. They will explore **modelling** with plasticine and **construction** using a variety of media. Throughout the term, they will focus on shape, line, pattern, colour and texture in their and other's work.

Grade 3/4: Will be focussing on **drawing** using pastel and pencil as well as **collage**. They will look at Still Life in Cubism.

Grade 5/6: Will be working in 3D this term. They complete some work as individuals and also work together in a problem solving activity to create a display for the Art Show. They will **model** with clay to create an individual piece and then work in a group to **construct** 3D forms using paper, card and other media as needed.

Music Co-ordinator: Nick Stamp

Students in Music will be introduced to their concert songs and start to become familiar with the lyrics and develop techniques to perform them on stage. Mid way through the term they will begin learning their choreography from Stacey the dance teacher and rehearse them during class and music time.

Students will also be exploring the creating and making process of digital music by using digital equipment software and apps. They will create music and learn to perform in ensemble groups as well as discover new styles of music and sound to help broaden their musical knowledge. Students will be encouraged to experiment and create digital music at home with their families and have the ability to showcase their creations in class.

The band (after a successful performance at the School of Rock) and choir will be learning new songs and performing them throughout the term.