

YEARS 5&6 NEWS

Looking back, moving forward



Gold Panning at Sovereign Hill

Our very busy Term 2 is well and truly under way. This time of year is always very busy at school – while the first term is all about having students settle into their new routines, Term 2 does as much as it can to test them out. Some of the big events happening include NAPLAN testing for Grade Five students, Education Week (including our school's open day), the University of New South Wales tests and two Curriculum Days. Our Interschool Sport commences in Week 3 and our Cross Country trails & Fun Run will happen at the end of Education Week. All in all, it's a busy term indeed!

What are we studying this term?

Our focus this term is the question "How has the past made us who we are?" We started with a day where students dressed as convicts on the First Fleet, and followed that up with a trip to Sovereign Hill; as well as hosting ANZAC Day activities and speakers. We will be looking at several other key moments in Australian history throughout the term in order to better understand what has shaped our nation.

Included in our Literacy focus this term is our Socratic program. These sessions require students to read a text throughout the week as part of their homework, then form their own stance on the issue. On Thursdays, classes will sit in a circle and discuss their opinions in a polite and structured way. We strongly encourage students to discuss these articles with their families so that they can further develop their comprehension of the topic.

TERM 2 2015 Important Dates:

Friday 8th May
Curriculum Day – no school

Tuesday 12th – Thursday 14th May
NAPLAN (Grade 5)

Saturday 16th May
Aerobics Prelims

Thursday 21st May
School Open Day & Grandparents Day

Friday 22nd May
School Cross Country & Fun Run

Friday 5th June
Curriculum Day – no school

Saturday 6th June
State Aerobics

Friday 19th June
Reports sent home

Thursday 25th June
Parent / Teacher Interviews

Friday 26th June
Last day of school – 2:30 dismissal

Homework

Students will be able to access their homework online throughout the term. The main resource being used is Google Drive, for which students each have a login. In their "drive" will be a run-down of their homework, updated on a weekly basis.

Other resources we will be using include Mathletics, Reading Express and Google Classroom. Students each have a login for these resources.

In addition to these, we expect students to be reading for at least 90 minutes a week. Their reading progress should be tracked in their diaries, as should any other important pieces of information students come across at school. We will continue encouraging students to consistently use their diaries, both to keep themselves organised and to best prepare them for high school.

Visual Art – Merrillyn Mann

With a focus on Australian History this term, I have planned for the students to explore some of the arts and crafts from the Australian Pioneering times. Students will view the art works of some of the early Australian artists such as S.T.Gill who was famous for his sketches of life during the Gold rush.

Students will create a simple weaving and will learn to make tiny stitches to sew a 9 patch block. They will learn how drawing was taught in schools in the early days and may have the chance to experience some of the other traditional crafts from those times.

As in other terms students will be expected to have some protective clothing when attending art lessons. Some of the paints and dyes used in art lessons are difficult to wash out. Art smocks can be purchased from the Uniform shop at the school.

PE/ Sport – Vivienne Potter

In Term 2, weekly PE sessions will focus on health & fitness in preparation for the Annual Cross Country event.

Our Friday sport sessions will revolve around the Winter Inter-School Sport competition, in games of netball, football, volleystars, kickball & soccer rounders. A District Soccer Round Robin will also be held later in the term.

As you can see, another BIG term in SSPS Sport - stay tuned to the Rocket for updates on all things sporting!

Keep an eye on the newsletter for weekly updates.

Your Grade 5/6 Teachers

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Japanese – Eriko Miyagi

In Term one, students were introduced to the topic 'Asking Questions' to get to know their friends, such as 'What is your hobby?', 'What is your favorite sport?'

This term, students expand their questions through a 'Guess who' activity. They also practice conversations at a more advanced level of self-introduction.

Hiragana reading/ writing/ speaking assessment is an ongoing activity tested throughout the term.

Music – Glenys Ferguson

In music for year 5 and 6 music, students develop their skills to express themselves in sound or song. They are members of the school choir where they sing a variety of repertoire with attention to making a positive and confident delivery. They interpret music notation and this also includes interpreting graphic scores. They prepare music for presentation to a variety of audiences. They work independently and collaboratively to plan, develop and present their music compositions to fellow class members. They learn to evaluate the effectiveness of these performances, using appropriate music language to describe the music's qualities. They experience music from other cultures and styles.