



# Middle School Information 2017

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February

## Dates:

### ➤ Term 1

31 January – 31 March

### ➤ Term 2

18 April – 30 June

### ➤ Term 3

17 July – 22 September

### ➤ Term 4

9 October – 22 December

## Curriculum Days

18 and 19 April

22 May

## Public Holidays

13 March – Labour Day

25 April – ANZAC Day

12 June – Queens Birthday

7 November – Melbourne Cup

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## Welcome!

The Middle School Team welcome you to a new year at Heany Park Primary School. We look forward to getting to know you and your child throughout the year as we work together to provide engaging and challenging learning opportunities. We encourage you to contact your child's classroom teacher for any information, questions or concerns. If we are busy before or after school please phone or email to make an appointment.

The Middle School teachers operate as a team, working and planning together. We support our students to further develop their initiative, self-discipline and independence as learners whilst nurturing them to develop confidence and a sense of self-worth.

This information book has been created to assist you in understanding some of the things your child will experience this year. There will be a regular Middle School bulletin about learning and teaching to keep you updated. This will be posted on the school website. If you require a hard copy to be sent home please request this via your classroom teacher.

## Communication

All school newsletters, fortnightly learning updates, notices and other information can be accessed via our school website [www.heanyparkps.vic.edu.au](http://www.heanyparkps.vic.edu.au)

Our newsletter and other information can also be accessed via our 'Tiqbiz' program for computers and 'Tiqbiz' app for smartphones, [www.tiqbiz.com](http://www.tiqbiz.com). For important reminders/notifications we use the Tiqbiz app on smartphones as an SMS service. This is our preferred means of communication.

Notices requiring a reply will be sent home as a hard copy. They will also be available electronically on our school website for you to print.

If your child is absent from school, please provide an absent note on return to school. Please inform your classroom teacher and the office in writing should you be planning an extended absence.

The QKR app is also available for school payments eg excursions, sporting events.



## Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

### IB learners are:

Inquirers  
Knowledgeable  
Thinkers  
Communicators  
Principled  
Open-minded  
Caring  
Risk-takers  
Balanced  
Reflective

*“The illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn.”*

## Literacy

Literacy skills are emphasised throughout each day across all curriculum areas.

**Reading and Viewing:** The purpose of reading is to construct meaning from a variety of printed, dramatised, and illustrative texts as well as visual materials. Successful readers use skills and strategies to make sense of text and actively focus and engage with the text they are reading. Teachers explicitly and systematically teach comprehension skills and plan learning experiences to allow students to practise and apply their knowledge using a range of text types. The Reading program is also designed to enable our students to further develop accuracy, fluency and expand their vocabulary.

**Writing:** Students will be given the opportunity to write every day, whether it be personal writing or formal writing, to develop specific skills. These skills include the active process of designing, planning, composing, editing and publishing a range of text types, both fiction and non-fiction. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences, including descriptions, recounts, reports, expositions and narratives. The expectation is for students to write more detailed texts using more sophisticated language forms than they have in previous years. The knowledge of writing techniques will include grammar, punctuation and spelling. The teaching of handwriting also forms part of the program.



**Speaking and Listening:** Students will continue to develop their Speaking and Listening skills. Teachers will expect students to use a clear voice and use an appropriate volume and pace when speaking. Teachers aim to develop confidence, clarity, use of interesting vocabulary, and the ability to present an impromptu or prepared talk on a variety of topics. Students are encouraged to actively listen to instruction, respond appropriately and to understand the conventions of being a member of an audience.

## Numeracy

Students increasingly use terms and symbols to describe computations, measurements and characteristics of objects.

Each lesson includes at least one key learning focus, eg:

Number and Algebra - counting, place value and patterns; Measurement and Geometry - estimating and measuring length, mass, area, capacity and volume, as well as shape and location;

Statistics and Probability - likelihood and interpreting data and creating graphs. Mental computation strategies are explicitly taught to ensure students use efficient mental and written strategies when exploring problems.

## Transdisciplinary

We start the year with activities and tasks which allows your child, the class and teacher to get to know each other. An Essential Agreement will be developed in each classroom. This establishes the expectations and guidelines for how the class will operate and treat each other to ensure everyone can be the best learner possible. It helps us to settle into new routines and habits for the year ahead and set high expectations. This supports the IB Attitudea and high quality teaching and learning for the year.

All learning starts with gathering prior knowledge and misconceptions and designing tasks to build on students' knowledge, understandings, skills and attitudinal development.



## Special Dates

### Semester 1

9 March-School Council AGM

22 March-Harmony Day

5 May- Reading Information Session

9-11 May- NAPLAN

22 – 26 May – Celebration of Learning / Education Week

29 May- Aboriginal Walk Excursion

## IB attitudes and values:

Appreciation

Commitment

Confidence

Co-operation

Creativity

Curiosity

Empathy

Enthusiasm

Independence

Integrity

Respect

Tolerance

This year we have six units of inquiry:

These are detailed on the Yearly Planner which is inserted within this newsletter. You may want to place this on your fridge for easy reference. Please note the dates for opportunities for you to connect with your child's learning.

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## Excursions & Incursions

The Year 4 camp will be at Arrabri Lodge, which is set in a lovely bush environment at Warburton East from 31st July -2nd August. It is a three day camp where the students experience a range of activities including rock-wall climbing, orienteering, archery, the flying fox and a ropes course. A bush dance is held during the Camp and we visit the reptile man on the way home, prior to having lunch at a local picnic spot alongside the Yarra River. Further information will be provided during this semester.

Year 3 students will have an opportunity to attend camp at Phillip Island. It will run from Wednesday 6th September - Friday 8th September. The facilities at the camp are fantastic and we plan a program that allows children to take part in activities such as walking to the beach, trampolining, giant swing, supervised swimming and climbing on a moving rock wall. Further details about the camp, such as expected cost, will be available closer to the date.

Middle School students will participate in a range of educational excursions and incursions during the year. The excursions will relate to the Program of Inquiry. Students will bring home information about the activities, arrangements and permission slips at appropriate times throughout the year.

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## Assessment

Ongoing assessment occurs everyday and informs what is to be taught and learnt next. Teachers conduct a variety of assessment tasks throughout the year. This includes standardised assessment and teacher-devised tasks that determine student achievement for reporting purposes.

All assessments from last year are taken into consideration when planning for learning. Accurate reading data is used to begin student's work in reading groups. Student's reading progress including the strategies they are/are not using and their comprehension is closely monitored. Assessment takes place on an ongoing basis over all lessons. It is used to plan teaching content and group students according to their learning needs.

Teachers will work with students to identify, set and achieve personal learning goals to promote their progress. Students who are identified as requiring further assistance or extension will have an Individual Learning Plan - ILP, Programs or tasks will be provided for school and at home to address student's specific learning needs. Each term students will be encouraged to reflect on their skills, understandings, work habits and effort

In 2008, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy - NAPLAN - commenced in Australian schools. The program continues in 2017 with all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 being assessed using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. At HPPS students in Years 3 and 5 participate in the assessment program. If your child has special circumstances preventing

## Five Essential Elements of the PYP

### Knowledge:

What do we the students to know about?

### Concepts:

What we want students to understand?

### Skills:

What skills want students to be able to do?

### Attitudes:

What we want students to feel, value, demonstrate?

### Action:

How we want students to act?

them from participating, you should discuss these with our school principal, Ms Janet Evison.

## Homework

A copy of our homework policy is available on the school website and will be re-published in the next Whole School Newsletter (16<sup>th</sup> February)

Expectations this year are up to 30 minutes per night, 4 nights per week. The main focus will be on daily reading. Homework may also include the following:

- spelling/word work
- numeracy activities that reinforce classroom concepts
- research, collection of materials/resources and rehearsing presentations to support the classroom inquiries.



## Our Middle School Team



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3/4GW



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