



Middle School Curriculum Newsletter Unit 3

Thursday 25th May 2017

Dates:

26th May: Celebration of Learning Assembly 9.15am

29th May: Excursion to Botanical Gardens

7th June: RSC Performance

12th June: Queens Birthday – No School

13th June: ICAS Writing (Yr 4-6)

27th June: Three Way Conferences

29th June: Three Way Conferences

30th June: Last Day of Term 2.30pm Dismissal

Transdisciplinary Theme

Where We Are In Place and Time

An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationship between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations; from local and global perspectives.

Central Idea

Nations grow through exploration and settlement, which impacts on the Indigenous people.

Key Concepts:

Connection, Change, Causation

An inquiry into:

- Indigenous peoples' connection to country and place
- The impact of exploration on societies
- The effects of relationships between indigenous people and new settlers.

Learner Profile

Principled, Reflective

Approaches to Learning:

During this unit, we will be working on developing the following skills

Social: Adopting a variety of group roles

Research: Formulating questions

Thinking: Dialectical Thought

Communication: Speaking Listening

Summative Task: By the end of the unit, the Middle school students will be able to explain and justify how exploration and settlement has impacted on indigenous people, looking from various perspectives.

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

Literacy

In Literacy,

- We will be perfecting our skills to write persuasive texts by using strong “I” statements and evidence to support our arguments. We will add to this by introducing counter arguments to promote discussion.
- The reading and comprehension strategies we will focus on are cause and effect, which involves the recognition that an effect is what happens and cause is why something happens. Sometimes a cause can have more than one effect.
- Children will also explore, recognise and distinguish between bias- a personal judgement for or against something and prejudice- an unreasonable, intolerant opinion.
- Weekly spelling will continue for homework and we will continue looking at spelling rules and conventions with a specific focus on word endings, such as changing the y to i or adding es to form plurals.

Numeracy

In Numeracy, Middle school will be looking at:

- The perimeter of regular and irregular shapes and investigate how to measure accurately.
- The language of chance including- random, certain, likely and possible. Students will explore a range of chance games and determine their chance of success and what factors influence the chance of winning and losing.
- Common fractions such as quarter, half, three-quarters and fractions with common denominators and then extend understanding by converting fractions to decimals and placing the decimals correctly on a number line.
- Open-ended problem solving tasks using hands on materials. Students will be working collaboratively on these tasks, discovering the best strategies to solve each problem.