



Middle School Information 2021



Tuesday 2nd February

Term Dates

➤ Term 1

27 January – 1 April

➤ Term 2

20 April – 25 June

➤ Term 3

12 July – 17 September

➤ Term 4

4 October – 17 December

Curriculum Days

5 March

19 April

16 August

(these are pupil free days)

OSHClub is open on Curriculum days. Please book through OSH Club

www.oshclub.com.au

Public Holidays

8 March – Labour Day

14 June – Queen's Birthday

2 November – Melbourne Cup

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Welcome!

The Middle School Team welcomes 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 you wish to make a time to meet with your child's teacher, 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 'Learning in the Classroom Newsletters' about learning and teaching to keep you updated. This will be published through COMPASS and posted on the school website.

Communication

COMPASS is our main form of communication with parents. We use this platform to:

- Send newsfeed items and reminders
- Newsletters
- Excursions and Incursions information
- Absent Reminders
- Semester Reports
- Complete payments
- Booking Interviews and
- Emailing teachers

An APP can be downloaded on your phone or you can access COMPASS on a computer.



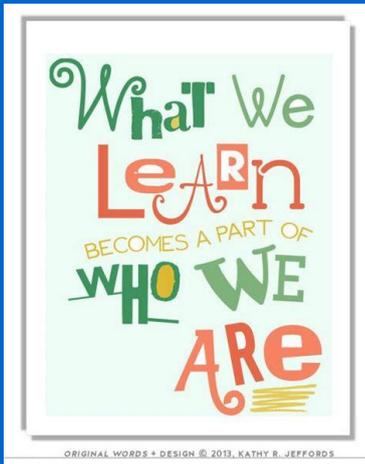
Absent or Extended Holidays

Parent can advise the school and teachers about absences from school due to illness or an appointment through COMPASS.

Please inform your classroom teacher and the office via COMPASS if you are planning an extended holiday.



The **QKR app** is still available for the canteen and possible fundraising events



Special Events:

16 Feb – School Photos

1 Apr – House Cross Country

***23 Apr** – ANZAC Day Ceremony (2.30pm)

***27 May** – Education Week Open Classrooms

22 & 24 June – Three Way Conferences

***16 – 20 Aug** – Science Week

21 Oct – House Athletics

3 and 6 Dec – Senior School Exhibition

8 Dec – Christmas Concert

*These events will be confirmed closer to the date, depending to COVID regulations and guidelines.

Literacy

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

Reading

The purpose of reading is to construct meaning from a variety of printed, dramatised and visual texts. Reading is an essential part of our classroom programs and life. We explicitly teach strategies to help support students to decode, make meaning from and enjoy a variety of texts. Students continue to develop the strategies divided into the areas of Thinking Within the Text, Thinking Beyond the Text and Thinking about the Text.



Writing

Students will be given the opportunity to write every day, personal or formal, to develop specific skills. These skills include the active process of planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing a range of text types. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences, including reports, expositions and narratives. The expectation is for students to write detailed texts using more sophisticated language forms than they have in previous years. The craft of writing will include grammar, punctuation and spelling. The teaching of handwriting also forms an important part of the program.



Speaking and Listening

Students will engage in various tasks to develop their Speaking and Listening skills. These include how to listen effectively, how to ask open questions and how to speak in a manner that engages the audience. Students will be encouraged to use a clear voice and appropriate volume and pace when speaking. Students will be encouraged to develop speaking and listening skills through participation in class discussions and sharing their learning.

Spelling

Students will continue to participate in the SMART Spelling Program. This allows students to have a different amount of words and words of different complexity, but still with a focus on the same spelling pattern. This means one student may be learning the word 'rain' and another the word 'contain' but they're both learning about the diagraph /ai/.

Numeracy



In the Middle School students increasingly use appropriate 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, interpreting data and creating graphs. Mental computation strategies are explicitly taught to ensure students use efficient mental and written strategies when exploring

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



problems. Lessons will often begin with short Number talks which allow classroom conversation around purposefully crafted problems that are solved mentally.

Transdisciplinary

We commence 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. The Essential Agreement is an important part of setting the learning culture within each classroom. It helps us to settle into new routines and habits for the year and sets high expectations. The agreement supports our School Values and high quality teaching and learning for the year.



Over the course of the year the children will explore six units of inquiry under the different Transdisciplinary Themes. Each unit contains a central idea, lines of inquiry, key concepts and learner profile attributes.

The Yearly Planner which is attached to this newsletter provides details of the units of inquiry your child will be investigating this year. 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.

The Thrive Approach

We use The Thrive Approach, a developmental approach, designed to meet the social and emotional developmental needs of all our children. It is informed by established findings in neuroscience; child development theory; attachment theory and research into the importance of play and creativity. Thrive is a specific way of working with all children that helps to develop their social and emotional well-being, enabling them to engage with life and learning. It supports them in becoming more self-assured, capable and adaptable. It can also address any troubling behaviours providing a firm foundation for academic attainment.

At Heany Park Primary School we use a screening tool and activity planning resource called Thrive-Online. This allows us to check that children are working appropriately for their age and to develop the whole group with activities that ensure that they are as emotionally and socially supported as they can be. Thrive-Online will also identify any children in need of extra help. If the screening process suggests that your child would benefit from additional one-to-one support, our Thrive Licensed Practitioner (Sue Houghten) will contact you, and with your consent will carry out a more detailed assessment to develop an action plan that gives specific strategies and activities for supporting your child within our school.

We understand that some circumstances may be sensitive and confidentiality will be paramount at all times when you are discussing your child's needs with us.

SCHOOL VALUES

RESPECT

Being tolerant, caring and supportive, and valuing ourselves and each other

ACCEPTANCE

Acknowledging differences and change with an open mind

INTEGRITY

Being ethical, honest and fair in dealings with others

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Our commitment to ongoing learning to develop skills and knowledge



Sue Houghten
Thrive Practitioner



Excursions & Incursions

Throughout the year, students will have opportunities to learn both within and outside the classroom with a variety of incursions, guest speakers and excursions. These have been planned to enhance and elaborate on the understandings and skills developed throughout our Transdisciplinary learning.

There will be opportunities for parents to be involved in these events along with other whole school activities such as Cross Country, Science Afternoon, House Athletics etc.

Incursion and Excursions already booked for this year include

- Human Body Systems incursion
- Forces in Action incursion
- Camp at Phillip Island

Further information for events throughout the year, will be sent home via COMPASS at appropriate times.

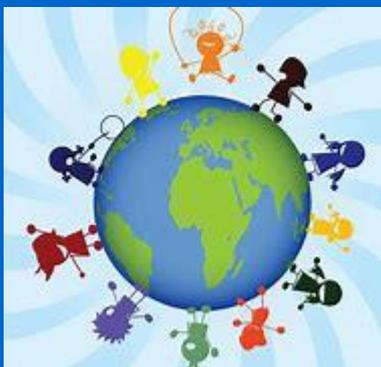
Assessment

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.

Students who are identified as requiring further assistance or extension will have an Individual Development Plan (ILP) prepared for them. 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. Teachers will work with students to identify, set and achieve personal learning goals to promote their progress.

In 2008, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy - NAPLAN - commenced in Australian schools. The program continues this year 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.



Homework Policy

A copy of our homework policy is available on the school website.

Expectations for Middle School 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.

All students have access to Mathletics online, which provides an engaging platform for children to reinforce concepts learnt in class. Mathletics can be accessed via the app or www.mathletics.com

Our Middle School Team



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