



# Middle School Curriculum Newsletter Unit 2



Friday 19 March, 2021

## Dates:

**22- 26 March:** Harmony Week activities (wear Orange on Monday 22 March)

**25 March:** Easter Raffle Free Dress Day

**30 March:** School Photos (rescheduled date)

**1 April: 9.15am** Whole School House Cross Country

**1 April :** End of Term  
**2.30pm Dismissal**

## TERM 2

**19 April: Term 2** Curriculum Day (Student Free Day)

**20 April :** Term Two Commences for students

**23 April:** ANZAC Day Commemorative Assembly

**26 April:** Just Like Me Incursion

**30 April:** School Assembly

**7 May:** District Athletics

**11 May – 21 May** NAPLAN Year 3 and Year 5

## Transdisciplinary Theme

# Sharing the Planet

*An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.*

### Central Idea

Children worldwide encounter a range of challenges, risks and opportunity

### Key Concepts:

Form, Perspective, Connection

### Lines of Inquiry

- Challenges, risks and opportunities that children encounter (local and global)
- How children respond to challenges, risks and opportunities
- Ways in which individuals and organisations work to protect children from risk

### Learner Profile Attributes

Caring, Reflective, Principled and Risk Taker

### Approaches to Learning:

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

### Social Skills:

- Social and Emotional intelligence ( Developing positive interpersonal relationships and collaboration)

### Thinking Skills:

- Critical thinking (Analysing and evaluating issues and ideas, and forming decisions)

## 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

## **Reading**

Students have set up their Reader's Notebook for the year. They have settled into guided reading groups and are meeting regularly with their teacher. We have commenced using a new program from Fountas and Pinnell this year which uses quality picture books as exemplar texts. In the next unit we will be exploring the differences and similarities between fiction and non-fiction texts. We will also look at persuasive texts, which will link to our writing. Students will continue to write letters to share their thinking about reading.

## **Writing**

In Writing we will be focusing on two genre types; narrative and exposition- persuasive. The students will continue to develop their ability to craft pieces as they explore the writing traits of: voice, conventions, text organisation, ideas, sentence fluency and word choice. Students will explore different types of narrative texts including: adventure, fables, myths and fantasy. Through experimentation students will expand their ability to write engaging beginnings, satisfying endings, use personal experiences to communicate a message, describe characters, use literary language and literary devices such as similes and metaphors. For persuasive writing students will be learning that writer's use emotive language to try and convince the reader to agree with one side of an argument. They will use high modality, thinking verbs and evaluative language to persuade readers. Students will be encouraged to develop their ability to revise their own writing to improve the quality of the text.

## **Spelling**

In SMART spelling our focus sounds are:

- Diagraph wr making the /r/ sound as in wrist
- Trigraph que making the /k/ sound as in antique and the graph /k/ as in kitten
- Diagraph ou making the sound /eh/ as in famous
- Diagraph ch making the /sh/ sound as in chef
- Diagraph ai making the sound /a/ as in snail
- The consonant suffix – ment

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## Numeracy

In Numeracy students will be working on  
Measuring length – Students will be using formal and informal units to measure and compare the length of objects and places in the world around them.

Symmetry and transformation – students will identify symmetry in the natural and built environment. They will also identify and describe slides and turns found in our environment.

Fractions – Students will be learning how to model and represent fractions, recognise and explore equivalent fractions, and locating and representing fractions on a number line.

Data representation – Students will select and trial methods for data collection, including choosing suitable survey questions.

They will also be interpreting data by extracting meaning from the information that is presented.

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## Progressive Reports

As we are wrapping up our first unit of inquiry 'Who We Are', you will receive a progressive report for the first 8 weeks of learning based on writing, numeracy and the unit of inquiry. This will be released via Compass on the 1<sup>st</sup> April.