



Middle School Curriculum Newsletter Unit 3

Thursday 13 May, 2021

Dates:

19 May
National Story-time

24 – 28 May
Education Week

31 May – 2 June
IB Evaluation Visit

31 May to 11 June
Intensive Swimming
Program

4 June
School Assembly

14 June
Queen's Birthday
(Public Holiday)

15 June (2.45pm)
34L Celebration of
Learning Assembly

16 June (9.15am)
34A Celebration of
Learning Assembly

17 June (9.15am)
34M Celebration of
Learning Assembly

17 June (2.45pm)
34V Celebration of
Learning Assembly

18 June
Semester 1 reports
available on Compass

22 & 24 June
Three Way Conferences

25 June
Last Day of Term
(2.30pm dismissal)

Transdisciplinary Theme How We Express Ourselves

An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the way in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.

Central Idea:

Celebrations and traditions are expressions of shared beliefs and values.

Key Concepts:

Form, Connection, Perspective

Lines of Inquiry:

- People celebrate for a variety of reasons
- Celebrations and traditions have unique features and symbols
- The meaning people assign to celebrations and traditions

Learner Profile:

Caring, Balanced and Open-Minded

Approaches to Learning:

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

Communication Skills: *Exchanging information (Listening, interpreting and speaking)*

Social Skills: *Interpersonal relationships (Developing positive interpersonal relationships)*

Thinking Skills: *Creative Thinking (Generating novel ideas and considering new perspectives)*

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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 will be exploring the differences and similarities between fiction and nonfiction genres with a focus on the different genres of nonfiction. These include an information narrative, biography, memoir and persuasive. Some students will be starting to work in book clubs or literary circles. They will take on different roles within their group and work on talking about their thinking and asking questions to clarify understanding.

Linked to our persuasive unit on writing they will also spend time exploring persuasive texts and how the author tries to persuade the reader. They will also look at the author's qualifications when reading persuasive texts.

Writing

During writing lessons students will focus on understanding and crafting information reports. Information reports are written to classify and describe factual information about a topic. An information report includes a general opening statement which classifies the topic and includes technical language to further describe the topic. Descriptive information about the topic is organised into paragraphs. Students will explore the language of generalisation, description and comparison or contrast. Students will experiment with present tense and third person voice. Students be encouraged to revise their writing to ensure their intended meaning is clear. Students will also be experimenting with correctly forming letters with Victorian Cursive and experimenting with joining letters.

Spelling

In SMART spelling our focus sounds are:

- Consonant suffix – ly
- Ce as in ice
- Ie as in chief
- Ure as in measure
- Consonant suffix - ness

Numeracy

In Numeracy, students will be working on strategies for solving multiplication and division problems as well as exploring the link between the two processes. They will practice mental strategies such as the split strategy and compensation as well as move onto formal processes when ready. Timetables and the related division fact will continue to be part of regular maths mental sessions. It would be great if you could encourage your child to practice the times table fact they are currently working on in class.

Within the geometry strand, students will explore area and perimeter and their link to multiplication.