



Senior School Curriculum Newsletter Unit 5



Friday 29 August

Dates:

1 Sept: Scienceworks
Excursion

5 Sept: Assembly
2.45pm

11 Sept: School Council

16 Sept: Summer Sport
Day 2

19 Sept:

- Sports and Pizza
Lunch Day
- Assembly 9.00am
- **Dismissal 2.30pm**

TERM 4

6 Oct: Term 4
Commences

10 Oct: Assembly
2.45pm

24 Oct: Grandparents
and Special Friends Day

31 Oct: Assembly
2.30pm

4 Nov: Melbourne Cup
(Public Holiday)

5 Nov: Student Free
Day

7 Nov: Exhibition for
the Community

10 Nov: Exhibition for
the Students

Transdisciplinary Theme

How the World Works: PYP Exhibition

An inquiry into the understandings of the world and phenomena through:

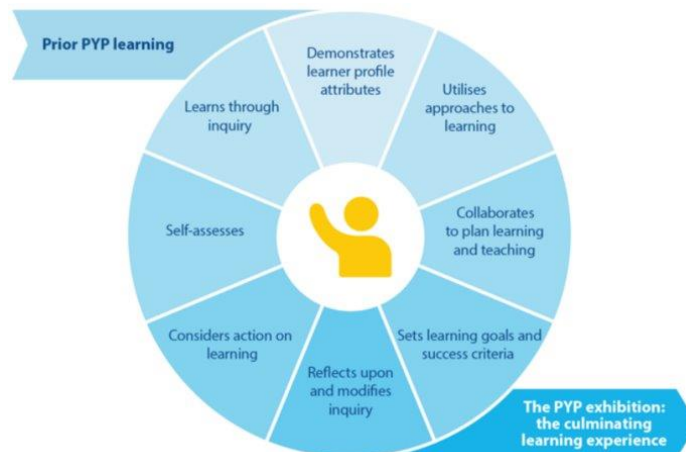
- Patterns, cycles, systems
- Diverse practices, methods, and tools
- Discovery, design, innovation, possibilities, and impacts

This year, students will develop their own Central Idea and Lines of Inquiry, situated within the transdisciplinary theme of *How the World works* for the Exhibition.

As they refine their personal area of focus students will draw on all key concepts. Across the PYP Exhibition experience, they will draw on all approaches to learning skills and learner profile attributes.

What is the PYP Exhibition?

The PYP Exhibition is a unique and integral part of the IB Primary Years Programme. It is a student-driven inquiry project that allows students to explore, document, and share their understanding of a real-world issue or opportunity that is of personal significance to them. This process involves extensive research, critical thinking, and reflection, culminating in a presentation to the school community.



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

Purpose and Goals:

- **In-depth Inquiry:** Students engage in an in-depth, collaborative inquiry, demonstrating independence and responsibility for their own learning.
- **Personal Development:** Engaging in such a self-driven and long-term project is a challenging task for students. In addition to classroom guidance, all students will be matched with a personal mentor to provide support. They will develop self-management skills around time management, emotional regulation and resilience, even as they investigate their chosen topic.
- **Skill Application:** It provides an opportunity for students to synthesise and apply their learning from previous years, showcasing their knowledge, skills, and attitudes developed throughout the PYP.
- **Community Engagement:** The Exhibition encourages students to explore multiple perspectives and take action on issues that matter to them, fostering a sense of community and global citizenship.

Role of Parents:

Parents play a crucial role in supporting their children throughout the Exhibition process. Your encouragement and involvement can greatly enhance their learning experience. Here are some ways you can support your child:

- **Encourage Inquiry:** Ask questions about their project and encourage them to think deeply about their topic.
- **Provide Resources:** Help them find resources, materials and organisation strategies that can aid their research.
- **Offer Feedback:** Provide constructive feedback on their work and presentations.
- **Give Reassurance:** At times, the Exhibition process may seem overwhelming. Help the to develop their resilience, recognising their progress and making time for their well-being.
- **Celebrate Efforts:** Celebrate their efforts and achievements, regardless of the outcome.

Event Details:

The Exhibition will take place on the 7th and 10th of November in the Senior BER building. We invite the community to attend on the **7th of November** to witness the incredible work our students have accomplished. This event is not only a celebration of their hard work but also an opportunity for them to share their learning journey with the wider community.



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Literacy

In our next Unit of Inquiry, students will be exploring reading through a wide variety of texts, both in print and digital formats. They will learn strategies to help them make sense of what they read—whether that’s understanding the main ideas, making inferences, or thinking more deeply about the author’s message. As part of this unit, students will also practise reading in digital environments. They will build important skills to search for, evaluate, and interpret information online, helping them become confident and critical readers in a world where so much of what we read is digital.

Literature Circles will provide opportunities for students to work together to share ideas, ask questions, and discuss different perspectives. This collaborative approach not only helps them think more deeply about texts but also strengthens their communication skills.

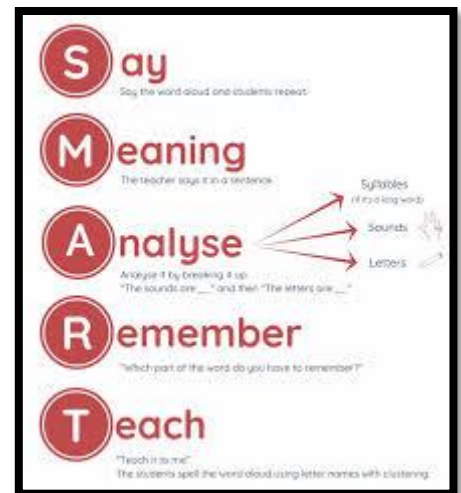
Alongside these learning experiences, students will continue to enjoy time for reading purely for pleasure. This is a chance for them to follow their interests, discover new authors and genres, and develop a lifelong love of books and storytelling.



Spelling

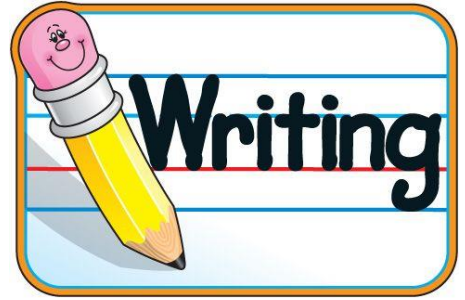
Students will continue to build their understanding of the English language through the **SMART Spelling** approach. This is a structured, evidence-based program that supports accurate spelling while also deepening students’ awareness of how language works.

As part of this learning, students will explore word components such as prefixes, digraphs, and suffixes. By recognising these patterns and breaking words into meaningful parts, they gain a stronger understanding of how words are constructed. This not only helps with spelling but also expands their vocabulary and strengthens their communication in both writing and speaking. Families can support this learning at home by talking with their child about new or unfamiliar words, exploring their meanings and origins together. These conversations help to reinforce classroom learning and nurture curiosity about language.



Writing

During our Unit of Inquiry – How the World Works, students in Grades 5 and 6 will refine their skills in the three key purposes of writing — to persuade, inform, and entertain (P.I.E.). These writing styles are essential as they help students express opinions, share knowledge, and engage their audience in meaningful and creative ways.



In addition to developing their writing for different purposes, students will also focus on important research skills, including **summarising, synthesising, and paraphrasing** information. These are valuable life skills that support critical thinking and effective communication.

Students will also participate in targeted lessons on **language conventions**, such as:

- Sentence structure
- Punctuation
- Grammar
- Spelling
- Paragraphing

These elements will help students strengthen their writing and prepare to present their work confidently and creatively at the exhibition.

Numeracy

In Maths, students will be engaging with a range of number and algebra concepts designed to strengthen their understanding and application of mathematical ideas. They will learn how to confidently convert between fractions, decimals, and percentages, applying these skills to problem-solving and real-life contexts such as money, measurement, and data.



Students will explore number patterns and develop algebraic thinking, using rules, expressions, and equations to describe relationships and make predictions. A focus on place value will help extend their ability to work with very large and very small numbers, while investigations into different types of numbers, including prime, composite, square, and triangular numbers, will encourage curiosity and critical thinking.

Through hands-on tasks, discussions, and problem-solving activities, students will not only practise core skills but also build a deeper appreciation for the connections. Finally, students will work with the Cartesian plane to plot points, describe positions, and interpret relationships between coordinates. This foundational skill supports future learning in algebra and graphical analysis. Throughout the term, students will engage in hands-on tasks, collaborative problem-solving, and real-world applications to build confidence and fluency in these key areas of numeracy.

Respectful Relationships

Positive Coping

In our Respectful Relationships program this term, students will focus on the topic of Positive Coping. This unit is designed to help students build emotional resilience and develop strategies for managing challenging situations in healthy and constructive ways.

Through a range of interactive activities and discussions, students will:

- Explore a variety of coping strategies to help them manage strong or overwhelming emotions
- Learn how self-talk—the way we speak to ourselves—can influence both how we feel and how we respond to different situations

By developing these skills, students are better equipped to navigate everyday challenges, build emotional awareness, and support their own wellbeing and that of others

Students will commence Topic 4 Problem Solving in Term 4. More details in Unit of Inquiry Six Newsletter.

