



Middle School Curriculum Newsletter Unit 4



Thursday 19th July 2018

Dates:

23rd Jul - Disaster Resilience Incursion (3DJ & 3/4M)

24th Jul- Parent Information Session on Numeracy 9.00am

26th Jul - Disaster Resilience Incursion (3/4W & 4CK)

21st Aug - Digital Learning Parent Information Session 9.00am

24th Aug - Middle Celebration of Learning Assembly 2.30pm

27th Aug - Book Week Parade 9.00am

4th Sept - Cyber Busters Incursion

Reminder all excursion, incursion and sport notices will now be on Compass

(No hard copies will be sent home)

Transdisciplinary Theme

How the World Works

An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and the environment.

Central Idea

Natural phenomena shape the pattern of life on earth and identify the planet.

Key Concepts:

Form, Change, Connection

An inquiry into:

- The natural world and its laws
- Systems that shape the planet
- Human responses to Earth's changes

Learner Profile:

Knowledgeable, Inquirers

Approaches to Learning:

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

Thinking Skills:

- Comprehension

Social Skills:

- Co-operating

Research Skills:

- Presenting research findings and Planning

Communication Skills:

- Writing, speaking and listening

Summative Task: By the end of the unit, the Middle School students will be able to investigate a natural phenomenon, explain how and why it occurs, how it has changed or changes the Earth and how humans have adapted to this phenomenon to minimise future impact.

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

Writing

One of our writing foci will be explanation. An explanation explains how or why something occurs. Students will also look at information reports. They will expand on their previous knowledge of this genre and develop skills to include diagrams and subheadings in their reports.

Spelling

Students will be looking at prefixes, suffixes, silent letters and word origins.

Reading

Fluency will continue to be emphasised in regular reading sessions to develop the students into fluent readers who have high automatic word recognition, and the skills to sound out unfamiliar words. Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately, quickly, and with expression. Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. When fluent readers read silently, they recognise words automatically. They group words quickly to help them gain meaning from what they read.

We will also look at analyzing a text to expand on students' vocabulary, an important part of reading comprehension. The knowledge of words and word meanings is paramount to comprehension of the passage. As students get older, we expect them to read text that is more complex which means that the student's vocabulary must expand and grow.

Numeracy

In Numeracy we are working on multiplication and division and how they are linked. We will explore fact families to help consolidate the understanding between the two processes.

Measurement strands undertaken will include perimeter and area. Students will work out areas of shapes, formally and informally. This will include making a square metre out of newspaper and using it to measure the area of real life spaces. The link to multiplication will be explored as students move onto working with the formula for solving area.

Location, including reading maps, using scales and compass points will be covered during this unit. We will look at areas on maps where natural phenomena occur, such as fault lines that cause earthquakes.

Students will create their own maps using legends and scales. Under the strand Statistics and Probability students will explore chance and conduct experiments to determine whether specific outcomes are more or less likely to occur. They will begin to look at the link between fractions and percentages and the chance of occurrences.