



Middle School Curriculum Newsletter Unit 5



Thursday 30th August 2018

Dates:

3rd Sept: Footy Walkathon (11.30 – 1.00pm)

4th Sept: Cyber busters Incursion

12th Sept: Interschool Round Robin Summer Day 2

13th Sept: Night to Shine Concert 6.30pm

17th – 19th Sept: Year 3 and 4 Camp Arrabri Lodge

21st Sept: End of Term 3 (2.30pm Dismal)

8th Oct: Term 4 Commences

10th Oct: Knox Division Athletics

30th Oct: Whole School House Athletics

6th Nov: Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Transdisciplinary Theme

How We Organise Ourselves

An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organisations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on human kind and the environment.

Central Idea

Developments in communication impact the way people access information and connect.

Key Concepts:

Function, Change, Responsibility

An inquiry into:

- ✓ The development of communication systems
- ✓ New technologies change interconnectedness
- ✓ Our responsibility in a virtual and digital world

Learner Profile:

Principled

Approaches to Learning:

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

Thinking: Application

Self-Management: Safety and Health Lifestyle

Communication: Reading, Listening, Writing and Viewing

Summative Task: By the end of the unit, Middle School students will create a graphic organiser showing how people access information in the 21st century and explain the impact it has had on communication.

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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 focus

Students will be learning about synthesizing. This encourages them to adjust present understandings to accommodate new knowledge as they read. Students will build on the skills to express changes in ideas or opinions in a text and justify them with evidence from the text.

Writing Genre focus: Discussion

The Purpose: To examine more than one side of an issue

General Structure:

- ✓ Opening Statement (How does the writer feel about the topic?)
- ✓ Arguments 'for' (arguments for the topic)
- ✓ Arguments 'against' (Arguments against the topic)
- ✓ Concluding Statement (How does the writer feel about the topic now?)

In conjunction with this focus students will continue to have free writing sessions included in the weekly planner.

Spelling/grammar focus

As well as student identified needs these will include

- ✓ Present tense sensing verbs eg: feel, believe, like, prefer
- ✓ Detailed noun groups - A noun group identifies the person or thing in the text. It answers the questions: What? Who? To whom? about whom?
- ✓ Silent letters eg bomb, thumb, write, knitting
- ✓ Third-person pronouns (e.g. him, her, it, they, them) rather than first-person pronouns eg I, we, me, us

Numeracy

Students will continue building on their knowledge of the link between fractions and decimals using their knowledge of place value to extend to tenths and hundredths. For example, $\frac{3}{10}$ is equal if 0.3.

We will continue to explore the concept of equivalent fractions, for example $\frac{4}{8}$ is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{6}$ is equal to $\frac{1}{3}$.

Problem solving strategies will continue to be explicitly taught and students given the opportunity to consolidate these skills. This unit will see students experiment with

- Working backwards
- Trial and error
- Logical reasoning
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As part of the measurement and geometry strand students will explore angles – where we see them in real life, the different types of angles and how to measure them.

Students will revise time and work on converting between units of time and reading time accurately on digital and analogue clocks. We will also look at 24 hour time.