



Middle School Curriculum Newsletter Unit 6



Thursday 8th November 2018

Dates:

19th Nov: Melbourne Zoo Excursion

27th Nov: Parent and Volunteers Morning Tea 11.00am – 11.45am

13th Dec: End of Year Christmas Concert

21st Dec: Final Assembly 9.00am

21st Dec: Last day of the year. 1.30pm dismissal

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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

People can make choices to support the sustainability of the Earth's resources

Key Concepts: Perspective, Responsibility, Reflection

An inquiry into:

- Earth's natural resources: renewable and non-renewable resources
- How people's behavior affects the environment
- The balance between meeting human needs and the use of limited resources

Learner Profile:

Open-minded and Caring

Approaches to Learning:

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

Thinking Skills: Evaluation

Social Skills: Resolving conflict

Adopting a variety of group roles

Research Skills: Interpreting data

Recording data

Communication Skills: Time management

Informed choices

Summative Task: By the end of the unit, Middle School students will be able to explain, justify and give evidence to why there are better alternatives to non-renewable resources for the environment

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

Synthesizing – This involves combining new information from their reading with existing knowledge in order to form new ideas or interpretations.

Analyzing texts – this will carry over from the last unit and students will extend to examining how descriptive language adds to enjoyment or understanding of a text.

Inferring - Inferring character's feelings and motivations through reading their dialogue and what other characters say about them
Inferring the big ideas or themes of a text and discuss how they are applicable in people's lives today

Demonstrating understandings of characters using evidence to support statements

Writing Genre focus: Narrative

Students will be revisiting narratives and refining their skills in areas they have identified to improve. These include grammatical areas such as using paragraphs effectively and correct punctuation.

Students are also being encouraged to make their writing more interesting for the reader. This is achieved by adding description and dialogue to their writing.

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

Spelling/grammar focus

We will be revising some of the sounds that have been identified through testing as being challenging to some of the students.

These include

Oi/oy sound as in boy

Ou/ow as in blouse

Oo/ew as in few

Numeracy

Students will be working on reading time to the minute on digital and analogue clocks. They will also be learning to convert between units of time. For example, how many minutes to an hour etc. They will also look at basic timetables and calculate lapsed time.

As part of measurement they will be exploring the difference between volume and capacity using formal and informal instruments. They will measure the volume and capacity of objects using correct units of measurement, such as litres and millilitres and cm³.

We will look at symmetry in the natural environment and create symmetrical patterns, pictures and shapes.