



MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING UNIT NEWSLETTER TERM 4 2018



Middle School families will have realised how quickly the year has flown by as the children have already had their wonderful camping experience. The grade 3/4s had a great few days at Phillip Island. A special thank you to all our wonderful parent volunteers who assisted at this camp.

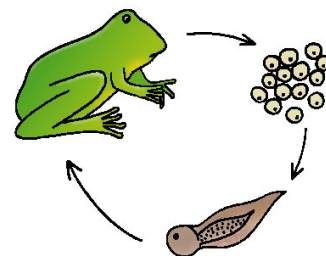
Unit Focus

This term we will be reflecting on our time on camp, along with the environmental conservation and geography of Phillip Island. Students will investigate how they can reduce their individual carbon footprint on the earth. During the term, there will also be a large focus on digital literacy, cyber safety, using coding and robotics, and being a good digital citizen.

Life Education Van

The Life Education Van made its annual visit to Sherbourne from October 9th through to October 11th.

The Middle School participated in the unit titled 'Cyberwise'. This module had a particular focus on cyber safety. Parents are encouraged to attend the Cybersafety evening on Thursday October 25 at 6.30pm.



Transition Program

The 2018 Transition program will take place during November and December. This important program allows students to spend valuable learning time in their 2019 areas of the school. Having the opportunity to participate in lessons in their new areas helps contribute to a smooth transition process. During these transition sessions the children will not be assigned to their 2019 teachers.

Swimming

The swimming program at the Yarra Swim School started on Wednesday October 17th. All details for this program are on Compass. Swimming lessons occur on Wednesday each week and conclude on November 14th. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to assist us.

Homework

The homework program will continue throughout this term and we would like all reading, spelling, and times tables records to be filled in as usual. Mathletics is such a valuable computer maths program as it enables children to work at their own individual levels at home and at school. Try to make time each week for this.



Maths

The Maths program for Term 4 will focus on division, tables testing, mapping, fractions and decimals, measurement, area and perimeter, capacity and volume, operations and problem solving, angles, symmetry, chance and data. Maths will also be integrated across our units of study.

English

Our spelling program will continue with word families, in particular contractions, compound words, diphthongs and tenses. The children will be tested weekly on a set of words. The strategies that children use to learn spelling will continue to be an important element of the weekly spelling program. Handwriting lessons will continue with the Grade 3s working towards their joining licences and the Grade 4s working towards their pen licences.

We will be reading both factual and fictional texts, concentrating on the connections we can make between our reading and our own lives and ideas. Comprehension at various levels is going to be a key focus that we will be developing with our kids. The children will learn to summarise their reading and ask a range of questions about texts. VCOP and Talk Homework will continue throughout this term. Our main teaching focus will be information texts, recounts, persuasive texts and poetry.

We look forward to another busy and most rewarding term for the Middle School students.

Yours sincerely,

Marcelle Herrick, Elissa Kilfoyle and Amy Eades



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIALIST NEWSLETTER TERM 4 2018

VISUAL ARTS

Andrea Allen

The students have started the term focusing on design and construction using papier mache as their media. We will be looking at art work from different cultures this term. The students will get a chance to compare different pieces of work and use these to as inspiration for their own creations. A range of media including painting, drawing, construction and use of recycled materials will be used.

The students will be involved in an exciting project focusing on using recycled bottle tops to create permanent new whole school art piece outside the music room later in the term.

We always appreciate donations of craft, construction and recycled materials. If you have anything you think may be useful to our art classes, please bring them down to the Art room (this excludes bottles that contained any chemicals, egg cartons or toilet rolls).

JAPANESE

Andrea Walter

Students in the Middle School area will attend Japanese classes on Tuesday this term. An awareness of the different Japanese writing scripts will continue to be developed and they are doing well identifying whether they are Hiragana, Katakana or Kanji. They will work on their Hiragana reading and writing skills and we are enjoying using a variety of activities to develop these. Listening, reading, speaking and listening activities will be based around the theme of Location. New direction/location vocabulary will be taught and sentence structures allowing them to say in a variety of cultural scenarios. We will be learning a song to sing at Sherbourne Carols Night.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Rebecca Howitt

In term 4, the Middle School children will take part in one fifty-minute Physical Education skills lesson on Thursday morning. On Fridays after lunch, a sport session will run, beginning with Community Sport involving Eltham Cricket Club, Greensborough Hockey Club and Wildcats basketball. This an excellent opportunity to experience sport from sports clubs in our local community. Each child will have a session with each sporting group.

All Students need runners, their hat and water bottle for PE and sport. (Hats Jan –April, Sept-Dec)

In PE this semester we will concentrate on:

Netball skills – throwing, catching, shooting, balance, teamwork and positions on the court

and

Tennis Skills- hitting, serving and moving on the court.