



Grade 5/6 Newsletter

May 17th, 2019

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 14th May - Friday 24th May
NAPLAN begins Yr 5 students only

Saturday 18th May 9am - 2pm
Election, Yr 6 BBQ & Cake Stall



Monday 20th May 9am - 11am
School Open Morning

Mon 10th June PUBLIC HOLIDAY:
Queen's Birthday



Thursday 13th June
Yr 5/6 Equestrian Sports Excursion
(approx. cost \$5.00)



19th – 21st June
Yr 5/6 Sovereign Hill Camp



Fri 28th June
End of Term, early dismissal 2:30pm



Monday 15th July
Term 2 Commences

Term 2!

Dear Parents,

Our Grade 5/6 students have been working hard this term, and we are proud of the way they are taking responsibility for their learning, taking on new challenges, showing resilience and handing their homework in on time!

This term our students have begun "Standing Tall", a well-being program developed and run by Yale on Thursdays. We are very fortunate having Yale on our team this year!

Our students have been studying hard in their core learning areas of literacy and maths, and have had wonderful opportunities for learning in all their rotation subjects and specialist areas.

Congratulations to all our Year 5s who are weathering the new NAPLAN online. We have chosen as a school to continue the remainder of NAPLAN testing for this year, as paper based tests. Testing will be finalized on Friday 24th May.

We look forward to seeing as many parents and families as possible on Election Day, either helping to cook and sell sausages, or buying and eating them!

Please continue to inform us of celebrations, issues, problems or questions that may arise. Email is an easy and effective way of keeping in touch. We can also arrange a suitable time to meet to discuss any issues with you.

Please remember that during a busy day teaching your students, we don't always get to check and access our email immediately, so if there is anything urgent please call school on 97567463.

What We Are Learning In Grade 5/6!

Literacy

In both reading and writing we have been examining and creating persuasive texts. We began our term with several class debates, which enabled us to practice developing arguments, both for and against a topic. We explored backing our ideas with evidence and examples from our experience.

In reading we have studied the use of structure, paragraphing and persuasive language. We are practicing using these techniques in our writing. Some of the devices we have used include strong emotive language, rhetorical questions, rule of 3, alliteration, exaggeration and modality.



We are continuing to follow the writing process, with a focus on thorough planning before we begin our first draft.

In the second half of this term we will be learning to read, summarise, find key information in, and write information texts. This will tie in with our Inquiry unit on Australian History - immigration from the Gold Years to last century.

Book Circles

Each Wednesday morning grade 5/6 students participate in a Book Circle - a feature of our 5/6 reading program. Students prepare and present to a small group of 4 or 5 students, work based on a shared reading experience. Students set their own reading goals each week and are expected to spend 10—15 minutes planning for their presentation.

While time is given in class to complete both reading and tasks, sometimes students may need to bring their book circle novels home as part of their daily reading homework.

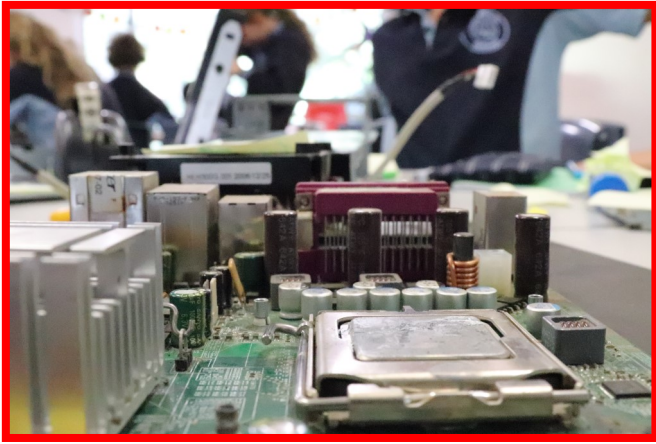
On a Thursday, we have been practicing the conventions of our language, including spelling, the correct use of commas and speech marks.

Digital Technology

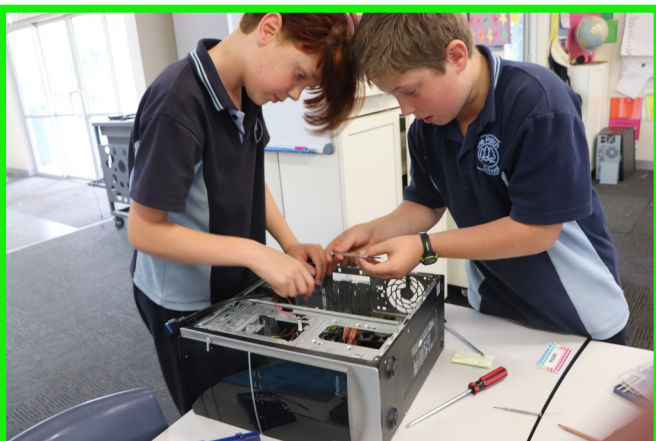
Many thanks to all the parents who sent in old computers for our grade 5/6 students to disassemble, identify and label. Students learnt a great deal throughout the process, both pulling apart and putting together the components of a computer. All our students were part of our own "Kids Teaching Kids" activity, consolidating their learning by sharing and presenting to all of the students from Grade Prep to 4. They received high praise from teaching staff and students - well done to all!

This term we are learning to code using the "Scratch" programming tool. We have learnt how to create, move and manipulate "Sprites" and hope to program our own digital game by the end of term. While we use an offline version of "Scratch" at school, "Scratch" is available online (or for a free download for off line use) at <https://scratch.mit.edu/>.



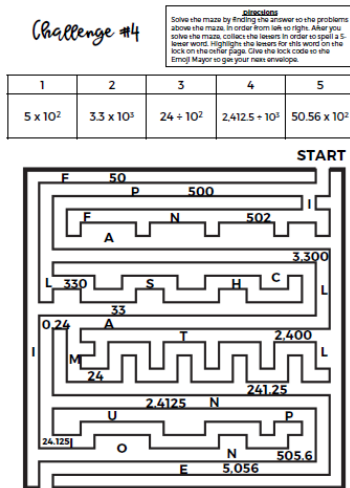
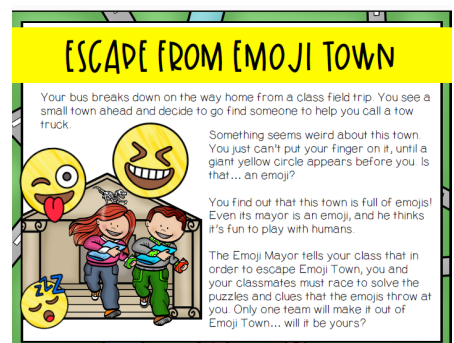


Digital Technology - Kids Teaching Kids

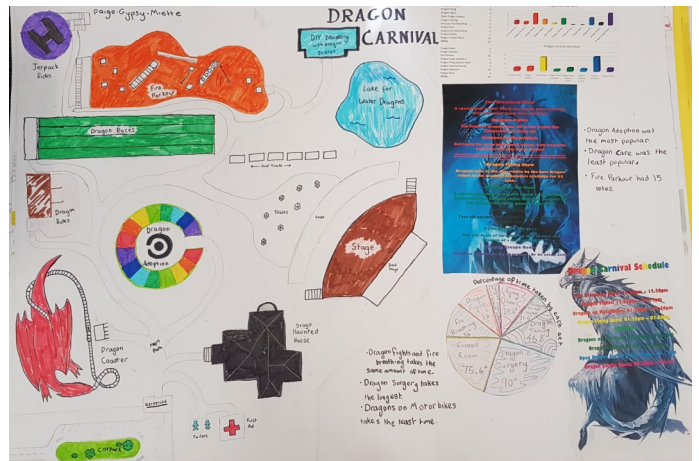


Numeracy

During the later part of Term 1, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, students explored place value, prime numbers and factors. We investigated decimal place value and used decimals to add, subtract and multiply. We participated in a decimal “Escape Room” challenge.



On Thursdays, students were involved in reading timetables, and telling the time both on an analogue clock and in 24 hour time. They completed a project involving timetabling, and calculating durations and the passing of time, for a carnival / theme park of their own choice.



This term our focus is on the 4 operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have been focusing on division, and the different strategies involved in identifying and calculating division problems. We are also exploring strategies involved in problem solving, particularly where the problem is expressed in words.

Once again we stress that it is important that students are regularly practising their times table. We ask that you encourage your children at home to do this on a consistent basis. Quick recognition of times tables are needed to perform both simple and complex multiplication and division processes, and will be a vital tool for your child throughout their schooling. All grades usually begin each maths lesson with a times table challenge.

Japanese

The Grade 5/6s have just finished revising all 46 hiragana characters. It's been a huge task, but most students now can confidently read and recognise the basic Japanese alphabet.



Next week we will begin a new topic, a Content and Language Integrated Learning unit that compliments the student's inquiry unit in their classrooms. The students will be comparing Edo period Japan and gold rush Australia. Students will learn the history of the two countries at a similar period in history, comparing and contrasting the experiences of everyday people. Students will as a class write a report on the day in the life of someone in Japan in Japanese. They will then write their own report in Japanese about a day in the life of someone on the Ballarat gold fields, based on their experiences at Sovereign Hill on camp.

This unit is challenging and exciting, with most of the unit being instructed in Japanese. I look forward to helping the students push themselves beyond what they believed capable in Japanese class. Jess

Philosophy

In Philosophy during Term 1, we explored the concepts of leadership and kindness. In Term 2 we are thinking about the concepts of right and wrong. We will be looking at decision making, and looking for the good in our selves and our lives. Students have participated in rich discussions, listening, exploring, expressing and challenging ideas.

Inquiry

Our inquiry focus for the term is History. This gives us knowledge, understanding and appreciation of people and ideas from the past.

In Grades 5 and 6, students study colonial Australia in the 1800s and the development of Australia as a nation, particularly after 1900. Students learn about what life was like for different groups of people in the colonial period including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. They examine significant events and people, political and economic developments, social structures, and settlement patterns. Students learn about the way of life of people who migrated to Australia and their contributions to Australia's economic and social development. They identify different types of migration, the factors that influence migration and how immigration policy has shaped Australian society.

As part of the unit, Students will be attending a 3 day camp at Sovereign Hill. This gives the students an opportunity to experience what life was like in colonial Australia first hand and learn more about the people who came to seek their fortune. Students will also be completing a project in class and at home. They will be required to interview someone who has migrated to Australia and document their journey. More details about the project will come home in the next few weeks.



Standing Tall



The Standing Tall program promotes self esteem, awareness, respect and cohesion through a martial arts perspective. The basis of the program is to use physical exercise to engage students, and constantly link these with mental and social skills. Throughout the program, students become more aware of who they are and how they can promote positive interactions with others.

The program is designed to prepare students for challenges they may face in their transition to high school. It focusses on empowering both the group and the individual to combat schoolyard bullying, with personal safety being the highest priority.

Some of the topics include: mental strength, body language, valuing diversity, following intuition and goal setting. Basic self defence skills are taught to provide students with the tools they may need if boundaries are crossed. Boys and Girls groups are run separately to promote a non-threatening environment where students can develop a new skill set while exploring their identity and relationships with others.

Science

Last term the Grade 5/6s concentrated on all things Light! We looked at forms of light, - shadows, shape of light and how it travels.

This term we are working on Earth and Space. We are looking at the movement of the Sun, how the Earth is round, and later in the term investigating Natural Disasters.



Term 2 SPORTS REPORT!

In Sport this term we have been busy working on **Ball Skills and Movement**. We have been practising passing, moving the ball as a team, catching skills, and ball sports.

Interschool Sports

We will be entering teams in the **Inter School Sport program**. We are finalising our teams and the tryouts will be against other schools in our District. We will let you know the dates when they become available.

Cross Country

District Cross Country will be on 24th May at Cardinia Reservoir. We will be emailing the parents of those students who will be invited to run in this event. **Well done** to all our Grade 5/6s who ran in our Cross Country here at school, and we wish all the runners representing our school the best of luck on the 24th!

District Athletics

Unfortunately our District Athletics Day was cancelled due to the weather. The new date will be on **31st July, which is in Term 3**. So we have plenty of time to prepare for all our events.

Vic Trials

Harlo Cook participated in the Victorian Trials for Basketball at the Knox Basketball Stadium. Well done on such a great effort Harlo!!

Liam Sturt also participated in the trials for AFL at Wheelers Hill. Liam enjoyed the day and the opportunity to try his skills up against the very best. The trainers and coaches were excellent, and Liam learnt a lot from the day.

Josh Dawson participated in the Soccer trials in Berwick. On a very wet day, in trying conditions, Josh did very well and learnt lots of skills and team strategies. Well done for reaching the 2nd round!!

We look forward to a busy term of sporting achievements from our students!



Senior Athletics Carnival

Music News Term 2

Music News

This term we have some wonderful opportunities for students to take part in.

Grade 5/6 Vocal Ensemble

We would like to enter a grade 5/6 group in the vocal ensemble of Talent Stars (a competition held annually in the Monbulk College Theatre). This ensemble is open to all grade 5/6 students. Rehearsals are on Thursdays during second play in the music room. Students who would like to be involved will need to be available to perform on Saturday 22nd June (evening).

Recorder Ensemble

I have started a recorder ensemble on Wednesday during first play for students who would like to learn more recorder and play in a group. Students are encouraged to bring their own recorder, but if this is not possible a limited number of recorders are available to borrow.

Senior Choir – Grades 3-6

Senior Choir is on Thursday afternoons from 3-3.30pm. Open to all students who love to sing.

Garden Concert – Thursday 30th May

Come and join us in the garden for some lovely music!

Our Choirs and some soloists will be performing in a concert on our garden stage on Thursday 31st May at 3pm.

Parents and friends all welcome to attend. If it is raining we will hold the concert in the school hall.

Ukulele Festival

Our Ukulele players with teacher Jess Dunn are looking forward to playing at the Ukulele Festival on Sunday 19th May.

Leanne Barton, Music Teacher

5/6A Drumming Performance

Today the 10th of May grade 5/6A did a wonderful drumming performance. We did three parts of drumming. We also improvised and some of us did solos. It was a spectacular assembly and if you weren't there you missed out big time.
Hayden

Today at assembly grade 5/6A did a drumming performance. I had butterflies but I'm glad I did it. It was split into three parts. First we played our piece, second we were put into three groups - each played an African rhythm, and third we had solos in between the beats.
James

Today the 10th of May we performed at assembly with our drums and played some African music. I felt nervous but it was really fun! I love playing music but I could have done a little better. I also did a solo along with nine others.

Brigitte

Everybody loved our performance and I think we did pretty good. I felt spectacular and I never knew it would go so well. I really like how we had three different parts and everyone did really well. The ten people that did the solos also did very amusing beats. I really enjoyed it!

Jade



Tissues

With winter approaching, all grades are in desperate need of more tissues in the classroom!

If you could pop an extra box of tissues in your shopping this week and send it to school with your child it will be greatly appreciated!



GRADE 5/6 CAMP

SOVEREIGN HILL

Wednesday 19th - Friday 21st June



Please send Medical Forms in ASAP

Payments due in full by:

Tuesday 28th May, 2019 via QKR

HOMEWORK

In Grade 5/6 we encourage students to be reading **every day** in order to continue developing a life-long habit. This could include independent reading/ reading to someone such as a parent or younger sibling/co-reading with a parent or parent reading to the student.

Our expectation for homework for Grade 5/6 students on a weekly basis is:

- **Student diaries to be filled in with evidence of reading at least 4 times during the week this includes the title and number of pages read.**
- **Maths tasks assigned by the teacher, which could include a worksheet or Mathletics tasks.**
- **Spelling activities including: Look, say, cover, write check, Thrass, writing words in sentences.**
- **Reading Circle preparation if not completed in class.**

Homework is expected to be completed independently by students but supported by parents. Homework will be assigned on a **Tuesday** and returned the following **Monday** to be checked.

Students who DO NOT complete their homework 3 times in a term will have to attend Marmook for on 3 occasions to complete the assigned homework.

Farewell to Oliver, Bas and Sarah!

We wish the Zaccaria Family all the very best, as they head off for their next life adventure in sunny Queensland.

We will miss you!



If you have any issues/concerns or just want to meet with any of us for a chat about your child, please feel free to contact us via email. We are always happy to make a time to meet with you.

The Grade 5/6 Team

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