



Grade 5/6 Newsletter

February 21st, 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 22nd February
Assembly 9:00am

Friday 28th February
Monitors Assembly 9.00am

Friday 6th March
Assembly 9:00am

Monday 9th March
Labour-Day-Public Holiday



Thursday 12th March
Gr 6 Cup-cake Fundraiser for
Graduation

Friday 13th March
Assembly 9:00am

Thursday 19th March
3-6 Athletics Carnival

Friday 20th March
Assembly 9:00am

Friday 27th March
Assembly 9:00am
Last Day Term 1



A Great Start to 2020!

A huge congratulations to our 5/6 students on making such a positive start to 2020. We have seen many examples of Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Resilience displayed within our community. The perfect start to a busy year!



We look forward to working with your children this year and the successes and developments the year brings.

Communication between home and school is essential for a successful year.

We encourage you to keep us informed about celebrations, issues, problems or questions that may arise during the year. 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

We've made a positive start to our reading journey in Grade 5/6 this year. Our students have shown a good deal of enthusiasm when selecting new books in our library sessions and I have already had several interesting conversations on the way up to drop off with students who have told me all about their favourite books.

As part of our literacy program in Grade 6, we engage in 4 scheduled reading sessions throughout the week. These lessons focus on different aspects of reading including; strategies for independent reading, whole class discussions, conferencing with teachers, reading comprehension, questioning, inferring and making connections. We have revised our literacy circle roles after receiving feedback from our students and are working on familiarizing ourselves with some new ways to explore novels.

This term all three of our grades will be reading the book "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio as their class novel. We have read it several times and am just as excited to be reading it again this year with a new cohort of students. This is a beautiful novel that centers on the themes of friendship, acceptance and above all else kindness. It is a moving story with messages that we hope will stay with our students for a long time after we have finished reading it.

We have started our term by exploring our 'reading truths' and asking the question 'what keeps me reading?'. We are firm believers that everyone can develop a love of reading if they only find the right material. Some of the students were surprised to learn that our reading journeys at home with our own kids includes reading Pokémon cards, instructions on video games, online tutorials, blogs and audio books.

This term in writing our focus is on narratives. We are working on understanding the writing process particularly the pre-writing and drafting stage. We are focusing on collecting ideas in our writer's notebooks, developing detailed plans before we write and structuring and sequencing our work correctly for our audience.

Maths

This term in numeracy, students are covering a range of new and challenging tasks. So far, we have covered understanding how patterns can create and contribute to formulae and students have been really pushed to create a formula that works for given and created patterns. We will continue on working with these patterns as well as moving into decimal place value and using operations with decimal numbers. Whilst some students work well with this kind of thinking and challenge, others can find it very overwhelming. We are working on strategies to overcome this feeling, but also assuring

Find the next three numbers in the following pattern.

3, 8, 6, 11, 9, —, —, —
↘ ↗ ↘ ↗ ↘ ↗ ↘ ↗
+5 -2 +5 -2



students that their efforts are noticed and this can be really hard! So there is no need to throw in the towel and just keep trying.

Coming up over the next few weeks, students will be working with number and counting problems in which they will be required to apply some of the previous strategies to real world problems and situations, to give a connection to these abstract ideas and make sure students are feeling driven by purpose.



What We Are Learning In Grade 5/6!

Inquiry

Our inquiry unit this term is all about 'Belonging'. We have been discussing values and beliefs and looking at what they are, the importance they play in our role as Grade 5/6 leaders, how they influence our decisions and actions and how they have changed over time. Students have begun researching a famous Australian whose values and beliefs have influenced our culture and changed our way of thinking. Some of the leaders include Eddie Mabo, Edith Cowan, Caroline Chisolm and Fred Hollows.

MABO



Respectful Relationships

In our Respectful Relationships study during Term 1, we are exploring the concepts of self-talk to further develop and consolidate positive coping skills. Our unit supports students' Resilience Plans and strengthens their ability to identify personal emotional triggers and develop manageable de-escalation activities. The Berry Street Education Model underpins our practices enabling students to be ready and able to focus on their learning.



Japanese



Minasan Konnichiwa! Hello everyone!

This term in grade 5/6, students are revising Japanese greetings, hiragana, days of the week, weather and number up to 100. For the past two weeks students have had a larger focus on learning Auslan, and in particular, learning the national anthem in Auslan, which they will soon showcase at assembly to the rest of the school. There are some variations in Auslan sign as they differ across the Australian states, the link provides the most accurate representation of the signs we are using, with a few differences that your child will be aware of: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_nQYht-pWs&feature=youtu.be

In the coming weeks, we will be introducing "hiragana karate", where students will focus on 10 hiragana characters at a time, as a means to earn their next karate belt. To achieve the next belt level, students need to know the character, use correct pronunciation and stroke order. Students will move at their own pace and learn new characters throughout the year. We are also working on self-introductions including name, age, school and family members. Feel free to drop by the Japanese room before or after school to have a chat about what we're doing.

Yale

What We Are Learning In Grade 5/6!

Art

To begin Art this year across the whole school we have been exploring 'belonging', what it looks like, feels like and sounds like.

Students shared and discussed what belonging means to them such as being accepted for who you are, having gratitude in your life, family and friends, community, cultural foods, having faith and hope. The most consistent feedback seemed to be the students' connection to nature.

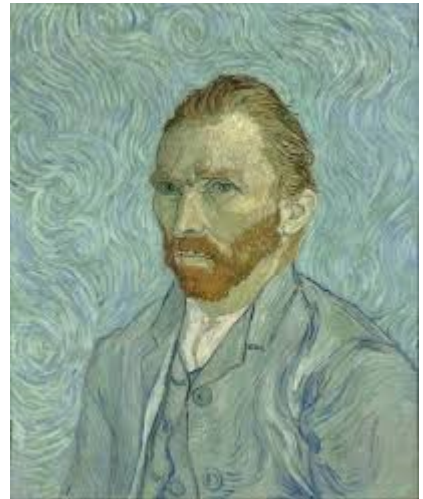
Students participated in a creative visualisation, whereby they flew in a cloud to the place where they feel they truly belong and feel free to be their true selves. Students were given the opportunity to explore and express their personal Nature Connections through:

- Sharing past experiences
- Reflecting on their feelings and emotions
- Re-creating their favourite places through drawing

Students sat independently in a favourite place in the school grounds and expressed how the environment influenced and supported their ability to identify how they feel within themselves and their ability to learn. Students coloured in feather designs outside in nature, choosing colours that reflect how being in that space made them feel and then added words to describe their feelings.

There will be a display in the main building of all the students of The Patch Primary Schools feathers making a beautiful set of wings.

Next in Art students will be introduced to various artists' self-portraits. Students will be shown how to use guidelines when drawing a proportional portrait drawing. Students will learn about complementary, monochromatic, and analogous colour combinations on the colour wheel and how to use the value scale when colouring to add shading and highlights to their own self-portrait. Students will create multiple self-portraits using a variety of art media. Finally students will select their favourite portrait to mount and display. **Sofia**



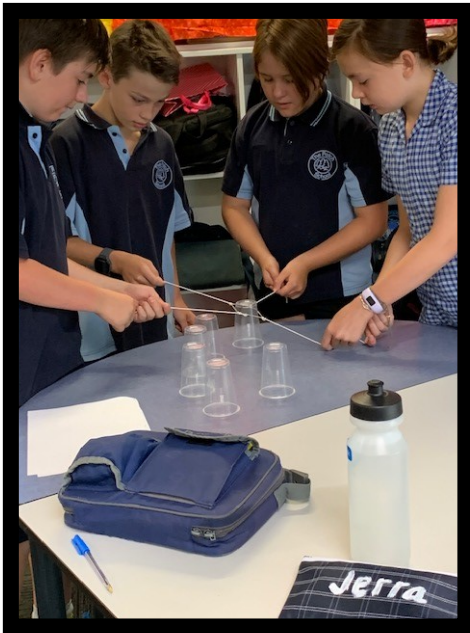
BTN

This term, as part of our weekly library sessions, we will be engaging with current news topics and world issues through media stories developed by the ABC. Many of you may already be familiar with the fantastic children's news program BTN (Behind The News), but if this is new to you, I would encourage you to head over to the BTN website, www.abc.net.au/btn/ and look over some of the great resources and stories that they have available. In the limited time we have during our sessions so will be focusing on one major story each week, however BTN has a range of news stories to explore. If your child is interested in delving deeper into current news stories I would encourage them to visit the website at home.

Our aim with BTN at The Patch is to explore issues that are relevant to our kids and families. Many of our students will be exposed to a range of different world events, issues or stories through many different avenues. BTN explains big issues in a manner that is appropriate for primary aged children. As a class, we will be discussing our ideas and thoughts on these topics and I will be challenging our students to consider the many different stakeholders that are involved and concerned by a range of world issues.



At times, children can become concerned by issues that affect our world. Our aim in BTN is to explore our feelings and concerns in a safe and supportive environment and to focus on positive solutions and gaining understanding. We hope that this will inspire some interesting conversations around the dinner table and that our students can start to engage with the world around them with a greater level of knowledge and informed opinions on some of these topics.



Leadership Day



Buddies and Music



District Swimming

Sports News

I am so thrilled to be back in the position of sports coordinator at The Patch this year. Physical education is a subject that I adore teaching and a love of sport and exercise is something that I aim to inspire in all of our kids at school. My approach to P.E. is to ensure that every child has an opportunity to participate at a level that suits them. My lessons focus on building correct technique, understanding gameplay and strategizing, and exploring a range of different sports. Overall I want our kids to be participating in as many sports and physical exercises as they can and will aim to provide as many opportunities as I can throughout the year.

This Term we are focusing on Athletic skills. We are building up to our Senior School Sports Carnival on Thursday 19th March. Over the coming week, students will be exploring and extending upon their abilities to run, jump and throw. This will include training and practice in sprinting, hurdles, long jump, triple jump, high jump, javelin, discus and shot put.

Thanks to some incredible funding grants that we have received recently we have been able to purchase some beautiful new athletics equipment for the school. This includes the correct weighted shot put and discus and a brand new set of hurdles (pictured below with some of our students).

We participate in P.E. every Thursday and will be heading outside in all sorts of weather conditions. Please remind your children to dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable clothing and footwear on our P.E. days. They should also be bringing a drink bottle to school with them regularly, but especially on Thursdays; it can be a very long walk to the drink taps from the oval!

This year we will have several different opportunities for children to qualify to compete in sporting events outside of our school setting, against other schools within Victoria. Details for these events will be communicated via e-mail. If you ever have any questions about any of these events please don't hesitate to get in touch with me for clarification.

I'm looking forward to another year of sport at The Patch and can't wait to celebrate the achievements, successes and experiences of our kids throughout the year.

Viv



Some of our grade 5/6 students (Eamon, Arley, Kiara, Brigitte and Jayden) showing off our new hurdles

Absence Notes

Please ensure you have sent in your absence notes if your child is away. We must have a note for our records. The easiest way is to use the Sentral Portal.

Please note if you arrive after 9am you must sign your child in at the office using the iPad provided.



House Athletics Day

Thursday 19th March



Don't forget to wear your house colours and your runners.

Bring a drink bottle!

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.**
- **Spelling activities including: Look, say, cover, write check, Thrass, writing words in sentences.**

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

HATS

All students in Grade 5/6 need a sun-smart hat labelled with their name for playing outside and all sport activities. It is a good idea if your child keeps a spare hat in their bag also. We are finding many students are without a hat at the moment. Thank you for your help.

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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