

Years 4-6 Term 1 2021 Newsletter

Welcome

Term 1 begins with our **Learning to Learn Program**. This is the time when teachers and students discuss expectations, revisit the school values and develop learning goals for the year.

Learning to Learn is an important part of the term to reinforce student understanding of school values, good study habits and positive social skills. We will be revisiting and building upon student skills throughout the year.

We will be further developing our skills through our Berry Street Education Model. The students will develop strategies to help regulate their emotions and behaviours in addition to creating their *Safety Plans* and a *Growth Mindset*.

English

Reading

All students will be involved in literature studies throughout the year. Our focus in Term 1 is on good organisation and routine for all students to read. Each student will be able to borrow books from the library to provide a variety of material to read. The class focus is on analysing and interpreting texts and summarising texts for information.

Writing

Writing genres will be revised to ensure students understand the types and structure. The focus will be on extending vocabulary with the use of a dictionary and we will be using the Seven Steps to Narrative Writing to build on the students' narrative writing skills. Students will work on their editing skills and revise grammar to use in their writing. In spelling, word families and dictionary skills will be the focus.

Speaking and Listening

Students will be preparing and delivering impromptu speeches on a variety of topics to assist with developing clear thinking, social skills and engaging an audience. In Term 1, students are to present speeches for JSC and classroom leaders.

Spelling

We are pleased with the results from the SMART Spelling program which focuses on breaking the words down into sounds, letters and spelling patterns. We will continue with this throughout the term.

Mathematics

Number and Algebra

- Pattern and Order, where students select strategies and use patterns to predict solutions, and count from various points using patterns.
- Place value looks at the value of each digit in various positions and the relationship between each position such as ten times bigger or one hundred times smaller.
- Recognizing, modelling, representing and ordering numbers to at least 1,000,000.

Measurement & Geometry

- Choose appropriate units of measurement for length, area, volume, capacity and mass.
- Convert between common metric units of length, mass and capacity.

Chance & Data

- Pose questions and collect categorical or numerical data by observation or survey.

History, Civics and Citizenship

During this unit students investigate the history of the discovery of gold and the subsequent gold rush in Victoria in the 1850's. They will investigate aspects of life on the goldfields including food, shelter, the role of women, the impact of the Chinese miners and the enforcement of the law by the commissioner. Impacts of the discovery of gold on the development of Victoria socially, politically and economically will be researched, discussed and studied. Gold as a metal and its uses will also be investigated.

Camp – Sovereign Hill Experience

This year, we have the opportunity to participate in the School Costume Program at Sovereign Hill for 2 days. Students will dress up in appropriate clothing and become part of the ongoing experience of school life in the goldfields of the 1850's. If you have yet to return the camp notice, please do so ASAP, as places are limited. Feel free to speak to the 4/5/6 teaching team or Mr. McKenzie if you have any questions.

We are looking forward to a fun filled and successful year.

***Mr. Matthew McKenzie-McHarg, Mrs. Melissa Brownlee & Mr. Wayne Bolton
Year 4/5/6 Teaching Team***