The Year 5 Learning Community - 2016

Term 1

Welcome to the Year 5 Learning Community. This year the learning community consists of 2 homerooms sharing the open plan learning space in our portable. Each student has a homeroom teacher, however you are welcome to speak to either of us if you have a question or a message about your child. More personal matters can be dealt with directly by your child’s homeroom teacher.

Literacy—Writing

This term the students will be exploring persuasive texts. Persuasive texts are non-fiction writing used to convince the reader to agree with the author about an issue. The author relies heavily on facts to express their opinion, and uses their opinion in an argumentative writing style. The students will be taught text structure and language features, by reading and analysing persuasive texts in order to be successful in writing this type of text. This writing will culminate in all Grade 5 students writing a persuasive text in order to convince their peers to vote them into a position of leadership at the school for 2016.
2016—Camp Reflection

Our five day camp to Maldon was a great opportunity for our teaching staff to get to know all of the students in grades 5 and 6. The camp itself provided the students the opportunity to develop their personal leadership goals, challenge their physical skills and bond as a learning community. These attributes will now be further developed through our unit of inquiry and be put to good use throughout our Young Leaders program.

Literacy—Reading

Along with reading and analysing persuasive pieces of texts, students will be introduced to reciprocal reading. Reciprocal reading will involve students working in small reading groups. The Grade 5 Learning Community teachers will model the reciprocal reading process and then help students learn to guide group discussions themselves using four strategies: summarizing, question generating, clarifying, and predicting. Once students have learned these strategies, they will take turns in each role, leading discussions about what has been read. The teachers will assign students tasks to ensure an in-depth understanding of the reading material.

Numeracy—Number & Place Value

In numeracy this term, students will engage in problem solving activities and maths games that will involve all four operations. Students will be recognising and applying mental and written strategies such as multiples and factors of while numbers as well as estimation and rounding off to check calculations.

Students will also explore and recognise the properties of prime, composite, square and triangular numbers, and investigate the use of integers in everyday life and represent these using number lines.

Students will also commence writing their ‘Numeracy Reflections’ in their reflection books, recording their thinking, strategies and evaluations as they work through each unit.
Inquiry—Young Leaders

This term, one of our inquiry topics will be on leadership and developing our understanding and knowledge in order to be ‘Young Leaders’ at our school. The ‘Young Leaders’ training is designed for students in their second last year of primary school. It develops confidence, character and citizenship in young people. It also promotes personal leadership and is based on the 4 building blocks of—presentation skills, responsibility, organisation and teamwork. Year 5 training focuses on and is titled ‘Personal Leadership’, where students will learn the behaviours of being a great role model. This program prepares the students for the second part of the program in which they will take part in during grade 6 which will focuses on Public Leadership.

"Don’t let what you can’t do stop you from doing what you can do." – John Wooden

Year 5 Leadership Positions—Junior School Council

All Year 5 students will have the opportunity to campaign for a position on Junior School Council this year.

**Elected Leaders Process—Junior School Council**

Junior School applications due—Monday 7th of March.
Applications short-listed—Wednesday 9th of March.
Voting - Middle and Senior School students to vote for their peers—Friday 11th of March.
Successful candidates announced at the Learning to Learning Expo/Parent Information evening—Wednesday 16th of March.
Inquiry—Learning to Learn

The second element to our inquiry learning this term relates to students understanding how they learn best. Students will be learning about a set of principles and skills which help accelerate student learning and in turn enable them to become learners for life. The ‘Learning to Learn’ inquiry will enable students to know -
- how they prefer to learn and their learning strengths
- how they can motivate themselves and have the self-confidence to succeed
- things they should consider such as the importance of water, nutrition, sleep and a positive environment for learning
- some of the specific strategies they can use, for example to improve their memory or make sense of complex information
- some of the habits they should develop, such as reflecting on their learning so as to improve next time.

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” Theodore Roosevelt

Information, Communication and Technology

During ICT this term students will begin the year by establishing their daily netbook routines regarding the safe care, handling, use, transport and storage of their netbooks. We will later turn our attention to our unit titled ‘Play your Part – Be E-Smart’ where students unpack issues regarding cyber safety, discussing current trends and developing our problem solving skills to overcome them. We will then discuss the importance of becoming a responsible digital citizen in today’s world and explore the roles and responsibilities involved. The unit will culminate in students working collaboratively to develop our class ‘Digital Technologies Responsible Use Agreement’ which we will be signed by both parents/guardians and students.
Homework
The Homework Matrix will handed out to students in week 3. Homework this term will consist of one matrix task a Maths Mate, 30 minutes of reading per day and Student Diaries filled out and signed by parents weekly. The matrix task, Maths-Mate and parent signed diary is due every Friday. Students are to place all of their hard copy completed tasks into their homework folder and place their folder into the homework tub in the Learning Community on Friday morning. Signed diaries need to also be placed into a designated tub in the Learning Community Friday morning. Reading must be recorded in students’ reading log book, and book responses completed.

“Anything is possible. Anything can be.” – Shel Silverstein

Key Date

Learning to Learn Expo/Parent Information Evening - The Year 5 Learning Community Learning to Learn Expo/Information night will be held on Wednesday March 16th from 6:00–7:30 pm in the grade 5 classrooms.

NO Hat NO Play!!
The rule for terms 1 and 4 is
‘No hat? No Play!’
We ask that children leave their hat in their locker at school so that it is on hand for recess and lunchtimes every day.

Food Allergies
Please note that we have several students in our learning community with food allergies, so please be mindful when you are preparing your child’s food. It is for this reason that children

NO Hat NO Play!!