

LEVEL 4 NEWSLETTER
TERM 2 2009



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term Two. We hope you had a wonderful two week break from the school routine. This term promises to be another very busy and exciting time for all.

Our Integrated Studies unit, for term two is entitled 'Indigenous Australians'. The focus statements for the unit are:

- Australia is inhabited by a rich and diverse range of indigenous people.
- Aboriginal people maintain a special spiritual relationship with the lands they inhabit.
- Aboriginal people have a unique social structure in which their concept of family is an integral part of their community and lifestyle.
- The lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were dramatically affected by the removal of children from their home, family and community.

We have organised for Murrindindi to visit us later in the term. He is an Aboriginal Elder of the Wurundjeri tribe and a descendent of Bb-be-jern Nurungaeta (King) of the Wurundjeri. Murrindindi has been educating school students for many years through his story telling, didgeridoo playing and boomerang throwing.

ENGLISH

Last term in English we established routines and introduced a range of graphic organisers to assist the students in making sense of material being read. Our focus areas were; note-taking, narratives and the three levels of comprehension. In term two we will be continuing to build on these skills and integrating them into our 'Indigenous Australians' unit. We will be looking at a range of texts e.g. film and books and critically making comparisons of them. We will write biographies and stories and will be involved in speaking and listening about an interest area of research.

MATHEMATICS

As you will be aware, the school has recently purchase "Mathletics", which is an interactive e-Learning resource. Children earn credits and participation certificates for improving their own best scores. When children select "Play live Mathletics" they play against other students from around the world and will sometimes play against a computer. This program is being used in addition to normal class programs and can be used by your child to consolidate work done in class. The licence gives your child access to the site 24/7. Your child should have their own user name and password.

HOMEWORK

Recently our homework policy and Level Four Guidelines were sent home. It is an expectation that all students complete the set home work by the due date. Homework tasks are linked to our ongoing learning and follow up sessions allow students to share their work and add to class discussions.

If students do not bring the completed homework to school by the due date a note will be pasted in their diary. We would appreciate your support by signing this form and discussing the importance of completing the work on time. We understand that the week can be very busy and there may be circumstances that prevent the work to be done. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

CAMP

Camp deposits were due on the 21st April. If you have not yet paid, or made contact with us please do so as soon as possible, so that planning can proceed. A second notice indicating your preference for payment (in full or by instalment) will be sent out shortly. Further information and forms will be distributed throughout the term. Don't forget to request a parent helper form if you would like to be considered as a helper for either camp.

ROTATIONS

Some minor changes have taken place to our rotations this term.

Mr Moreland—ICT

Mrs Kirk—Library

Mrs Browning—Indonesian

Mrs Karanzoulis—Problem Solving

Mrs Thatcher—Indigenous Studies

Mrs Letson—Literacy

Mr Slater— Science & technology

RIBIT (Read in Bed, It's Terrific)

Congratulations to all students of Level 4 for contributing to our RIBIT Challenge and reaching the target number of books to be read. On Friday 24th April, to celebrate achieving this terrific milestone we will be viewing a film based on a popular children's novel. The students may also come to school, that day, dressed as a book

character.

TRANSITION

Year 6 - Transition forms have been distributed to all year 6 students. Please return these to the school as soon as possible. The last day they may be returned is Friday 15th May.

Year 5 - There are many Secondary Schools holding Open Nights at the moment. It is a good opportunity to acquaint yourself with the programs offered by the schools you may be considering for your child in year 7. Watch the newsletter and flyers for dates.

HOOP TIME

Final dates are still to be determined. Notices will be distributed during the term.

NAPLAN

Naplan (National Assessment Program) is the new title for the assessment formally referred to as AIM. Testing will take place for Year 5 students from 12th - 14th May.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

Interschool sport will move to the afternoon in term 2. We have one week for practice and begin our competition with other schools on Friday 1st May. Sports will include; soccer, football, netball (girls, mixed and beginners), softball, bat tennis and volley stars. Permission and payment forms for those involved must be returned before 1st May. The year 5 students not involved in Interschool Sport will be involved in sport/group activities depending on the weather on a given day.

TERM ONE

Thank you to all the Parents who attended and also gave feedback on our Information Night Format. Overall it was very positive. Our aim was to allow you to have access to the educational program and all Level Four Teachers in an informal way. We hope that this night plus the Information Newsletter answered all your questions about Level Four.

LEADERSHIP

Our Year Six Leadership had the chance to experience the Young Leader's Day on Monday the sixteenth of March. We met early that morning at the school and caught the bus to Hisense Arena, formerly known as Vodafone Arena. It was fortunate we arrived early and found ourselves seats, as there were over four thousand students from all over Victoria. The stadium buzzed with excitement which became almost fever-pitched as four giant beach balls were let loose to the students to provide 'pre-show entertainment'. The young leaders were then treated to a selection of speakers and short snippets from well-known movies, all of which focused on what it means to be a leader today. The movies scenes were quite a hit, as were most of the speakers, with Drew Ginn - three-time Olympic Gold Medal Winner for Rowing and Kirsty Murray - children's author - among the favourites. All our young leaders seemed to really enjoy the day, gaining inspiration from the different presentations. A special thanks to our parent helpers Bronwyn Pratt and Kylie Gaudion for their valuable assistance on the day and to Mrs K for her planning and organisation, which ensured a successful and enjoyable day for all.

The Year Six students (with support from the Year Fives) have helped lead the Circles' session each fortnight. Junior School Council formed and met twice last term. Each level 4 class has an elected representative from Year 5. The Year 6 representatives were selected from the Leadership group elected at the end of 2008. The Junior School Council will meet each fortnight to discuss issues from their classes' "suggestion boxes", and will also have some input into fundraising for Social Service. The JSC certainly looks like a group with good ideas and great negotiation skills!

DATES:

Wednesday 22nd April - House Cross Country

Friday 1st May - Winter Interschool Sport commences

Tuesday 12th May—Camp instalment payment due

Tuesday 12 - 14th May - NAPLAN testing period

Friday 15th May - Last day for the return of Yr 6 transition forms

Monday 18th May -Education Week

Tuesday 19th May - Art Show and Open Night

Saturday 23rd May 21st Birthday Celebration Day

Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th May - Murrundindi

Monday 8th June—Queen's Birthday

Friday 12th June - Pupil Free Day

Wednesday 24th June - House Athletics

Friday 26th June—End of Term

Looking forward to another great term,

The Level 4 Team,

David M., David S., Deb L., Deb K., Libby, Mandy and Sandy