Year 6 2015: Term 1 Overview

Here we are at the final year of your child’s primary school life! Can you believe how quickly the time has gone? Our year 6 students have settled in well and are looking forward to an action packed year. This term alone we have the Chris Daicos Resilience Parent Forum, Family Life, interschool and intraschool sports, Family Fun Night and Nude Food Day...whew! Stay tuned for upcoming information on all of our exciting events.

As there is a wide range of student abilities in each classroom, the teaching and learning programs will be structured so that students’ needs are met.

English
Reading and Viewing
Students in year 6 will be reading a wide variety of text types this semester, with a particular focus on expositions, narratives and information texts. Students and teachers are in the process of setting up classroom libraries in order to provide the class with books that can be readily accessed for reading, research and reference purposes. Students will be learning new strategies to build a deeper comprehension of their reading through the use of the CAFE Menu. The inspiring class novel for this term is, ‘There’s a Boy in the Girl’s Bathroom,’ written by Louis Sachar.

Writing
Students will further develop their understanding and application of the conventions and characteristics of information reports, persuasive texts, narratives and various forms of personal writing, including keeping a writer’s notebook to generate ideas. Teachers will continue to utilise the Seven Steps to Writing Success to enhance student writing and enable students to learn the skills needed to publish creative and entertaining pieces.

Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation
In year 6, there is a particular emphasis on student self correction of spelling, punctuation and grammar and this will be encouraged through the revising and editing stages of the writing process.

Speaking and Listening
Students will have many opportunities to speak in front of others to encourage increased confidence. They will speak to the class on a regular basis and will present their Junior School Council speech and mini statistics project. Attributes of good speakers and listeners will be emphasised, such as the use of eye contact, voice projection and body language.

Mathematics
Number & Algebra
Students will focus on the four processes (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), place value and problem solving during number sessions.

Measurement and Geometry
Students will revise their knowledge of time, geometric reasoning and angles.

Statistics and Probability
Students will be working throughout the term on their Mini Statistics Project, where they will be surveying other students to collect data on a topic of their own choice and recording their findings using graphs and tables.

Brain Food and Water
As part of the Middle Years class culture we encourage students to bring water, fruit and vegetables to graze on throughout the day. Research shows that this strategy enables students to sustain their learning and remain focused and switched on for longer periods of time. With the right to have this privilege comes the responsibility to manage toilet stops during recess and lunch breaks.

Information and Communication Technology
In year 6, students are lucky enough to have use of a class set of netbooks. This will allow every student to have personal access to a netbook when their class is timetable to use them. Our year 6 ICT program will enable students to use programs such as Word, Excel and Powerpoint to publish and present their work, as well as have access to educational websites for learning and research purposes. Students have developed a netbook process within their classrooms and are aware of the responsibility and care involved when using the netbooks.

Physical, Personal and Social Learning
An inquiry approach to learning and teaching is used where areas of the curriculum are taught through one topic. Students are encouraged to work collaboratively on tasks, using a variety of Quality and thinking tools. Our topics for this semester are:

A Quality Beginning:
Students will settle into the school year and begin to develop a ‘system’ where all students can contribute and feel valued as an individual and within the group. They begin the process of goal setting and self reflection in preparation for ongoing learning. A Quality Beginning also assists in setting up class processes, identifying values, developing a mission and a vision and focusing on roles and responsibilities within the learning environment. In conjunction with this students will focus on the following You Can Do It capabilities; Organisation and Getting Along.

Government:
As a lead up to the Canberra Tour, students will learn about how the Australian government operates. Students will investigate the importance of voting and democracy and will develop an understanding of the roles of government figures. The Canberra Tour in the first week of term 2 will support this learning through participation in educational activities at venues such as the Australian Electoral Centre, Parliament House and the National Capital Exhibition.

eLearning
During term 1 the focus in eLearning will be on file management, correct file saving procedures and expanding skills in the use of a variety of ICT applications, including Microsoft Publisher. Students will further develop their skills in movie making. They will use the iPad app “iMovie” and work in small groups to create a short movie trailer. In Cybersafety, students will learn about the importance of protecting their personal information on the Internet, that they can take some control over their digital footprint based on what they post online and that people’s online information can be helpful or harmful for their reputation and image.

Physical Education

Mr. Sebastian Scanu and Mrs Goldspink will continue to teach the year 6 students this term in weekly Physical Education lessons. How exciting for us to try and discover the next Jai Turima (long jump) or Melinda Gainsford (200m). Students will be given the opportunity to demonstrate the more advanced skills of jumping, throwing and running during athletics activities. Students will also have the opportunity to work towards selection into the school’s Athletics team, attend swimming trials if they can swim 50 metres and be part of the summer inter/intraschool sports program. This term we are continuing with the intra school sports program at Epping Leisure City for students who are not involved in interschool sport. Health Related Fitness is incorporated into minor games whereby the students will discuss ways of improving their personal health. Students will participate in the Multi Age Fitness Test (Beep Test), to assess their aerobic fitness level early in the year.

**Language**

In term 1 during Languages (Indonesian), students will be given the opportunity to extend their knowledge and vocabulary of the language. Topics will be based on their own experiences and the everyday world around them. They will be involved in role plays using the Indonesian language, participate in a range of activities and play Indonesian games. Students will also learn to use Indonesian adjectives when making a poster about their favourite person and also a picture book about their family. Students will also learn about Indonesian culture from what they see in photographs, pictures and the internet (using websites suggested by the DET).

**Visual Arts:**

During term one students will be exploring the famous work by Edvard Munch’s ‘The Scream’. Students will produce their own scream with the focus on using directional lines, colour, shape and tone to show mood as Munch did. Students will also make their own dream catcher. They will learn the traditional way of weaving, knotting and plaiting that was used by the Native American Indians. They will also have the opportunity to creatively decorate their dream catcher in their own style. Students will be able to continually develop their drawing skill when we learn how to draw a realistic eye. They will use a range of hard and soft pencils with the emphasis on shading to create a realistic image. Students will be constantly challenged to reflect upon their own work and have opportunities to improve their skills.

**You Can Do It:**

In the YCDI Program this term, students will be asked to revisit their concepts of the program and to use an Infinity Diagram and then determine an operational definition of Getting Along. They will be referred to Habits of the Mind and use this understanding in the process. The lessons will incorporate Alternative Solutions, Doing the Right Thing and Stop Anger in its Tracks. They will be encouraged to participate in a range of activities to reflect their understanding. Students will then review their definition at the end of Term. It is planned that Resilience will be incorporated in these discussions.

**Dress Code:**

Wearing the correct school uniform is compulsory, including on excursions. Sun smart hats are compulsory during September through to April. A note from home is required if your child will be out of uniform. Loose or dangly pieces of jewellery are major safety issues when children play games at recess and participate in P.E. and sport. Stud or sleeper earrings are acceptable; no other body piercings. A small chain with a religious symbol can be worn under clothing. Bracelets (except medical alert bracelets) and bangles are not allowed.

**Specialist Timetable:**

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<th>Visual Arts</th>
<th>Language/YCDI</th>
<th>Physical Education</th>
<th>eLearning</th>
<th>Library</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>6-1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6-8</strong></td>
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**Dates to remember:**

- Family Life parent information session: Wednesday 11th February
- Curriculum day: Friday 13th February
- JSC presentation: Monday 16th February
- Building Resilience forum: Monday 16th February
- School photos: Tuesday 24th February
- Labour Day public holiday: Monday 9th March
- Family Fun Night: Thursday 12th March
- Final payment for Canberra tour: Friday 13th March
- Anti Bully and Violence Day: Friday 20th March
- 3 Way Conferences: Thursday 26th March
- Last day of term 1 11:30 finish: Friday 27th March

**Year 6 teaching staff:**

6-1: Cindy Nightingale - nightingale.cindy.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
6-2: Brett Cobb-Clark - cobb-clark.brett.w@edumail.vic.gov.au
6-7: Diana Mitrevski - mitrevski.diana.d@edumail.vic.gov.au
6-8: Meg Seidel - seidel.megan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au