



TERM 4 SENIOR NEWSLETTER, 2009

THE SENIOR AREA.

Term 4 looks like being a particularly busy and exciting term with the Year 5/6 students having already returned from a very successful camp in week 1, the Senior Swimming program commencing in week 3 and the Year 3/4 camp in week 5.

Curriculum News

Inquiry Focus

Our Inquiry focus for this term will be history. Our 'big question' across Level 3 and Level 4 is:

'How does the past connect to our present and our future?'

The students will learn about significant events and experiences in terms of time, how they changed lives and their connections to people's motives, intentions and actions by using a range of primary, secondary, oral and visual sources of information.

Level 3 students will consider features of their local Boroondara community that have changed over time.

How have human and physical characteristics of our local area and parts of Victoria changed over time?

What features of our local community have changed over time?

How have the natural features of our local community impacted on land use?

How does land use change in different environments?

Level 4 students will learn about the significance of key events in Australia's history.

What is a significant event in Australia's history?

What are the big events in Australia's history?

How have they led to significant change?

What effect have these significant changes had on our culture and identity?

How have things changed and how have they remained the same?

To support our Inquiry:

- Wendy Baden from Boroondara Historical Societies Association will be visiting on Wednesday 14th of October to speak to the 3/4 students about the early settlement of Hawthorn.
- Elizabeth Obotaire and Rita Fellows from the Hawthorn Library will visit the 3/4 students to share a range of historical artefacts on Wednesday 28th of October.
- Past students will be invited to talk to 3/4s and 5/6s about the history of Auburn Primary School and how daily life in Hawthorn has changed.
- Shane Charles will visit the 5/6 students to speak about traditional Indigenous lifestyle and culture.

English

The text types we will be focusing on this term are:

- Explanations - the description of natural and technological phenomena such as, "How Hawthorn has changed over time"
- Information reports – the concise presentation of factual information on a chosen subject.

We will continue to focus on our spelling program using strategies associated with sound, visual and the meaning of words.

Mathematics

This term is an opportunity to revise concepts that require further development, focusing on the areas of Number, Space, Measurement, Chance and Data, Structure and Working Mathematically. Particular focus will be given to place value, the four processes and the application of mathematical knowledge to real life contexts

ICT

This term ICT will involve the further development of students' ICT skills. Our ICT teacher, Mrs Ferris, will be working with the students in transition groups, Preps/ Yr1's together, Yr2/3's together and Yr 4/5's together. Classes will be held in the library.

The focus will be:

- Years 2 and 3 – Photo Story
- Years 4 and 5 – Robotics

Homework

Homework, as outlined in the school policy and program overview, is a combination of weekly tasks and longer tasks to promote time management skills, up to 2 hours across the week is recommended for senior school students.

Vegetable/flower garden plots/

Last term the students successfully harvested their vegetables and herbs. Term 4 will focus on preparing the garden for another bumper growing season next year.

Term 3 proved to be a test of attrition for our free-ranging hens. Term 4 has seen the arrival of three new chickens. Classes will be rostered on for their care and maintenance.

Specialist Program Summaries

Visual Arts:

During Term Four the Years 3/4 students will be working on a variety of activities based on the seasons - spring and summer. They will also work in groups to make a 3D model of a castle or other building from the past to complement the term inquiry focus.

The students in Years 5/6 will spend most of the term working on a major individual 3D activity - stone carving, mosaics or advanced clay modelling. They will also complete some 2D tasks including a picture based on special events in Melbourne such as the Grand Final, the Show or the Spring Racing Carnival.

Jo Smith -Visual Arts teacher

Physical Health and Sports Education:

The senior students will be involved with zone and regional athletics in Week 2 of this term. Also in that week, the Auburn Anzacs, a selected group of 15 Years 5/6 students will be playing in the International Rules Football Championships, organised by the Swinburne University Sports Faculty at Elgar Park in Box Hill. The Marching Cup and Games Day will be a feature in Week 6 involving the whole school at Egg Park. This term will see an emphasis on the teaching of bat tennis in readiness for the school championships and because of the history unit this term, local sporting history will be embraced.

Peter Lawlor P.H.A.S.E. TEACHER.

Library:

In term four, Years 3/4 will be looking at their local area Hawthorn, its natural features, land use and the changes in the area over time and compare it with a different type of suburb of their choice. Students in years five and six will be focusing on Australian bush poetry and ballads. After researching background information they will complete an in depth study of an Australian poet or author of their choice.

Helen West- Library Teacher

Music:

Students in years 3/4 will be experiencing the many dance styles popular throughout the past 150 years, including bush dance, swing dancing, disco, hip hop, and the popular 80s 'Thriller' dance.

Students in years 5/6 will be learning two contrasting dance styles; hip hop and bush dancing. They will discuss the many differences between the styles and reflect on the evolution of dance, from the past, present to the future.

Robyn Lowestein- Music Teacher

L.O.T.E:

The LOTE program is designed to develop an awareness and appreciation of both the Chinese language and culture. The focus for this term is how the past connects to our present and our future. Level 3 will investigate how Chinese Characters have evolved over centuries. Level 4 will research the significance of key events in China's history.

Ewe Chui- LOTE teacher

For any further discussion about any aspect of this newsletter, please chat to your child's classroom teacher.

Regards,

The Senior Area Team

Bronwyn McHugh, Warrick Berg, Ros Kyriakou, Kate Mitchell, Len Clark, Sharon Woodard, Sara Thurecht and Elise Byrne