Parent Information Room 18
Year 7
Guy Hayward

Specialist Areas:

Monday: French (9:50-10:50)
Tuesday: Library and Phys-Ed (11:10-12:10) & Art (1:50-2:50)
Wednesday: Music (11:10-12:10)

English

Reading:
- Reading is undertaken everyday. On Mondays we incorporate whole class reading. This reading directly relates to the writing focus for the time i.e. if we are learning about narrative writing, we will be reading and analysing narrative texts. This allows us to hone in on the requirements of the many writing frameworks we need to be explicitly teaching. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we undertake guided reading sessions. As part of these sessions the students work in small groups with the teacher allowing us to focus on particular reading skills such as inferring and summarising. We also focus on comprehension skills and novel reading with the remaining students who work independently.
- We also participate in teacher reading sessions that encourage the students to engage with reading and discuss important aspects of writing in a whole class setting.
- Students are encouraged to read as often as possible. This does not need to be a novel; in fact it is very beneficial for students to be engaging with non-fiction texts in order to find the answers to questions they have formulated for themselves. This is a life skill that needs practising.

Writing:
- Students are required to write for many different purposes throughout the year. They will be required to write narratives, persuasive texts, recounts and information reports, just to name a few. Many of these will be taught in an explicit fashion which will become major assessment tasks for the English component of their report. The students will be given assessment criteria so that they know how they are being graded and they will be required to meet deadlines set by the teacher. This is consistently done at high schools and it is important that the individual takes responsibility for the completion of this work. Many students find this set-up very safe as they know exactly what is required of them. An overview of major assessment tasks for each term can be acquired from the teacher.
- As well as these tasks, everyday writing tasks will also be explored. These will include emails, speeches, poems and profiles etc. These tasks will also be assessed throughout the year but not graded.

Spelling
- The students will be working through a new spelling program this year called Sound Waves 7. This system focuses on breaking the words down, so as to be able to spell more difficult words and recognise the different letter combinations (graphemes) we can use to spell them. It is a very explicit program that incorporates many words that will assist students with their vocabulary development.
Mathematics

- This year the students will be undertaking mathematics in units. This allows us to introduce a new concept, explore and apply the new concept and test the understanding of the concept. It is important for the students to recognise that regular testing is used to assess their understanding. This should not be threatening as testing is a fact of life. It also needs to be understood that they will not get tested on concepts we have not covered (this may not be the case with NAPLAN).
- All concepts/units undertaken will be reinforced through the use of Maths Online. This internet program is not a ‘fun’ program but a teaching tool that can be used to help with revision and extension. Students will also be placed in groups so that they can work closely with the teacher on each mathematical concept.

Literacy and numeracy skills are essential for students to achieve educational success (or success in life) and for this reason it is important that they are practised at home as well.

Homework

- Literacy and numeracy homework is given on a weekly basis and collected and marked on Friday. Numeracy activities are conducted on Maths Online and Literacy activities may come in the form of comprehension sheets, book reviews or projects. Homework will be increased gradually throughout the year as feedback from previous students suggests that this is a difficult adjustment to make when moving to high school (especially students in extension groups).
- Homework does not always need to be school oriented. As part of your child’s transition to high school, personal organisation and responsibility are important behaviours to develop. As part of this, students need to know how to keep their work area neat and organised (clean rooms and work areas), and how to time manage (put time aside for important jobs). As well as this, they need to develop the ability to prioritise activities that need to be undertaken based on importance. These are all skills we use everyday and it is important that our children can as well.

Science

- This term we will be undertaking the Earth and Space Sciences program called ‘A Question of Sustainability’. This program has been developed by the South Australian Education Department to meet the needs of year 7 students during this time of transition from primary school to middle school. The program is very hands-on and teaches the key learning areas of Science.

Studies of Society and Environment

- The students will be working through the History aspect throughout term one with specific focus of ‘Australia as a Nation’. This program looks at the development of our nation throughout time.

The Manjar Kitchen Garden

- This year the students of room 18 will be working on a weekly basis in the school’s kitchen garden. Their role will be predominantly in the garden where they will learn everyday sustainability practices and basic gardening skills and techniques. This will include seed raising, growing from cuttings, rotational vegetable management and general maintenance of healthy soil. During this time it is imperative that the students have gloves as we cannot completely control the animals and insects they might come into contact with.
Important Dates for Term 1

24th February- Class Assembly
14th March- House Swimming Trials
17th March-21st March- Swimming Lessons at Cottesloe
28th March- House Swimming Carnival

Important Dates for Term 2

2nd May- ANZAC Service
12th May-16th May- NAPLAN Testing
19th May-23rd May- Bridgetown Camp