



# EARLY YEARS

## U6 NEWSLETTER Term 2

Email: [alexandra.stojanovic327@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:alexandra.stojanovic327@schools.sa.edu.au)

### Introduction

Welcome back to U6 for term 2! We have had a very successful Term 1 with students settling back into the school routine well. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break and that you are all ready for another busy term full of rich learning experiences and fun activities! This term we will continue to engage in the connected curriculum and explore a new focus with our big question 'what causes change?' We are continuing on our journey towards implementing the Walker Learning Approach and it has been fantastic to see how engaged students have become during their investigation time. This term our focus will be on refining our tuning in and reflection skills and ensuring students have a clear understanding of the learning intentions that will be targeted throughout the week. You can find a copy of the learning intentions and focus student roster on the communication board at the front of the classroom. To tie in with this, students will not be required to bring in anything from home for sharing this term as students will use what they have done or are working on during investigation as their sharing focus.

### Maths

This term students will continue to focus on place-value, developing confidence with number sequences to and from 100, partitioning numbers, and solving simple addition and subtraction problems using strategies like counting on, counting back and doubles. They will also use a range of concrete materials to practise making groups and to skip count by 2s, 5s and 10s. In addition, we will also be focusing on capacity and mass. Students will estimate, measure and compare the capacity of various objects using uniform informal units. They will also have the opportunity to compare and order the weight of various objects by hefting and with the use of balancing scales.

### English

Students will continue to be engaged in a literacy block where reading (shared and guided), writing, phonics, spelling and comprehension is explicitly taught and practised. We will continue to work with U4 during Literacy Centres where students work in groups and participate in a range of activities including: spelling activities, reading responses, activities using the iPads (including Bug Club) and a guided reading session with myself or Marina each week.

Our focus for writing this term will continue to be on writing recounts and narratives (exploring plots and characterisations). In spelling students will continue to focus on digraphs and word families. This term we will be focusing on 'ai', 'ee', 'ie', 'oa', 'ue', 'a\_e', 'i\_e', 'o\_e' and 'u\_e' words. Our focus for grammar this term will be on synonyms, antonyms, prefixes and suffixes.

Students will continue to be supported to develop independent reading skills, improve their understanding and comprehension of what they are reading and also to develop their confidence as a reader. To assist with developing comprehension skills and making connections to reading, students will be encouraged to respond to a variety of texts through various activities including; making personal connections to a text, comparing a text to another text and character studies.

In addition, students will be engaged in another author study this term, which will be based on Australian author Nick Bland.

## Science

In Science this term we will be focusing on Chemical Sciences, in particular looking at changes in objects in our unit 'Spot the Difference'. We will be investigating how every day materials can be physically changed in a variety of ways, including heating and cooling. Students will have the opportunity to observe changes in particular foods and determine whether they can be reversible.

## HASS – Humanities and Social Sciences

In HASS this term we will continue to examine past and present aspects of daily life to explore the changes that have occurred throughout history, with a focus on the role of women, toys and education and the role technology has played in this change.

## Specialist Areas

PE (with Terry Ahern on Wednesdays)

My first block will be basketball skills for our F-5s, using the outstanding ' Aussie Hoops' program, coinciding with clinics run by Basketball SA beginning term 2. My second focus will be badminton skills for our F-5s, dovetailing with clinics run by Nigel Isherwood from Badminton SA. Instruction will target all abilities, using a range of modified equipment: short and long handled racquets, shuttlecocks and balloons. I'll then run a 3 week block of soccer skills, combining with Soccer clinics run by State Soccer , paid for by our Government 'Sporting Schools' grant.

As the weather cools, indoor activities will include indoor soccer, indoor hockey, bran ball, twin towers, gaga ball and dodgeball. I'll keep trialling activities from the terrific 'Playing for Life' kit (Australian Sport Commission). I continue to explore free clinics offered by our local community sporting bodies and I am currently talking to Glenelg FC, Golf SA and Woodville Hockey to hopefully incorporate them into our PE program.

I'm looking forward to another term of action-packed KPPS sport!

Japanese (with Belinda Brenen on Wednesdays & Fridays)

Welcome back from the holidays! I hope it was a restful break for you and your family. It's great to see all the students back at school and ready for some more exciting learning. Here is what will be happening in the Nihongo Room in term 2. We will start the term chatting about Kodomonohi – Japanese Children's Day – the traditions, customs and symbols. Our school's Cross Curriculum Big Question "What Causes Change?" will then allow us to explore changes in aspects of Japanese culture and the reasons for those changes, as well as discover new language.

Year 1-2 students will work on: conveying factual information about significant objects; creating simple bilingual texts; participating in group activities such as games, songs and simple tasks; understanding the structure of basic sentences in Japanese and recognising and copying some hiragana and a few high-frequency kanji. We will focus on seasons and weather in Japan and Australia, and the changes that take place over the year.

Performing Arts (With Tiffany McCallum on Thursdays)

Students will continue to develop aural skills by participating in a range of chants, songs and rhymes, this term focusing on Pitch. Students will be introduced to the solfège method whereby the syllables Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, & La are used to name notes. The theme this term will be 'seasons' which fits into the connected curriculum question of what causes change? Students will listen to and compose music that represents each season, reflecting upon which elements of

music change to suit each season. Students will also explore how each season feels, looks, sounds and smells like and represent this through movement. Students are given the opportunity to listen to and appreciate classical music, focusing on the composer Vivaldi and his works called The Four Seasons. The focus this term will be looking at the properties of orchestral instruments and discussing similarities and differences between them.

Positive Education (with Desy Pantelos on Fridays)

## Morning routines

Well done to everyone for settling in efficiently ready to start term 2 and remembering to:

1. Come in and put your bag on your bag hook.
2. Take out your reader folder and drink bottle.
3. Put your drink bottle in one of the 'Drink Bottle' baskets.
4. Put any books you would like return to the library in the 'Return' basket.
5. Put your reader folder on the bookshelf next to Miss S' desk.
6. If you have a note for Miss S put your communication book in the basket on the bookshelf next to Miss S' desk.
7. Put your lunch order in the lunch order basket at the front of the classroom.
8. Quietly find a spot to read with a parent or a partner.

Community Reading will continue each morning between 8:40 and 8:55am. It has been great to see parents inviting other students to come and read when their parent is not available.

## Library Day / Computers

U6 will continue to visit the library on Wednesday afternoons for a browse and borrow. Just a reminder that when your child has finished reading their borrowed books they can place it in our 'Book Returns' basket in the classroom, so that they may be able to borrow again.

During ICT lessons this term students will continue to use the laptops to practise their keyboard and typing skills through a variety of games as well as accessing Mathletics (via the internet) to encourage further development of their mathematical skills. In addition, students will also be introduced to Microsoft Powerpoint as another way to enhance their work.

## Reminders

As the weather cools down in terms 2 and 3 students are not expected to wear their hats as of May 1st until September during recess and lunch play.

Swimming is in week 3 from Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May at The Parks Recreation and Sport Centre.

U6 and U4 will be hosting assembly in week 8 on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of June in the hall at 2:15pm.

Investigation will continue this term on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. We would appreciate any junk material (eg. boxes, paper towel rolls, bottle caps etc) you may have lying around at home that you wish to donate.