A New Year of Learning

by Melinda Richardson

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to a new year of learning and discovery. There is a definite ‘buzz’ as you walk through our school, as students and teachers embark on a brand new year.

Each term, you will receive a Teaching and Learning newsletter, outlining the exciting learning that will take place within each grade. As a staff, we continue to ensure classroom programs are engaging and allow students to develop their curiosity about the world around them.

We love to welcome you all into our school and I encourage you to look for opportunities where you may be able to offer expertise in relation to our students’ learning. Please make contact with your child’s classroom teacher as the first point of call.

2016 sees the implementation of the History curriculum, allowing opportunities for students to acquire the skills necessary to develop accurate understandings when exploring the past. Students will engage with perspectives, begin to identify the accuracy of sources and develop an understanding of the importance of history in the decisions and happenings in the world today.

Teachers have worked collaboratively on creating engaging lessons across the course of the year that will meet the expectations of this syllabus. The key objectives for this syllabus are that students develop their knowledge and understanding about:

- the nature of history and key changes and developments from the past
- key historical concepts and develop the skills to undertake the process of historical inquiry

Further information about the new curriculum documents can be found in the Parent’s Guide to the New NSW K-10 Syllabuses that is available at www.syllabus.bos.nsw.edu.au/support-materials/parents-guide/

2016 also sees all classroom teachers engaged in the Scripture program with their classes, complementing the lessons and activities provided by the Ministry team during Chapel and allowing further opportunities to connect with students in developing a lifelong relationship with Christ.

Languages continue to expand with Kindergarten students learning French, Years 1 - 5 receiving one semester each of German and French and students in Year 6 learning German.

As a staff, we continue to engage in opportunities to learn the phrases being taught to our students and I encourage you to ask your children what they are learning and have them teach you!

As a school we continue to explore avenues that makes the practice of Teaching & Learning even better. We will continue to implement integrated programs to ensure that students see the relevance of the skills we teach across all learning areas, and enable them to gain a deeper understanding.

Through integration, we will continue to develop programs that are ‘inquiry based’, encouraging our students to ask questions, and teach them the skills they require to inspire and extend their individual interests and passions.

I encourage you to use this newsletter as an avenue to rich conversations with your child about their learning!
Prep

Scripture
This term we will be inquiring into who God is and his amazing creation through questioning and exploring passages in the Bible. We will begin to gain an understanding of why God made us and the plans he has for our lives. The children will engage in prayer and learn how to thank God and praise him for the blessed lives that we have. We will also be starting to learn about other people in the Bible.

English
The children will be engaging in Literacy activities, on a daily basis, in the literacy centres set up in each room. We will provide the children with a range of materials including alphabet strips, magnetic letters, envelopes and a variety of paper to encourage pre-literacy skills. Books will also be provided each day for the children to explore independently and we’ll enjoy shared reading times throughout the day.

This term will also have a focus on recognising and writing our names. A variety of activities will be provided to consolidate our learning such as finding the letters in our names in rice, making the letters in our names with loose materials such as rocks and seeds and threading letters to make our names. Beginning in week 4, each class will be starting the PreLit program which focuses on early literacy skills. This term we will be learning about rhyme, syllables and how words are put together. The program also has a comprehension of texts section where the children will be encouraged to predict, question and discover new vocabulary.

Mathematics
Mathematics for young children is often found in many of their day to day experiences. Each day the children will have the opportunity to explore different maths concepts when engaging in activities such as threading beads, puzzles or measuring in the water trough. We will also have a focus on colour and experimenting to discover what happens when colours mix together.

This term we will also be learning about shapes and their properties and investigate the different shapes in our environment.

We will focus on spatial awareness games and think about how we use equipment safely. Students will also be introduced to the Fundamental Movement Skills of run and catch.

Science/HSIE/PDHPE
This term we will have a focus on ‘Who am I?’ We will be learning about our bodies, our feelings and how our families and friends enrich our lives. During this unit the classes will have the opportunity to follow the students’ interests and seek solutions to questions posed. We would like to encourage all families to send in a family photo that your child can share with the class. This photo will be kept at school all year on display.

PDHPE and Music
This term Prep Koalas and Prep Wombats will have an exciting music lesson each week where the children will be developing skills in listening to the pitch, tempo and dynamic changes in music. We will explore these concepts through moving, singing and playing along with various songs. The Prep Kangaroos and Prep Echidnas will have a Physical education class (PE) where they will explore different games and activities both with and without equipment.

Creative Arts
Each day the children will be given the opportunity to create at the collage trolley which includes a variety of different materials. There will be a focus on developing the correct pencil grip and strengthening our fine motor muscles through cutting with scissors. The children will also engage in other creative experiences such as easel painting, watercolour painting and sculpting with clay and dough.

Many of the other activities provided are child-initiated and we will endeavour to provide materials to enhance each child’s curiosity and interests.
Kindergarten

Scripture
Kindergarten will be provided with a wealth of opportunities to celebrate and learn about the love of God through Jesus their Lord and Saviour. They will learn the basic principles of prayer and have opportunities to pray with their friends during class prayers and in Chapel. Students will learn about significant stories from the Bible and consider ways that these Bible stories can be applied to their everyday lives.

English
During Term 1, Kindergarten will explore letter sounds through chants, actions, images, repetition and rhyme. They will feel the position of their mouth as they orally produce sounds and begin to hear and recognise initial sounds in simple words. Students will count the number of sounds within words and begin to tune into the repetitive nature of rhyming patterns. They will begin to discover the correspondence between letter sounds and symbols and work towards applying this knowledge to read and write simple words and sentences. Students will be provided with a range of opportunities to speak in front of their peers and will participate in class discussions relating to familiar topics and experiences.

Mathematics
Kindergarten will be developing their number sense using concrete materials, play, technology and informal recordings. They will begin by establishing an understanding of the language and process of counting, by naming numbers in sequence and using one-to-one correspondence. Students will count forwards and backwards from a given number and identify numbers that come before and after. Chants and rhymes will be used to support our students in learning to read and write numbers. Kindergarten will explore the concept of time and learn to read analog and digital clocks on the hour using the term ‘o’clock’. Students will identify ways that time is used in their daily lives by identifying days of the week when routine activities occur.

Integrated Science, History and PDHPE Unit
The concept of change will be explored by Kindergarten through historical and scientific investigations. Students will learn about historical sources and how they can gather information about their history from photographs and oral stories of themselves and their families. Their explorations and observations will provide them with opportunities to develop their own personal identity and the knowledge, skills and values that will equip them for social interactions in the school and home environment. Students will be provided with hands on activities which will encourage them to question the changes that take place in their immediate environment, as well as across time.

Physical Education
In PE, Kindergarten will be focusing on developing their Fundamental Movement Skills of catch and kick. This will involve students inquiring into the most effective ways we use our body in order to successfully catch and kick various objects. Students will also play many games involving spatial awareness so they can move safely in a space while playing games.

Creative Arts
During Music, students will be focusing on the musical concepts of rhythm and pitch. Lessons will involve singing songs with action movements and listening and moving to classical music in order to explore the chosen concepts. During Dance lessons, students will participate in rhythmic movement and dance sequences, whilst performing some basic movements, to demonstrate control over their body. They will be given opportunities to improvise movements based on stimuli and their own ideas and will learn some basic dance routines to familiar songs.

Languages
Students will be introduced to places and traditions in France. They will look at a variety of languages and have opportunities to share the languages that are spoken in their home. Kindergarten will learn French greetings, simple classroom vocabulary and manners through their interactions with songs and games.
Scripture
Scripture lessons will enable students to begin developing their understanding of God as King. They will investigate the lives of Samuel and David and be reminded that God is a keeper of promises.

English
Year 1 will be using the Phonics and Spelling program titled “Sound Waves” that has already proven beneficial across the school. The focus is on students hearing and writing the sounds in words in order to read and spell them consistently. Literacy Groups will highlight important reading skills and assist students in reading aloud and developing comprehension strategies. Writing tasks will be centred on students creating imaginative texts and developing a wide vocabulary to make their compositions interesting and descriptive. Students will have the opportunity to gain confidence and practise speaking and listening skills through telling ‘News’ to the class and developing questioning techniques.

Science
Science is an exciting inquiry experience where students experiment and explore the world of sight and sound in the unit “Look and Listen”. Students will investigate sources of light and sound, how they are produced and how they travel as well as discovering why we have two eyes instead of one! Year 1 use the Computer lab for 45 minutes each week to develop typing skills through Dance Mat typing and explore the use of Microsoft Word. Within the classroom, experiences will be shared through the use of the large interactive television screens.

Human Society and Its Environment / History / Drama
Year 1 will be learning about people who help them - from doctors and dentists to butchers and bakers; parents and teachers to police, fire and ambulance officers. Students will discover how people work together to meet their needs. The history, and future plans, of Macarthur Square shopping centre will be explored and students will enjoy an excursion to meet many of the people who help them within the shopping centre.

Mathematics
Mathematics will be investigative and students will learn and develop skills across many topics and then apply them to real world problems and tasks.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Health lessons will focus on essential skills including resilience and building relationships. PE aims to develop students’ movement skills through activities focussing on throwing, dodging, sprinting and leaping.

Creative Arts
In Music, students will be exploring the questions ‘What is rhythm?’ and ‘Why is it important in Music?’. Activities will allow students to create rhythmic patterns with their bodies and a variety of percussion, and will introduce simple music notation for recording their ideas. Drama lessons focus on role-playing the events that occur in an average day of a variety of people who help us, and give students opportunities to explore, imagine and create. Visual Arts will enrich students through the exploration of colours and light, including primary and secondary colours and the colour wheel.

Languages
Year 1 students will continue their French studies this semester, learning their colours and labelling the features of the face. With this new knowledge and the use of key vocabulary, students will consolidate words they have learnt in kindergarten to develop their own family ‘photo album’.
Year 2

**Scripture**

Our God is King! During Scripture, we will explore the concept of kingship. Students will investigate the different kinds of leaders that God instituted for His people and the importance of the quality of leadership. As we read about King Saul and King David, we will examine what it means when the Bible says that God looks at a person’s heart and not their outside appearance and behaviour. We will be reminded of how God keeps His promises and we will see how God, our King, fulfils His plans for His kingdom.

Our memory verses for this term are:

- You will judge the whole earth and give power and strength to your chosen king. 1 Samuel 2:10b
- The glorious God is the only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords. 1 Timothy 6:15a

**Mathematics**

The initial focus of Mathematics lessons will be to measure objects and distances using centimetres and metres, and to collect and represent data using column graphs. We will explore the attributes of a variety of 2D shapes and 3D objects. These understandings will combine and culminate in the construction of a marble ramp with the intention of rolling a marble more than two metres. Continued exposure to a variety of number concepts will assist students to develop and consolidate their mathematical understandings.

**Science**

In Science, Year 2 will begin by thinking about people in our society who use mixtures in their real life contexts. We will investigate the use of a variety of everyday materials and substances. Students will test how substances react when combined and observe and document changes. Further experiments will afford students opportunities to consider whether or not mixtures are able to be returned to their former state.

**English**

This term we will study the author Theodor Seuss Geisel. Students will learn to use kid-safe internet sites to develop simple research skills to enrich the inquiry process within our unit. Comprehension skills of visualising information, sequencing, comparing and solving unknown vocabulary, as well as a variety of grammatical features, will be explored through various Dr Seuss texts. Prior knowledge and experience of imaginative and persuasive texts will guide each student as they aim to develop their own text in the style of Seuss.

They will also develop their expressive skills when reading aloud, and learn more about presentation. In line with our Science unit, All Mixed Up, a focus will also be on reading and writing informative texts, with an emphasis on procedural compositions.

**HSIE**

Year 2 will investigate how people interact with each other in a variety of cultural, social and physical contexts and how different groups impact and function within a community. Through discussions and interactive activities, we will develop skills and understanding in order to participate as responsible citizens in our community.

**PE**

In Physical Education this term, Year 2 will focus on the Fundamental Movement Skills of the forehand strike and punt. These skills will be taught in 5 week blocks allowing students time to explore and inquire into the best way to perform the skill on its own and then putting it into practice in modified games.

**PDH**

As part of our new House structure, students will meet fortnightly with House buddies and undertake activities intended to develop social skills and foster positive relationships. Year 2 Personal Development lessons will further consider the ideas of friendship, resilience and bullying. Students will develop strategies to solve everyday problems that they may face, particularly here at school. A range of emotions and the scenarios in which we feel them will be discussed.

**Creative Arts**

During Visual Arts, we will investigate the element of line, inquire into the use of line in famous artworks, develop sketching skills and create line sculptures using a variety of materials.

In Music, students will be exploring the question ‘What is melody?’ Activities will allow students to revise their understanding of rhythm, dynamics and tempo. They will create simple melodies on tuned percussion, exploring the musical alphabet as a means to record their compositions.

**Languages**

Year 2 will continue learning German during Semester 1. Our focus will be on revising and consolidating learning from Year 1. We will utilise this and learn new content in a unit on “My Body”. This will incorporate a range of phrases, self-care and the senses.
Year 3

We would like to congratulate Year 3 students on an amazing start to Term 1. Moving from Junior Primary to Middle Primary is a big step and students have transitioned with maturity, a willingness to learn, and an eagerness to be involved in all that our school offers.

Scripture

Our year will begin by looking at God’s unfolding plan as revealed in the Bible. Students will learn about some of the leaders that God sent His people and will explore what it means when the Bible says that God looks at a person’s heart and not at their outward appearance. Year 3 will learn that even though we often reject God’s Kingship in our lives, Jesus came to reveal God’s Kingdom to us and make a way for us to be part of it forever.

English

Students will study various persuasive texts throughout Term 1. They will plan, review, compose and publish their own persuasive texts on different topics and practice composing a persuasive speech. The Sound Waves Spelling program will continue to support our students, using a phonemic approach to develop their skills in reading and writing. Literacy groups will focus on oral reading, comprehension and spelling skills. Students are excited to soon learn how to write using Cursive Foundation font.

Mathematics

Students in Year 3 love to explore concepts through inquiry and investigating, and will have many opportunities to do that in their Mathematics classes. They will practise using mental and written strategies for addition and subtraction involving numbers with up to five digits, with a particular focus on place value order.

They will continue their work with number patterns, odd and even numbers and revise measurement concepts such as area, volume and capacity, and telling the time. Students will concentrate on developing skills to assist them when faced with problem solving questions.

HSIE/Science - Australian Environments

Year 3 classes will be learning about significant environments in Australia by focussing on National Parks. They will consider people’s responsibilities when interacting with environments and question whether National Parks are important. Students will study scientific classification and distinguish between living and non-living things. This will help them to describe how scientific knowledge helps people to understand the effects of their actions on environments and the living things they contain.

ICT

In today’s rapidly evolving digital environment, students often find themselves becoming digital citizens the moment they begin using digital technologies. This term, students will come to recognise the importance of protecting their private information online, the value of taking responsibility for themselves and their actions, and the necessity of treating others with an appropriate standard of behaviour online. Year 3 will use our school devices for research and publishing, presenting their information in a variety of formats.

PDHPE

In PDH, students will identify positive and responsible behaviours in friendships, particularly at school. They will discuss how relationships with a range of people enhances wellbeing. Students will be provided with opportunities to work together to analyse and problem-solve social situations and use drama to represent their suggestions.

During PE this term, Year 3 will be looking at striking and fielding games. This will further extend the Fundamental Movement Skills of throwing, catching and striking developed in Junior Primary. The sports focused on during this term will be kanga cricket and teeball.

Creative Arts

Students will take on and explore various roles in different imagined social situations as discussed in PDH, and discuss their opinions with others about peer drama performances.

Year 3 will enjoy experimenting with different mediums to explore the use of colour and tinting in different artworks throughout this term. They will focus on the work of James Rizzi and attempt to create their own piece mimicking his style using oil pastels and watercolour paints.

In Music, Year 3 will be focusing on “The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra” by Benjamin Britten to learn about the modern orchestra and the four instrumental families. Students will also become familiar with the musical form of Theme and Variations and be invited to listen to, respond to, discuss and evaluate what they hear in various instrumental excerpts.

French

Year 3 will investigate to find information about France. Students will build upon their vocabulary and apply this to their everyday conversations with peers. They will continue to focus on months of the year and days of the week which will be useful as they write dates in French. Key vocabulary will be used to master simple descriptions to describe the activities they do throughout the week. Students will create Easter messages to share with each other as we celebrate Easter.
**Year 4**

**Scripture**  
This term students will learn that God’s Kingdom is eternal, and because of Jesus we can be part of God’s family. We will learn about God the King and how He calls people to live under his leadership. Students will understand that although people reject God’s kingship and experience the consequences of their rejection, God’s kingdom plan continues. They will discuss and consider how Jesus reveals God’s kingdom and how, by trusting Jesus as King, people can be part of God’s Kingdom forever.

**English**  
In English, students will be focusing on informative and persuasive texts. They will research and present information on a topic of their choice. Literacy groups will focus on reading comprehension strategies and reading fluency. We will be reading and viewing a variety of informative texts and practicing learned comprehension skills to create individual informative pieces of writing.

**Mathematics**  
In Mathematics, students will build and consolidate their use of problem solving strategies, as well as focus on developing the skills needed to communicate and justify ideas. We will be concentrating on exploring number concepts and skills, ensuring students have a thorough understanding of efficient mental strategies and checking methods. Students will further grow their knowledge of Measurement and Geometry, including perimeter, area, time, volume and capacity using a variety of concrete materials. Later in the term students will also begin to revise the skills needed to read and create picture and line graphs.

**HSIE/History**  
In HSIE and History this term, students will study early Indigenous occupation of Australia and look closely at the journeys made by early explorers including Captain Cook and the First Fleet.

We will look at the reasons people make journeys and what life would have been like during some of these historic trips. Towards the end of the term students will begin a passion project focusing on an explorer and/or journey of choice and identify significant people, places and events which occurred along the way. Students will also be looking at the impact these journeys have made on other cultures and environments over time.

**Science**  
This term students will be expanding on previous knowledge of living things and food chains. Students will study the effect of ‘gaps’ in a food chain through extinction, global development and disease. We will be looking at ways in which we can support conservation efforts for a variety of animals. Students will use this research to support their learning in English and also in preparation for presenting their speech.

**ICT**  
Year 4 will learn skills to navigate the World Wide Web safely. Topics will include email, search engines, reliable websites, what to do when things go bad, passwords, instant messaging, downloading, pop ups, cyberbullying and Creative Commons.

**Health**  
We will focus on building peer relationships, developing positive social interactions and also look at healthy food choices and how this affects our bodies. Students will develop action plans to prevent the negative effects of food packaging from impacting our environment.

**Music**  
Year 4 will be focusing on the concept of duration by studying traditional South American, African and Celtic music. Students will learn to identify simple rhythms and melodic themes and use these skills as a basis for creating their own simple four bar compositions. Students will then learn to notate their melodic and rhythmic work using traditional music notation.

**Dance/Drama/Visual Arts**  
Creative Arts activities will be integrated with our History and HSIE lessons. We will focus on Aboriginal dance and creating stories through movement in dance. During Visual Arts, students will study Australian landscape paintings and sketches. There will be a focus on developing sketching skills and an eye for detail. In Drama, students will further develop skills for mime and develop a performance piece titled ‘Journey in a New Land’.

**Physical Education**  
In PE this term, Year 4 will be participating in a fitness unit. This will involve students exploring the effect that exercise has on the body and how we can improve our fitness through regular participation in physical activity. They will definitely be increasing their heart rate and getting sweaty this term!

**Language**  
Year 4 will continue learning German during Semester 1. We will investigate Die Kleine Raupe Nimmersatt (The Very Hungry Caterpillar) in Term 1. This will provide a framework for revising prior learning (colours, numbers, and days of the week) as well as learning new content relating to food and the life cycle of a caterpillar. We will develop more language of description as we imagine and describe our own caterpillar.
Year 5

Scripture
This term, Year 5 will be tracing God’s Kingdom plan, largely through the book of 1 Samuel, showing how Jesus is the one revealing God’s Kingdom. We will start by investigating Samuel, and discover that although leadership is essential, the quality of a leader is just as important. Students will explore how God looks at a person’s heart and not at their outside appearance and behaviour by contrasting King Saul and King David.

English
Students will focus on reading and writing both persuasive and informative texts. They will research a topic of interest and use this to write, edit and present their findings. In addition, students will plan, compose, edit, publish and present a three minute speech. Our literacy groups will focus on a range of reading strategies including identifying the main idea, summarising information and recognising literary devices used by the author. We will read a variety of novels, enquiring as to how various beliefs and practices influence the ways in which people develop relationships with others and their environment.

Mathematics
We will begin the term exploring numerical patterns and work towards creating our own addition and subtraction sequence. Using a variety of mental strategies, we will build on our addition and subtraction knowledge to include larger numbers. Our knowledge of multiplication and division strategies for two and three digit numbers will be expanded. We will further develop our understanding of volume and capacity by explaining the difference and the relationship between these two mathematical ideas. Towards the end of term, students will pose questions and collect numerical data in order to create line graphs.

ICT
This term students will learn skills for safely navigating the World Wide Web. Topics will include email, search engines, reliable websites, what to do when things go bad, passwords, instant messaging, downloading, pop ups, cyberbullying and Creative Commons.

PE
The focus in PE this term will be on ‘invasion games’ and successfully attacking and defending a space. Students will practise managing a space effectively and working together as a team. We will be focusing on the games of basketball and European handball.

Creative Arts
In Drama this term, students will learn to respond to the elements of drama and make meaning through the dramatic forms of movement, mime and improvisation. During Visual Arts, students will begin the term exploring the artwork of the French artist Henri Rousseau. We will appreciate the style, colour and shapes used in these paintings and experiment with Rousseau’s techniques to create our own artwork. Students will then look at the photographic work of Ben Heine and use cameras to create their own artworks. Finally, we will view a number of sculptures and then make our own using aluminium foil.

Languages
Year 5 will focus on conversational French. We will use key phrases to share information about ourselves and our family. Students will also learn useful vocabulary to enable them to state what they would like, in a classroom situation, and be able to use their lovely manners in French! We will research how Easter is celebrated in France and compare this information with our own family traditions.
**Year 6**

**Scripture**
God has a great plan for us all and it is important that we understand the unfolding of His plan. The central idea behind Scripture this term will focus on how God is King and how He calls people to live under His leadership. We will be exploring various Old Testament books in the Bible, such as Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Kings. Students will be exposed to an appreciation of how God wants us to love and obey Him, just as Jesus did.

**English**
In English this term, we will be studying Imaginative Literature. We will be viewing imaginative texts written by a wide variety of authors, both past and present. As we do this, we will be identifying elements of structure and the literary devices used. Particular emphasis will be placed on the use of descriptive writing within these texts and how visualisation aids an understanding of a text. We will be learning to construct imaginative texts, with particular focus on planning and developing an interesting plot, forming strong characters and using creative writing techniques to enhance suspense and description.

As part of this unit, students will be researching the author C.S Lewis and reading ‘The Magician’s Nephew’ and ‘The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe’ from the Chronicles of Narnia series. As we read these texts we will be exploring themes such as power, justice, temptation, loyalty, good versus evil and the many biblical references touched upon in these novels. At the end of the term we will be viewing The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe (2005) film and the original TV series based on the novel. We will then be comparing these digital versions of the text to the original novel.

Students in 6P will be studying imaginative literature written by Lois Lowry. They will be particularly exploring the characteristics of Utopian-themed literature and engage personally with themes such as courage, freedom of choice and individuality as well as analysing characters and events through inquiry learning processes. They will develop skills of comprehension, creative presentation and critical and creative thinking. To complement this study of imaginative literature, 6P will be looking at how interesting and diverse language patterns and features could be used, to further plot and character development, when writing imaginative pieces.

In Speaking and Listening, Year 6 will learn the art of writing speeches. The intention is that students will generate and refine a question or topic and utilise skills such as researching, note taking, memorisation and oral presentation.

**Mathematics**
During Mathematics, students will continue to explore and develop their use of problem solving strategies in more open-ended activities. In particular, we will be focusing on a range of content within the Number strand, including prime and composite numbers, square and triangular numbers as well as multi-digit and decimal multiplication. Additionally, Year 6 will investigate the metric system of measurement, in order to find the area of composite shapes and examine how to use scale appropriately.

**Science**
Term 1 will bring more hands-on experimenting as students explore the properties of solids, liquids and gases. We will investigate the science and technology behind this chemistry based unit and allow students to observe, classify and apply the knowledge constructed throughout the unit. A particular focus throughout the term will be for students to pose testable questions, make predictions and gather reliable data in order to draw evidence-based conclusions.

**ICT**
This term students will learn skills for safely navigating the World Wide Web. Topics will include emailing, using search engines, recognising reliable websites, what to do when things go bad, passwords, instant messaging, downloading, pop ups, cyberbullying and Creative Commons.

**HSIE, Creative Arts and English Integrated Unit**
Australia is a unique country with an identity that has been shaped by many people, cultures and events throughout history. Year 6 will engage in learning through an integrated unit titled ‘Australia’s Developing Identity.’

We will be exploring traditional and present day Australian Aboriginal culture and examine how this has changed over time, particularly through the impact of British colonisation. Additionally, students will research the short and long term consequences of these events on Australia’s identity. To encourage students to engage in creative and critical thinking, they will be making and appreciating Aboriginal art through three key forms: drawing, painting and sculpture/3D forms. ‘Australia’s Developing Identity’ will also involve students investigating and staging Aboriginal Dreaming stories as they write their own scripts, focusing on dramatic skills such as mirroring, sculpting and improvising. It will be very exciting to allow students to research significant people and events of their choice, in order to deepen their understanding of the country in which they live, through guided inquiry.

**PDHPE**
In PE, Year 6 will be participating in a fitness unit. This will involve students exploring the effects of different exercises on heart rate as well as participation in a variety of fitness circuits that will elevate the heart rate and burn energy. Students will also have the opportunity to develop their own fitness circuit in which the class will participate.

**Music**
During Term 1, students will develop their aural skills as they listen to various pieces by Camille Saint-Saens in his work ‘Carnival of the Animals’. They will have opportunity to analyse what they hear in the music and create their own compositions which reflect a story about an animal of their choice.

**German**
I am very excited that all Year 6 students will be studying German throughout 2016. All classes will explore the topics of discovering Germany - Geography and History. Students will have the opportunity to investigate key German cities. We will build on this to explore German 20th Century history, particularly in relation to World War 2, which will also relate to the literature being studied during the year. Students will consider the big question of “What would I have done?” as they investigate the lives of individuals who resisted Nazism. This will provide a framework for learning phrases to introduce and describe themselves. The structure of learning activities will enable 6A & 6M to learn new content and 6P to continue to build upon previous learning in German. Frae Justine Holmes