Welcome to a new year at Preston South. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the activities and expectations in 2015.

DISCIPLINARY BASED LEARNING AND INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING:

LITERACY:

Students will take part in guided reading sessions based on the Fountas and Pinnell (http://www.heinemann.com/fountasandpinnell) literacy program. This program will help develop their independent thinking skills and focus on the unique decoding, vocabulary and comprehension needs of readers. A strong IT focus is embedded across the curriculum and students are expected to publish a range of completed writing tasks. Students will be focusing on the following comprehension strategies: Making Prediction, Making Connections, Summarizing, Self-Monitoring, Analyzing, Fluency, Critiquing, Searching for and Using Information, Adjusting, Inferring and Synthesizing. There will be plenty of opportunities to explore oral language through the Big Buddies and PANCH programs.

In grade 5 and 6 students will focus on becoming familiar with the stages and

Upcoming Events

Friday 6th of March
St. Johns First Aid Clinic Sessions
Wednesday March 11th
Family Fun Night
Monday 16th of March
T20 Blast Competition
Wednesday March 18th
Breakfast at school
Friday 20th of March
5/6C Cake Stall
Tuesday 24th of March
School Photos
Friday 27th of March
Easter Raffle
End of Term 1
Friday 1st of May
5/6L Cake stall
Tuesday 12th, 13th & 14th of May
Naplan Commences (Grade 5)
Friday 22nd of May
Alice’s Adventures in Oprah
Wednesday 27th of May
Pasta day
Tuesday 2nd of June
Melbourne Sympathy Orchestra Excursion
Friday 5th of June
Curriculum day
Friday 12th of June
Movie Night
Friday 26th of June
End of Term
language features of various text types including: narrative and procedural in Semester 1, explanation and informative texts in Semester 2. This year students will also continue to use their Writers Notebook. Students will record personal thoughts, ideas and writing topics. It will help the children to develop and extend their thinking as part of their rehearsal for writing.

MATHEMATICS:
In Semester 1 students will begin the year with Number & Algebra including, place value, fractions and operations. During Semester 2 students will work on Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability. Students will access a variety of mathematics based IT programs, in particular Mathletics (http://www.mathletics.com.au). Students will use iPads to engage with various mathematical applications to further strengthen their understandings. Problem solving activities will further strengthen students’ thinking skills. The teaching and learning of Mathematics is centred on real life experiences and hands on approaches. Students will receive weekly homework in mathematics that supports the learning that they have undertaken in the classroom during the week.

INQUIRY PROGRAM:
Our Inquiry program is centred on the “Challenge Based Learning” as created by Apple. This is an engaging multidisciplinary approach to teaching and learning that encourages learners to leverage the technology they use in their daily lives to solve real-world problems. Challenge Based Learning is collaborative and hands-on, asking students to work with peers, teachers, and experts in their communities and around the world to ask good questions, develop deep subject area knowledge, identify and solve challenges, take action, and share their experience. During Semester 1, students will be working closely with Darebin Council in improving and updating the Cochrane Reserve. This will give students the opportunity to engage with the wider community in collecting their personal stories and creating art to be placed in the reserve.

TECHNOLOGY:
Technology will focus on engaging, designing, creating and evaluating
processes. Students will apply imagination and lateral and critical thinking throughout design and development processes. Students will be involved in a one on one iPad program that will allow students to be autonomous and creative problem-solvers, as individuals and as members of a team. Students will combine an understanding of design, social, cultural, economic and environmental issues with practical skills.

SPECIALISTS:
Students will once again have the opportunity to participate in a broad range of specialist subjects, which include Performing Arts, Visual Arts and P.E. In Grade 5/6 we offer Mandarin, Macedonian and Greek L.O.T.E, which will take place Wednesday afternoons.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT:
Interschool sport is held during Terms 1, 2 and 4. Students will have the opportunity to be involved in a range of Summer and Winter activities. The sports available are Rounders, Cricket, Netball and Soccer. Sport is held each Friday and includes a number of home and away matches. In Term 3 a district Athletics Carnival is held on (TBA) at the Collingwood Harriers Track in Clifton Hill. Students train throughout Term 3 in preparation for the event and parent helpers are always welcomed. In Term 1, students will be going to participate in a T20 Blast Competition.

LIBRARY:
Each class will visit the library each week to borrow. It is essential that children borrow each week as these books, along with books from home and the local library form the basis of the home reading program. Students in grade 5/6 should be reading at least 30 minutes a night to improve their fluency and comprehension.

HOMEWORK:
It is essential that school and home are in union in regard to

Hats & Water
Please remember that students are required to wear a school hat Term 1 & 4. Children are aware of the policy ‘NO HAT NO PLAY’. As the weather can be very hot during the year, we kindly remind parents to provide children with a bottle of water during the day.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY:
Success at school is determined by many factors, but one of the most important is regular attendance. In Year 5 and 6, many learning activities are spread over a number of days. If children are absent, it is often hard for them to keep up with others in their class. Please ensure that your child is at school except when they are unwell. It is also essential that children are punctual. The morning bell is at 8.50 am. If children are late, they may miss the initial instruction period at the start of a lesson. Notify the school if your child will be absent from school. All absences must be explained. You can call the office or write a note to the classroom teacher to explain any absences.
homework. If you have concerns, please see your classroom teacher as early as possible. Your child will have homework every week. Homework will consist of a weekly spelling test, inquiry, relevant mathematics and literacy activities. Mathletics and Reading Eggs will complement your child’s homework program. Regular homework should include reading (at least 30 minutes at night), practising multiplication and division tables and learning spelling words for the weekly tests. In addition, work related to classroom activities will be assigned when necessary. Termly project will also be part of the Homework program. The development of personal responsibility and organisation skills is increasingly important and children will need to set aside time each night to complete homework. It is an ongoing expectation that students read nightly, whether it be a novel, magazine, newspaper, comic or other printed material.

UNIFORM:
School uniform is compulsory and we request your assistance in enforcing this school policy. This includes the wearing of a wide brimmed hat during Term 1 and 4. If your child is out of uniform please send a note along to school. During Interschool Schools please ensure that you child is wearing suitable footwear such as runners. Students are encouraged to wear shorts to allow them to compete effectively each week. School shorts can be purchased at the school uniform shop.

Selma Cindrak and Simon Lukic
(Year 5/6 Teachers)