Curriculum News

Welcome back to all of the students and parents of 5J for Term 3! We have had a great start to the term and it has been a pleasure to see the children after a well-earned rest from a hectic Term 2. Please take some time to read about what we have happening in our class in the coming term.

LITERACY

Writing: At the start of the term students will listen to, read and interpret a novel from the fantasy genre [How to Train Your Dragon] showing understanding of character development in relation to plot and setting. They will then analyse the development of a main character through a written response. Next they will deliver a spoken presentation to explain the text structures and language features used to create one ‘good’ character and one ‘bad’ character using the compare and contrast expository genre.

In the final part of the term they will create a written comparison of a novel and the film version of the novel. [The Lorax]

Reading: This term, we will continue to improve reading comprehension skills through identifying and applying the QAR (Question-Answer-Relationship) as well as implementing a variety of explicit reading strategies from the South East Region’s Developing Active Readers initiative. Students will read a variety of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, and engage in comprehension activities to enhance their deep understanding of texts. Strategies to increase fluency and decoding are being implemented into Whole Class Reading programme. Spelling - Spelling will be differentiated, grouping students according to their word awareness. Students will engage in a variety of teacher generated and iPad spelling activities. There will be a strong focus on embedding No Excuse Words into students’ writing. These words will also be embedded in your child’s homework. They are encouraged to write these words in their weekly sentences but not required to copy them out into their weekly list.

NUMERACY

This term students will apply a variety of mathematical concepts in real-life, life-like and purely mathematical situations. Students will start each Maths lesson with their daily Maths Mentals and speed tables. Through these activities, they will continue to focus on and improve their mental computation strategies. Through the Australian Curriculum guidelines, students will have the opportunities to develop an understanding of:

- **Number & place value** – developing new written and mental strategies to solve problems involving computation
- **Money & financial mathematics** – Investigating budgeting, calculating costs and creating simple financial plans
- **Location & transformation** – exploring mapping conventions and interpreting simple maps
- **Measurement** – identifying appropriate units of measurement for length, area, capacity and mass
- **Fractions & decimals** – compares/orders decimals and investigates the addition and subtraction of decimals

SCIENCE

In Science this term students will have the opportunity to investigate the properties of light and the formulation of shadows. They will explore the role of light in everyday objects and devices and consider how improved technology has changed devices. Student will also develop their understanding of the scientific process and explore the concept of a fair test. They will apply their knowledge of light in a fair test investigation at the end of the term.

GEOGRAPHY

In Geography student will become increasingly aware of the wider community as they are introduced to factors that shape the diverse characteristics of different places and how people, places and environments are interconnected. They examine how human and environmental characteristics of places influence each other. Students will enhance their mental map of the world through a study of the location of countries in northern continents. Students will use their knowledge of mapping techniques to represent common landforms and what impact they have on civilisation.

ART & TECHNOLOGY

In Technology this semester, students will be engaged in a construction piece which will link with their prior understanding of colonial Australia, developed and reinforced through History. In Art, students will examine major Modern Art styles and artists and attempt their own pieces whilst reinforcing their understanding of the elements of art, including line, texture, shape, space, composition, depth and focal point.
How Parents can help us!

Please check that homework and reading is completed, signed and handed in on Friday each week. Homework will be handed out on Mondays so that students have the week to complete it. Please ensure your child is reading a variety of texts, e.g. newspaper articles, magazine stories, brochures etc. I am happy to provide students with appropriate reading material in a variety of text types if students require them. As part of the new classroom blitz initiative it is important to ensure your child arrives at school on time and in their full school uniform as per the school dress code. Naturally this has always been the expectation but the added incentive of choosing the whole school reward makes it even more enticing.

Important Dates for 5J

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 23rd July</td>
<td>District Track &amp; Field</td>
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<td>Fri 25th July</td>
<td>District Track &amp; Field Championships</td>
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<td>Mon 28th July</td>
<td>Bonus Behaviour Day</td>
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<td>Tue 29th July - Tue 5th August</td>
<td>Book Fair</td>
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<td>Tues 5th August</td>
<td>Parent Fair</td>
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<td>Mon 11th August</td>
<td>Ekka Reading PD</td>
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<td>Thurs 28th – Fri 29th August</td>
<td>SPSHS Band Camp</td>
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<td>Wed 3rd – Fri 5th September</td>
<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
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<td>Thurs 1st September</td>
<td>Bonus Behaviour Day</td>
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<td>Weeks 9 &amp; 10 (8th – 19th September)</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>Thurs 18th September</td>
<td>Behaviour Rewards Day</td>
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Extra Information

Camp

As part of the Physical Education program, all Year 5 students will be given the opportunity to attend our 2014 Outdoor Education Camp. The camp will be held from Wednesday 5 November – Friday 7 November, 2014 inclusive at Tallebudgera Beach Active Recreation Centre on the Gold Coast. The total cost of the three-day camp will be $200.00. This is subject to change depending on the number of students attending. More information on payment dates will be sent out shortly, we hope as many students are able to attend as possible.

Keep in contact

If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please feel free to contact me to arrange a meeting or to discuss your questions over the phone. I can be contacted via email at swjohn0@eq.edu.au or send a note with your child. Alternatively you can come up to the classroom for an informal chat or to arrange a meeting.

Samuel Johnston  
Class Teacher

Susan Cowley  
Principal

“Believe and Achieve”