Curriculum News

Welcome back to school. I hope that your family and friends have had a safe and happy Easter break. Attached is an overview of what lies ahead for what will be a fantastic Term 2.

**English**

**Reading** will focus on improving comprehension skills using Question Answer Relationship (QAR) strategies as well as CARS, a comprehensive reading program which identifies and teaches twelve reading and comprehension strategies and improves literacy results. A variety of genre types will be read and analysed. Decoding, comprehension, fluency and Higher Order Thinking skills continue to be the foci depending upon the students’ needs.

**Writing** will require students to continue reading, interpreting and composing persuasive texts. Language conventions such as grammar, proofreading and editing will be incorporated into the generic structure of these texts as they write responses to a variety of stimuli. In the second half of the term students will study a variety of poetry styles and features, learning how to critically evaluate and interpret them.

**Spelling** will continue to be differentiated by grouping students according to their word and sound awareness. The students will be taught spelling rules and engage in various activity rotations to develop these skills in a functional capacity.

**Mathematics**

Students will apply a variety of mathematical concepts in real life, life-like and purely mathematical situations. Through the proficiency sub strands: Understanding, Fluency, Problem solving and Reasoning students have opportunities to develop understandings of: Number and place value, Fractions and decimals, Data representation and interpretation, Chance, Geometry and Measurement.

**Math mentals and speed tables**: will provide daily rote practice to consolidate multiplication and a variety of other Year 5 concepts.

**Science**

The unit for Science this term is ‘Our place in the solar system’. In this unit students will describe the key features of our solar system. They will discuss how people have contributed science knowledge to space exploration. A possible space mission to a planet will be proposed, considering planetary data. Students will communicate these ideas in a journal and related Art task.

**Geography**

This term in Geography students will be exploring how people and places affect one another and extend their mental map of the world with a focus on Europe and North America. Students will learn to identify and describe the relative location of places at a national scale, complete maps using cartographic conventions and examine the interconnections between people and environment through climate and urbanisation data, and maps of vegetation distribution and landforms.

**Art and Technology**

In Art students will explore a variety of Art Elements such as line, shape, colour and texture and examine influential styles, artists and works of the last few centuries. They will compile a journal of these elements and styles and create annotated samples of each technique. Students will then use the techniques/elements they have studied to create several pieces of their own artwork. They will also create a persuasive advertisement piece linked to the Science Unit. A Technology project, also linked to the Science Unit, will allow students an opportunity to design, make and appraise their own three dimensional creation.
**What’s happening this Term?**

**How Parents can help us!**

We would really appreciate it if parents could ensure children have all class equipment in good working order at the beginning of the new term [some rulers and sharpeners met sad ends last term]. Please continue to check homework and reading is completed, signed and handed in on Friday each week. Homework will be handed out each Monday so students have the week to complete it. If you could encourage your child to complete all components of the homework task, including nightly home reading of their own choice, it would give them a significant advantage in developing time management skills required as they move through the Upper School as well as building their known vocabulary and general knowledge. Please ensure students arrive at school on time and in correct school uniform. Even in winter school hats are essential components of the school uniform.

**Important Days and Dates for 5J**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 8th</td>
<td>Beenleigh District Cross Country</td>
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<td>May 9th</td>
<td>Bonus Behaviour Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13th-15th</td>
<td>NAPLAN Testing Grades 3, 5 &amp; 7</td>
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<td>May 16th</td>
<td>NAPLAN Catch Up</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School Disco</td>
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<td>May 23rd</td>
<td>Walk To School Safely Day</td>
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<td>Under 8’s Day</td>
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<td>June 4th</td>
<td>Bonus Behaviour Day</td>
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<td>June 9th</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday</td>
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<td>June 26th</td>
<td>Behaviour Rewards Day</td>
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<td>June 28th – July 13th</td>
<td>School Holidays</td>
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**Extra Information**

**Websites of Interest:**
- RazKid [http://www.raz-kids.com](http://www.raz-kids.com)
- [www.spellingcity.com/](http://www.spellingcity.com/)
- [http://www.coolmath4kids.com](http://www.coolmath4kids.com)
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/games/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/games/)

**iPad/iPhone Aps of Interest:**
- Hangman
- Grammarpolis
- Arithmetic Wiz
- Storyrobe

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Sam Johnston

Susan Cowley

**“Believe and Achieve”**