

Newsletter: **SCIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY**

Term 1, 2017

Welcome to 2017 Science & Sustainability!

This year we see the return of Mrs Davies taking the grade 1 & 2 classes for Science and Sustainability. She is very excited to be part of the Specialist Team and looking forward to many fun lessons of learning. Mrs Davies will be at school on Thursday and Friday. Mrs Polini, will be at school Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday taking all Prep and Grade 3 – 6 classes.

We will continue with the Discovery Table in the Science Room, which has a microscope permanently set up for students to use together with various slide specimens to look at. Students are also encouraged to bring along any of their own fascinating artefacts / specimens to display on the Discovery Table for all to look at. Also this term, we will be looking at getting a pet for our Science Room. Students will learn about its needs and how to care for it. Depending on what sort of pet it is, we may allow responsible students to take it home on the weekends, with written permission from their parents.

We have selected two new Green Team monitors from each class for the whole of Semester 1. These students will continue their wonderful work with taking care of their classroom composting and other jobs to help our school environment. They will receive their new Green Team badges shortly.

What we expect the students to learn in PREP:

In term 1, the Prep students, with Mrs Polini, will be using the Science inquiry skills of questioning & predicting, planning and conducting investigations, analysing information and communicating their findings. The students will be using their senses of sight and touch to sort and group different materials. They will also develop vocabulary relating to the sense of touch and sight. Students will learn about different materials and how they are used to make different objects, shelters and clothing. Some materials they will look at are wood, cement, metal, cotton, wool, glass, paper, plastic and rubber.

Some ideas to help your student at home:

It would be helpful if you could play games with your student at home or when out shopping to feel the textures of different materials and use appropriate words to describe these, including 'colour' and 'shape' words. You could play games such as 'I spy with my little eye something made from ...wood.' You could have a pile of different items of clothing/fabric/footwear and ask the student to sort them out into the material they are made from (i.e. plastic, wool, cotton, leather).

What we expect the students to learn in Grades 1 & 2:

This term the Grade One and Two students, with Mrs Davies, will be focusing on Chemical science. They will have the opportunity to learn about some of the different materials, such as wood, glass and plastic and their properties in practical and engaging lessons.

Students will also learn about what happens when materials are changed and combined together and how this can be useful in our everyday lives. They will make predictions and record their findings in their science journal.

Some ideas to help your student at home:

Encourage your children to be Scientists at home by making predictions and observations when cooking.

What we expect the students to learn in Grades 3 & 4:

This term, in Chemical sciences, the inquiry skills we will be using are questioning and predicting, planning and conducting, analysing data and information, evaluating and communicating. We will be looking at sustainable living and what students can do at home and school to maintain our Earth. Through simple and fun investigations, students will learn about the different states of matter and how changes in states can be caused by adding or removing heat. Students will also discover that changing materials has a practical purpose especially related to recycling of materials.

Some ideas to help your student at home:

Ask students to start their own backyard composting. All you need is an old black plastic bin or plastic pot. You can view the simple steps in the following video: 'The First Steps to Composting with Costa Georgiadis' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uw5JVZSzMUA>

What we expect the students to learn in Grades 5 & 6:

This term, in Chemical sciences, the inquiry skills we will be using are questioning and predicting, planning and conducting, analysing data and information, evaluating and communicating. Through investigations and experiments students will learn that solids, liquids and gases have different observable properties and behave in different ways. They will look at the role of heat in changing matter from one property to another and understand the Water Cycle. In co-operative learning groups, students will investigate what happens when rising temperatures cause ice on land and in the sea to melt.

**If you have any queries, suggestions or comments, about the Science & Sustainability Program, or would like to donate any materials that you think we may be able to use, please see Mrs Polini or Mrs Davies at school.*

Regards,
Julie Polini & Laura Davies
SCIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY
Sunshine Heights P.S.