Sunshine Heights PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Newsletter: **SCIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY**

## Term 2, 2016

Welcome to Term 2,

I am happy to announce that we now have a new Science & Sustainability classroom for our lessons. It is much more spacious and has plenty of storage for all our new science equipment. The students were particularly excited with the Discovery Table, which has microscopes permanently set up for them 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. This term, all classes will be learning about Chemical Sciences and conducting various investigations and experiments. This week students will also be involved in planting trees in our adopted area of the Kororoit Creek as well as, Earth Day activities such as creating a poster, poem or pledge on how they will save the Earth.

The Green Team will continue their wonderful work with helping our school environment and to reward these students for their efforts we have organised an excursion to CERES Community Environment Park on Tuesday the 17th of May. The students will participate in two activities taken by the educators at CERES. The grades P-2 students will learn more about minibeasts and earthworms as well as recycling. The grades 3-6 students will learn about recycling and food waste. We hope that all Green Team members will be able to participate in this valuable learning experience. An excursion form will be provided shortly with all the details for the students involved.

**What we expect the students to learn in Foundation:**

**Foundation students** will all be making their own **Grass Head Person** early this term, so please remember to send along a jar and stocking for your students, if you have not done so already. Students will be looking at different objects and will describe the properties of the different materials they are made from. They will look at various houses and the materials they are made from. They will also view different types of clothing and look at their suitability for different purposes. They will discover how seasons affect the clothing we wear and look at clothing worn for protection. They will also be making their own structure.

**What we expect the students to learn in Years 1/2:**

In term 2, the years 1/2 students will learn how materials can be changed and what happens to them when heated and cooled. They will look at various materials both natural and man-made. They will learn what materials are used to create everyday objects and the properties of various materials. The students will look at objects that can be recycled and why materials are combined. We will be making jelly, mousse and chocolate chip muffins. If your child is not permitted to consume any of these items for any reason, please let me know, via a written note.

**What we expect the students to learn in Years 3/4:**

This term, in Chemical Sciences, students will learn about solids, liquids and gases and what happens to them when they are heated and cooled by conducting various experiments. They will research a material that can be recycled and present their findings as a flow chart. Students will discover the properties of different materials and learn about heat conductors and insulators. Students will learn about the natural resources of Australia and learn about materials scientists and the important job they do. Finally, they will research with a partner a device invented recently by materials scientists and share their findings.

**What we expect the students to learn in Years 5/6:**

This term, the years 5/6 students will learn about the difference between a solid, liquid and gas and how states of matter can be changed. They will learn about reversible and irreversible changes in states of matter through experiments involving heating and cooling. Students will understand the water cycle and make their own chart labelling the different stages. They will look at what happens when materials are combined and learn about solubility through experiments using solutes and solvents. Students will look at the conditions and chemical reactions that cause rusting of metals. They will investigate what happens when rising temperatures cause ice on land and in the sea to melt through a simulation experiment. Finally, the students will look at how reversible change is used in the recycling of some common materials.

If you have any queries, suggestions or comments, about the Science & Sustainability Program please see Mrs Polini at school. I am available Tuesday to Friday. Otherwise, you may contact me via my email address.

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Regards,
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Sunshine Heights P.S.