

Newsletter: **SCIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY**

Term 4, 2016

Welcome to Term 4,

Our unit of study for the final term of the year is **Earth and Space Sciences**.

What we expect the students to learn in Foundation:

Foundation students will focus on daily and seasonal changes in our environment, including the weather and how it affects our daily life. We will be observing and identifying characteristics about the weather and looking at symbols used to represent different types of weather. We will learn about the wind and what it can do. We will look at the four seasons and the characteristics of each. We will observe and learn about clouds. Students will record the weather for a number of weeks and learn how the weather affects our choice of clothes and activities, as well as, how it can affect plants and animals. Finally, we will have a brief look at how indigenous people explained weather concepts through their stories.

What we expect the students to learn in Year 1:

This term the year 1 students will identify features in the sky and how they change. We will look at how weather affects what we wear, eat/drink and what activity we might do. Also, how weather affects animals and plants. We will learn about the physical features of the Earth's landscape and find out what is natural and what is man-made. We will learn how changes in the landscape affect us by looking at pollution. We will describe changes that occur in the local environment and look at different types of rocks. Students will make their own landscape diorama. For this activity, each student will be required to bring along a large shoebox or empty chips box to school.

What we expect the students to learn in Year 2:

This term, in Physical Sciences, students will learn about the Earth's resources. We will investigate the different types of soil and look at resources we get from plants and animals. We will do an experiment to make our own butter. We will learn about one of Earth's precious resources- water. We will learn about the Water Cycle and discuss ways we can save our water. Finally, we will learn about re-using materials and about different types of renewable energy.

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

This term, we will research information about the Earth, Moon and Sun, compare their sizes and explain why the Sun appears to be the same size as the Moon, when viewed from Earth. We will learn why we have day, night, years and seasons. We will observe and discuss changes in shadows around the school and investigate their size and direction. We will also make our own sundial and investigate how it works to tell the time. We will learn about the phases of the Moon and take a look at constellations. Students will write their own recount of a traditional indigenous story about the sky, Sun or Moon.

What we expect the students to learn in Year 5:

This term in Physical Sciences, Year 5 students will be studying the solar system and how the Sun influences the Earth. We will research the findings of Copernicus and also learn how the Aboriginal people explained the phenomena in the sky. We will research the terrestrial planets, gas planets, constellations, meteoroids, asteroids and comets. We will work with partners to make a model of the solar system. Finally, we will look at how scientists co-operate in Space research and the contributions they have made to space exploration.

What we expect the students to learn in Year 6:

This term students in year 6 will be focusing on how geological changes and extreme weather conditions can affect the Earth's surface. We will learn about the causes and effects of volcanic eruption and research the volcanic eruptions that have occurred in the 'Ring of Fire' in the past 50 years. We will create our own model of an explosive volcano and make it erupt. We will observe and describe the effects of earthquakes and look at the difference between magnitude and intensity. We will research the five largest earthquakes recorded on the Richter scale. Finally, we will look at earthquake activity in areas around Australia and learn how a seismologist studies earthquakes.

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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