



AVPS Curriculum News Semester 2 2009

The curriculum topic for this semester (term three and four) is 'Neighbours.' Each unit started this theme by finding out what students know and what they would like to learn. Students will explore and investigate within their local communities and then extend this knowledge to our neighbouring states and countries. Literacy and Numeracy will continue to be a priority at AVPS across all units and grade levels, with various staff undertaking the Western Region's Blueprint for Education series of

coaching initiatives. The aims of the Numeracy coaching initiative include each unit having a highly visible Math wall with facts and techniques that the student has learned. This wall will grow with the year. Each student is to keep a math notebook that they can add to when new facts and concepts are learned. This notebook will travel with the student year after year. It contains information that the student has written. Each student is to be encouraged to use numbers/ pictures and words to solve numeracy problems and to show their thinking. In Literacy, the aims of the coaching initiative for the remainder of 2009 include: Make staff aware of changes to Literacy block, particularly in relation to Reading, Instruct Staff on 2 specific comprehension methods to develop students' meaning of texts, develop & set-up classroom Libraries (unit 2's library is built and in!) and Implement Reading Journals for all students.

All units have a library (reading nook) design that will be purposefully built and installed, hopefully by the end of this year. Below is an overview of what the specific grade areas and specialists are planning for the semester. All units will integrate this topic across all dimensions and most of the domains in the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). A copy of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards can be found at:

<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/essential/index.html>

Prep / One

<p><u>Literacy</u></p> <p>Reading – Buddy reading, Shared reading, Reader of the day, Guided reading, Modelled reading, Serial reading, local Library visits & borrowing,</p> <p>Writing – Playdough, photo/montage, puppet stories. Recount, report, narrative, letter, persuasive and descriptive writing. Handwriting, spelling, publishing work, Digital Portfolios, homework tasks.</p> <p>Speaking & Listening – Show & Tell, presentations, listening posts, share time, listening to music, instructions, Learning circles, cooperative group work</p>	<p><u>Numeracy</u></p> <p>Number – numbers & names, counting forwards and backwards, counting by 10's and 1's to 100, counting by 2's and 5's to set numbers, doubles, ordinal numbers, estimation, place value, equal groups. Addition, subtraction, multiplication and informal division processes. Fractions.</p> <p>Measurement – Time: digital and analogue to o'clock and ½ past; hours, minutes and seconds. Measure/compare length/distance. Measure/compare mass, hefting, balancing.</p> <p>Space – Draw and sort shapes.</p> <p>Chance & Data – graphing; using the language of chance.</p>
<p><u>Major topic Understandings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The neighbourhood provides resources and facilities for people. • People participate in many events with their family, friends and other people using resources and facilities in the neighbourhood. • Rules in the neighbourhood are generally made for the safety and protection of people who live and work there. • While neighbourhoods differ, they can also be similar in many ways. • There are practical things that people can do to care for the environment in their neighbourhood. <p><u>Major activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping/ comparing our neighbourhoods • Neighbourhood walks • Using local facilities • Guest speakers 	<p><u>Focus questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What and where are the important places in our neighbourhood? • What events do families participate in? • What resources and facilities does our neighbourhood provide? • Why and to whom are these places important? • In what ways are neighbourhoods similar and different? • What can people do to care for their neighbourhood? • What rules help us feel safe in our neighbourhood? • How do the people in our neighbourhood travel? • How has the appearance of our neighbourhood changed? • What do the people in our neighbourhood work at?

Two / Three / Four

<p><u>Literacy</u></p> <p>Reading – Buddy reading, small group reading, literacy rotations, silent/quiet reading, research, presentations, shared reading, library visits & borrowing, guided reading, serial reading and exploring ‘Book Week’ authors and illustrators.</p> <p>Writing – Workshops about non-fiction, rocket writing, various genres, digital portfolios and handwriting.</p> <p>Speaking and listening - Project presentations, multimedia presentations and presenting their work to the class.</p>	<p><u>Numeracy</u></p> <p>Number – Place value (extended notation, symbols, counting patterns, counting to 1000), the four processes – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division</p> <p>Measurement – Circumference, weight, angles, volume, capacity, temperature</p> <p>Space – Mapping (Google Earth), tessellations and symmetry.</p> <p>Chance and data – Surveying, gathering data and graphing results.</p>
<p><u>Major activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole day scavenger hunt in local community. • Home project – Promote your own neighbourhood. • Neighbours celebration day, shared lunch. (bring-a-plate) • Melbourne Show. Finalising topic by participating in a major event in our neighbourhood. • Passion Project 	<p><u>Focus questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are the people in your neighbourhood? • What different cultures are represented in our neighbourhood? • What defines these cultures? (ie food, celebrations, religions) • What are the defining features of our neighbourhood? (ie schools, post office etc) • What roles do people play within our community? (ie leaders, elders, community health) • What services and organizations are available within our community?

Five / Six

<p><u>Literacy</u></p> <p>Reading – Literature Circles, Independent and Guided reading, Buddy reading, Serial reading, Comprehension.</p> <p>Writing – Writer’s notebook, Literature Circles, Poetry, Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling, Information reports, Expositions, Recounts, Narratives, Digital Portfolios, Personalised Learning Plans.</p> <p>Speaking & Listening – Presentation skills (voice, eye contact, fluency), Literature circles discussion, General classroom discussions.</p>	<p><u>Numeracy</u></p> <p>Number – Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Number facts, Number systems, Place Value, Money – Earn and Learn, Decimals, Percentage.</p> <p>Measurement – Area, Capacity, Mass, Angles, Informal and formal measurements.</p> <p>Space – Mapping, tessellations, Symmetry, Coordinates</p> <p>Chance & Data – Games of chance, Data Analysis.</p>
<p><u>Major Topic Understandings.</u></p> <p>*Students will develop knowledge of their own neighbourhood, Melbourne, regional Victoria and immediate Australian neighbours.</p> <p>* Students will gain knowledge of the important people in their neighbourhoods.</p> <p>*Students will deepen their understandings on how to look after their neighbourhoods.</p> <p>* Students will gain mapping skills.</p> <p>*Students will learn how to be a member of the cyber community safely.</p> <p>*Students will gain an understanding of the history of their neighbourhood.</p> <p>*Students will broaden their understanding of Australia’s multicultural heritage.</p> <p><u>Major activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kahootz 3 animation • Visits to neighbourhood facilities • Royal Melbourne Show • Survey on Neighbours 	<p><u>Focus questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's in your neighbourhood?(Physical and Social) • What's in the AVPS Neighbourhood? (Physical and Social) • What makes a "good" neighbourhood? • What's Melbourne Like? • What's distinctive about Melbourne? • How do we get around in the city/neighbourhood? • How do we look after our neighbourhood? • Who are Australia's neighbours? • What is a cyber community? • What’s in a neighbourhood?

Visual Art

The Art program will be focussing on visual art activities around the theme of ‘Book Week’. Activities have been created for students to learn about art appreciation, art techniques, and presentation skills. The early Childhood and Picture Books

are used as a starting point and activities are aimed at giving the students the opportunity to express their own interpretation and response to the works by encouraging their creativity.

Physical Education

Physical Education is based on fun and participation and all children are strongly encouraged to attempt each activity in their program. All children will join in for our Coach Approach Incursion on the 25th of August which will include Hip hop, Basketball and Taekwondo. We will also be partaking in Jump Rope For Heart on Wednesday the 4th of November in which every child will participate. Preps will be swimming in term 4 and 5/6's will be participating in interschool sports in term 4. I also plan to hold the Windy Hill excursion in term 3 along with the Auskick Grid games. All children aged 9 and above will participate in the in-house interschool athletics carnival on July 31st and finalists will go on to the district event on the 4th of September.

LOTE

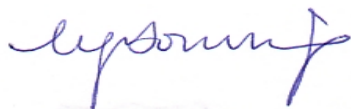
This term, the LOTE Program will focus on the topic of "Pompeii". Students will access information electronically and through a range of activities. Italian language associated with clothing, lifestyle and occupations will be introduced through this topic. Students will also continue exploring Italian through "languages online" and other media. Students in 5/6 will visit the museum to discover more about "Pompeii" later in the term.

Homework Philosophy / How can you help at home?

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. The link between home and school is vital to each child's success at school. At Ascot Vale Primary School we build on the successful learning that occurs at home. Our Homework Philosophy can be viewed in its entirety at: <http://www.avps.vic.edu.au/avps-policies.html>

If you can help out in the classroom we would encourage you to be involved in your child's learning at Ascot Vale PS. You may have an interest in our topic, or an area of expertise or alternatively, you could just help out as required by the teachers. Please see your child's classroom teacher if you can help out.

At any stage, please contact your child's teacher to make a time to discuss your child's progress and development and/or inform them of anything that would support them during their time at school. Joanne and I would also welcome a conversation with you.



Michael Downing - Assistant Principal.