Annandale State School Curriculum Newsletter Term 4

4/5E1

English

Students will explore ***Nim's Island***, investigating how authors create engaging characters, settings, events and tension. They will examine how narrative structure, descriptive language, dialogue and literary devices shape meaning and influence readers. Students will explore characters' choices and motivations, using evidence from the novel to explain their thinking. As authors, they will plan, write and edit imaginative narratives using descriptive vocabulary, varied sentences and cohesive paragraphs to bring their stories to life.

- **Character detectives:** Discuss a character's decisions, motivations and how they change throughout a story.
- **Perspective switch:** Retell a favourite scene from another character's point of view.
- **Story transformations:** Invent a different problem or ending for a familiar story.

Ask questions such as:

- Why did the character make that choice?
- How does the author build excitement?
- What clues support your thinking?
- How could you make this scene more descriptive?

Mathematics

Students will strengthen their number fluency and problem-solving through addition, subtraction, multiplication and number patterns. They will solve equations with missing values, follow and create step-by-step algorithms, and explain mathematical patterns. Students will investigate probability through practical chance experiments, predicting outcomes, recording results and explaining why outcomes can vary. ***Year 5 students will extend their learning by comparing and ordering decimals, investigating factors and multiples, and exploring situations where chance outcomes are equally or unequally likely.***

- **Mystery numbers:** Create equations with missing values and challenge your child to explain their strategy.
- **Pattern machines:** Invent a number rule, such as add 4, then double, and challenge someone to work out the results.
- **Chance challenges:** Roll dice, flip coins or use spinners to predict and compare outcomes.

Ask questions such as:

- How did you work that out?
- What happens if we change the number rule?
- Can you explain the pattern?

Science

Year 4 – Forces and Motion

Students will investigate how forces such as friction, gravity and magnetism affect the movement of objects. Through hands-on experiments, they will explore how surfaces influence friction, plan fair tests and use evidence to explain their findings. Students will investigate how forces are used in everyday designs and how friction can be increased or reduced.

Year 5 – Investigating Light

This term, students will investigate how light travels, creates shadows, reflects and refracts. Through experiments with mirrors, prisms and different materials, they will make predictions, observe patterns and use ray diagrams to explain their findings. Students will apply their learning to design a creative model demonstrating the properties of light.

HASS

Students are exploring the connections between places, people and cultures in Australia and Indonesia. They are investigating how resources can be used to benefit individuals, communities and the environment, while considering ways people can create positive change locally and globally.

- **Passport to Indonesia:** Explore Indonesian food, music, language or traditions as a family.
- **Waste Warrior Challenge:** Audit your household rubbish and find ways to reduce waste.
- **Map Explorer:** Compare Australia and Indonesia using maps, photos and online resources.
- **Community Connector:** Identify ways people in your community help others or care for the environment.
- **Global Thinker:** Discuss how choices made in one country can impact people in another.

Arts

Visual Arts – Tiny Worlds

In Semester 2, Year 4 students are exploring how artists use visual art elements to represent imagined environments inspired by real places. Through drawing, painting, collage and construction techniques, they will experiment with colour, shape, texture and space to create miniature and imaginative worlds that reflect human connections to different environments.

Visual Arts – Say It With Art

In Semester 2, Year 5 students are exploring how artists communicate ideas and messages by transforming everyday objects and using non-traditional art materials in creative ways. They will investigate how artworks can be reimagined and re-contextualised to express opinions, tell stories and encourage audiences to think differently about the world around them.

Health & Physical Education

In Semester 2, students are analysing health information to make informed decisions about nutrition, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles. They are also refining movement skills, applying game strategies, and learning how teamwork, inclusion and fair play contribute to success in a range of physical activities.

- **MasterChef Makeover:** Redesign a favourite family meal to make it healthier.
- **Label Detective:** Compare food labels and identify the healthier choice.
- **Family Fitness Challenge:** Create a weekly challenge involving walking, cycling or active games.
- **Game Changer:** Play a family game and invent a new strategy or rule to make it more inclusive.
- **Hydration Challenge:** Track water intake for a day and discuss healthy drink choices.