Annandale State School Curriculum Newsletter Term 4

Year Four

English

Students will immerse themselves in a novel study of ***Rowan of Rin***, exploring how authors create engaging adventure stories through characters, settings, plot developments and suspense. They will strengthen their reading comprehension by making inferences, identifying important details and examining how descriptive language and literary devices shape meaning. Students will also become imaginative authors, creating their own adventure narratives with a clear orientation, complication and resolution. They will focus on organising ideas into paragraphs, using complex sentences, dialogue and precise vocabulary to engage their readers.

- **Story detectives:** Read together and discuss how authors build suspense and develop characters throughout a story.
- **Adventure creators:** Challenge your child to invent an exciting adventure with an unexpected problem and creative solution.
- **Powerful descriptions:** Choose an everyday setting and describe it using sensory details and interesting vocabulary.

Ask questions such as:

- What clues help you understand the character's feelings?
- How has the author built suspense?
- What could you add to make your writing more engaging?

Mathematics

Students are developing their understanding of fractions, decimals and place value, and applying these skills to solve real-world mathematical problems. They This term, students will strengthen their number fluency, using addition, subtraction and multiplication strategies to solve problems efficiently. They will investigate missing numbers in equations and explore how step-by-step instructions, or algorithms, can generate number sequences and patterns. Students will develop their understanding of probability by comparing the likelihood of events and exploring whether one event affects another. Through hands-on chance experiments, they will make predictions, collect results and explain why outcomes can vary.

- **Missing number mysteries:** Create equations such as 75 + ? = 120 and challenge your child to explain their thinking.
- **Pattern creators:** Make number sequences using repeated addition or multiplication and challenge someone to identify the rule.
- **Chance investigators:** Roll dice, flip coins or play card games to predict and compare the likelihood of different outcomes.

Ask questions such as:

- How did you work out the missing number?
- What is the rule in your pattern?
- Does what happened last time change what might happen next?
- Why might our results be different?

Science

This term, students will investigate the fascinating world of forces, exploring how gravity, friction and magnetism affect the movement of objects. They will discover how different surfaces influence motion and why increasing or decreasing friction can be useful in everyday situations, such as choosing tyres for different conditions. Through practical investigations, students will plan and conduct fair tests, collect and compare measurements, and use scientific evidence to explain their findings. They will also explore how understanding forces helps people design solutions to everyday problems.

- **Forces detectives:** Identify examples of pushes, pulls, gravity and friction during everyday activities.
- **Rolling investigations:** Roll a toy car across different surfaces and compare how far it travels.
- **Magnet explorers:** Use a magnet to investigate which household objects are attracted to it.

Ask questions such as:

- Why does the car travel further on some surfaces?
- How does friction help us when walking or riding a bike?
- What could we change to make our investigation fair?

HASS

Students will become geographical explorers, investigating and comparing the diverse environments of Africa and South America, with a particular focus on Tanzania and Brazil. They will use maps, grid references, directions and geographical data to identify natural features, compare climates and resources, and explore how environments connect people and animals.

- **World explorers:** Use an atlas or Google Earth to locate Africa, South America, Brazil and Tanzania. Discover interesting natural landmarks.
- **Map-making challenge:** Draw a treasure map with symbols, a legend and grid references. Challenge someone to follow your directions.
- **Country detectives:** Compare the landscapes, climates and wildlife of two different countries.

Ask questions such as:

- How are these countries similar or different?
- What does this map tell us?
- How does the environment influence the way people and animals live
- What might happen if a forest disappears?

Arts

In Semester 2, Students are exploring how advertisements and persuasive media use images, sound, story structure and ideas to influence an audience. They will work collaboratively to create a television-style advertisement that encourages people to protect an imaginary place.

- **Ad Detective:** Watch an advertisement and identify how it persuades people.
- **Create a Commercial:** Make a 30-second advertisement for a toy, snack or family pet.
- **Protect Our Place**: Design an advertisement encouraging people to care for a special place.
- **Soundtrack Challenge:** Add different music to a video and discuss how it changes the message.

Ask questions such as:

- How does your advertisement persuade people?
- Why did you choose those images or sounds?
- What message do you want people to remember?

Health & Physical Education

In Semester 2, students are learning how health information and messages can influence the choices they make to support their health and wellbeing. They are also refining movement skills, applying game strategies, and demonstrating teamwork, fair play and inclusion in a variety of physical activities.

- **Healthy Detective:** Compare two food products and decide which is the healthier choice.
- **Target Challenge:** Set up buckets or markers and practise aiming and throwing.
- **Strategy Switch:** Play a game and change a rule halfway through. Discuss how your strategy changed.

Ask questions such as:

- How can health information help us make good choices?
- How can you improve your movement skills?
- Why is it important to be active every day?