Annandale State School Curriculum Newsletter Term 4

Year Five

English

Students will explore ***The Callers***, investigating how authors create engaging characters, imaginative settings and storylines. They will explore themes of courage, identity and responsibility, while examining how figurative language, imagery and different points of view influence readers. As creative authors, students will plan, write and illustrate their own imaginative narratives, using descriptive language, dialogue, cohesive paragraphs and varied sentences to bring their stories to life.

- **Character conversations:** Discuss the decisions characters make in books or movies and whether your child would make the same choices.
- **Figurative language hunt:** Look for similes, metaphors and personification in books, songs or everyday conversations.
- **Story innovators:** Challenge your child to retell a familiar story from another character's perspective or imagine a different ending.

Ask questions such as:

- What motivates this character?
- How does the author help you picture this scene? What evidence supports your interpretation?
- How could you make this part of your story more engaging

Mathematics

Students will strengthen their mathematical fluency through decimals, multiplication, division and number patterns. They will compare and order decimals, develop efficient calculation strategies and explore factors, multiples and algorithms to solve problems and identify patterns. Students will also conduct chance experiments, comparing results and investigating how probability relates to observed outcomes.

- **Decimal detectives:** Compare prices, distances or sporting results involving decimals and explain which values are greater or smaller.
- **Multiplication in action:** Calculate the total cost of multiple items or work out how many objects are needed for groups of different sizes.
- **Chance investigators:** Use dice, coins or homemade spinners to predict outcomes, record results and compare what actually happens.

Ask questions such as:

- How do you know which decimal is larger?
- Can you solve this another way?
- What pattern do you notice?
- Why might the results of a chance experiment change if we repeat it?

Science

Students will investigate the properties of light, exploring how it travels, creates shadows, reflects and refracts. Through hands-on experiments with mirrors, prisms and different materials, they will make predictions, observe patterns and construct ray diagrams. Students will apply their learning to design a creative light-show model that demonstrates how light behaves.

- **Reflection detectives:** Find examples of reflection in mirrors, windows, water and shiny surfaces.
- **Light investigations:** Shine a torch through different materials and compare which allow light to pass through.
- **Creative light shows:** Experiment with torches, coloured transparent materials and shadows to create interesting visual effects.

Ask questions such as:

- Why does a shadow form?
- What happens when light hits a mirror?
- Why does a straw look bent in a glass of water?

HASS

Students are investigating how places, people and cultures differ across the world and how people interact with their environments. They are developing inquiry skills by comparing countries, examining cultural diversity and exploring how environments influence the way people live.

- **Around the World Challenge:** Compare Australia with another country using maps, photos and facts.
- **Family Connections:** Share stories, traditions or experiences connected to different cultures.
- **Map Masters:** Locate countries, continents and important landmarks on a map or globe.
- **Cultural Explorer:** Listen to music, watch a documentary or learn about a celebration from another country.

Ask questions such as:

- How do people's lives differ around the world?
- What influences the way people live in a place?
- What similarities and differences have you discovered between countries?

Arts

In Semester 2, students are exploring how artists from different cultures use animals to communicate ideas, beliefs, values and stories. They will experiment with sculpture, collage and mixed media techniques to create a three-dimensional artwork that expresses their own ideas and personal perspective.

- **Animal Symbol Challenge:** Choose an animal and discuss what it might represent (e.g. courage, wisdom, loyalty).
- **Recycled Sculpture Studio**: Create an animal sculpture using recycled materials from around the home.
- **Artist Detective:** Explore artworks featuring animals and discuss what message the artist might be sharing.
- **Clay Creations:** Use playdough or modelling clay to create an animal with unique textures and features.
- **Gallery Walk:** Display artworks at home and explain the meaning behind each creation.

Health & Physical Education

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.