Welcome to our first specialist newsletter for the year!

Students at Sunbury Heights have weekly hour long sessions of physical education, science and art. Physical education classes are run by Leanne Ratkowski, science by Jo Harding and Jenny Adams, and art by Jenny Caddaye. We hope you enjoy reading about our plans, and the achievements of our wonderful students!

ART

What a great start we have had to the year in art. Hopefully you have had the opportunity to see our ‘Sunbury Heights steam train’ on display in the school atrium. Each student has created, and decorated a figure representing themselves. These have been placed in ‘class carriages’ behind the steam train. The train with its billowing smoke highlights the values and ‘keys to success’ which assist students in having a great journey throughout 2012 school year.

Also in line with our start up theme of ‘trains, planes and automobiles, students have been creating works of art linked to transportation. Grade 5 and 6 students learnt how to draw planes.

Grade 5 and 6 students then viewed some of the work of Jeffrey Smart, an artist renowned for creating artwork based on urban landscapes. Grade 5 students created some wonderfully textured pieces of artwork representing freight trains.

Meanwhile Grade 6 students created interesting effects using oil pastels and collage paper as they depicted transportation against a city skyline.

Grade 3 and 4 students have been busy learning about pointillism, particularly in the context of aboriginal artwork. There is an eye-catching display in the atrium of their boomerangs, featuring detailed symbols and dot painting. Grade 3 students then studied and created x ray paintings. Grade 4 students have been creating artwork inspired by the work of a contemporary aboriginal artist, Sally Morgan.

Grade 1 and 2 students looked at the surrealist work of Joan Miro. They had fun creating their own creatures, especially when they used ‘magic markers.’

The prep classes are settling well into the art room. They have been learning various nursery rhymes and creating pieces of art based on these.
We are soon to embark upon some Easter activities which are always popular. Our Easter poster will be on display at Sunbury Square shopping centre at the end of the month.

**SCIENCE**

Two different teachers are teaching the Science program this year. Mrs Adams is taking the 3 and 4 classes, while Ms Harding will take the Prep, 1’s and 2’s as well as the Grade 5 and 6 classes.

Biology is the area of science that has been selected for this term and the children are focussing on the definition of living things. They are investigating food chains and ecosystems and what would make a suitable habitat for sustaining life. Plants and animals and their structural features that help them survive are being investigated.

“Lizzie” the blue tongue lizard is on loan for the term and the classes have discussed her features and what needs to be provided in an artificial environment to assist with her survival. A highlight was when she shed her skin.

The grade 5 and 6 classes are receiving a special visit from [The Victorian Space Science Education Centre](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngyoungexplorer/) which has offered its Primary Science Outreach Program to the school at no charge. VSSEC is a Victorian government specialist science education centre based at Strathmore Secondary College.

They come to the school to deliver engaging science lessons that encourage students to continue to learn science. The lessons are based on the big question: “Is there life on Mars?”

**Ways you can support us at home**

**Art:** Providing children with sticky tape and a variety of empty packaging for construction is a great way to stimulate imagination through creative play.

**Science:** A good website to inspire children’s thinking is [www.nationalgeographic.com/ngyoungexplorer/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngyoungexplorer/)

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION – TERM 1, 2012**

**Extra Curricula Opportunities**

**Lunchtime Activities**
Monday & Tuesday sport with Miss Ratkowski.
Library-open at lunchtime Tues-Fri.

**Camp**
DOXA Malmsbury - Grade 5
students Monday 5th –
Wednesday 7th March
Physical Education

Grade Prep Students will be concentrating on fundamental motor skills such as: run, jump, roll and underarm throw. Students will do partner work and learn minor games that place an emphasis on cooperation, sharing equipment, communication and working with others.

Grade 1-2 Students will be focusing on fundamental motor skills such as: chest pass, run, leap and catch. Students will do partner work and learn minor games that place an emphasis on cooperation, sharing equipment, communication and working with others.

Grade 3-4 – Rugby League

Grade 5-6 Our focus will be on fitness to improve speed and stamina. Students will be assessed on a range of fitness tests including the beep test. We will also work at improving running styles. Athletics: running long and short distances as well as relay running in teams. We will also practise field events including high, long and triple jump, discus and shot put.

All Children are to wear their runners on their Phys. Ed. /sport day, have a drink bottle filled with water and wear their hats.

Perceptual Motor Program
Children rotate through different fun activities designed to develop body awareness, balance, eye/hand co-ordination, eye/foot co-ordination, and ball skills. PMP for Prep students is on Friday for one hour. Prep D at 11:30am. Prep X at 12:30pm.

Intra & Inter School sports

Grade 3/4 Sport – Tuesday. Term 1 focus is Athletics/Fitness

Grade 5/6 Sport – Friday

Students in Grade 5/6 have all tried out for the winter sports teams. The winter sports are tee-ball, football, soccer and netball. Congratulations to all students who were successful in making it into a sports team.

Grade P-4 Intra School Rugby Gala Clinics & Day will be conducted on Friday 24th Feb, Friday 2nd March and Friday 30th March.

Grade 3-6 Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 14th February
Grade 3-6 Athletics
Carnival on Monday 19th
March

District Events
Twilight Swimming on the 23rd February 2012.
District Athletics on Monday 26th March 2012.