



YEAR SIX INFORMATION

OUR AIM

- To create exciting and personalised learning opportunities for each boy in Year Six.
- To provide a safe and supportive learning environment
- To celebrate the successes of each and every boy in Year Six.
- To provide authentic and interesting teaching programs with teachers as the facilitator of learning.

OUR TEAM

Mrs Nicola Sharp	sharpn@knox.nsw.edu.au	Team Leader & 6N Class Teacher
Mr Matthew Hawke	hawkem@knox.nsw.edu.au	6M Class Teacher & Wellbeing Leader (Sem 1)
Mr David Coon	coond@knox.nsw.edu.au	6C Class Teacher
Mr Alexander Harrison	cookan@knox.nsw.edu.au	6H Class Teacher
Mrs Kathryn Morelli	morelik@knox.nsw.edu.au	6K Class Teacher
Mr Charlie Suters	sutersc@knox.nsw.edu.au	6S Class Teacher
Ms Mary Dodds	doddsma@knox.nsw.edu.au	6G Class Teacher (Sem 1)
Mrs Sonia Green	greenso@knox.nsw.edu.au	6G Class Teacher & Wellbeing Leader (Sem 2)
Mrs Alison Grant	granta@knox.nsw.edu.au	Yr 6 Literacy Teacher
Mrs Katrina Wallis	wallisk@knox.nsw.edu.au	Yr 6 Literacy Teacher
Mr Michael Quach	quachm@knox.nsw.edu.au	Deputy Head of Prep & Yr 6 Maths Teacher
Mrs Anne Felton	feltona@knox.nsw.edu.au	Head of Learning Enhancement & Yr 6 Maths Teacher
Mrs Tammy Paterson	prenticea@knox.nsw.edu.au	Director of Learning K-6

COMMUNICATION

We value positive, open and respectful communication as a key component to your son's success at school. Please communicate with your son's teacher via email or the school diary. During the school day, our priority is with the students so we may not be able to respond to emails. In this instance, urgent matters should be communicated directly to the school office.

Covid-19 Update:

When unable to meet face-to-face, we use Zoom Video Conferencing. <http://zoom.us/>. Your son's teacher will provide you with a Zoom link to join a meeting. Out of courtesy, we ask that you please use the webcam feature during these meetings.

KEY LEARNING AREAS

A brief overview of the content to be covered in English, Mathematics and Knoxigations will be provided at the beginning of each new Knoxigations unit on the Year Six page of the Knox Portal. In addition to this, the weekly Prep Magpie, which is our new form of parent communication, will be a useful source of information.

MATHEMATICS

The strands are Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability with Working Mathematically integrated across the three strands.

We promote a personalised learning approach in the instruction of Mathematics. The grouping of students will therefore be fluid and based on a pre-determined starting point for each different concept. It is common for there to be much movement across the Maths classes. This starting point is established using a range of data, including the MAP Growth Assessment Tool. Within these groupings, students will have the opportunity to learn in an environment that best suits their needs and strengths.

At times, your son may have an overall RIT score higher or lower than other students in other classes. We do not refer to the overall score, rather we concentrate on the content area to help establish groupings. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your son's Mathematics Teacher or Mrs Tammy Paterson, our Director of Learning (patersont@knox.nsw.edu.au).

Khan Mappers: We ask that the students access Khan Mappers as part of their weekly homework. This online program provides tasks that are based on an individual's RIT scores as ascertained by the termly MAP Growth test. We specifically encourage practice in the areas of focus, which can be determined by the lowest score. Your son will update his Mappers account following each testing period. There may be times when you son's Mathematics teacher provides alternative Maths homework.

Problem solving: All Year Six students will be immersed in problem solving at their level of need. 6C, 6H and 6N Mathematics classes will participate in the challenging Maths Olympiad competition.

ENGLISH

The focus of the syllabus is to make meaning through language. This is made possible through the study of quality literature which encompasses texts that give insight into the Indigenous cultural experiences as well as Australia's neighbours and the other cultures which have influenced Australia's development to date. They also include visual literacy texts and texts which embrace children's imagination. This is done through drama scripts, poetry, prose, picture books and novels. English is closely linked to our Knoxigations units.

Similar to Mathematics, students will be placed into fluid Literacy Groups for three periods per week. During these lessons they will specifically have opportunities to develop their reading and written comprehension skills. These groups will be data informed and boys will have the opportunity to move groups based upon their results.

Writing and Representing

Boys will compose a variety of texts throughout the year in Year Six including informative, imaginative and persuasive texts. Students will be guided through the writing process and be given opportunities to express themselves individually in a variety of contexts. Writing will be completed throughout our Units of Inquiry with each text type chosen to align specifically with our Knoxigations unit.

Students will identify, interpret, analyse and compose a variety of imaginative, informative and persuasive texts. They will present these in a range of media, including digital, oral and multi-modal texts.

Speaking and Listening

The boys will be given a variety of opportunities for Speaking and Listening throughout Year Six with a specific emphasis on listening skills within the context of group work and collaboration. Students will also engage in rich and meaningful discussions and listening exercises revolving around literary texts, social issues, current affairs and our Knoxigations inquiry units. In addition to this, they will participate in impromptu and formal speeches and debates. The boys will be taught the relevant skills required to complete speaking tasks and will be given the opportunity to take place in the year group wide public speaking competition.

Reading and Viewing

The boys will spend three hours per week in Literacy Groups. This teaching will focus on reading strategies related to literary texts as well as language and vocabulary development. Throughout our Units of Inquiry, boys will focus on informative texts and finding information within these texts.

Students will participate in an in-depth study of a variety of quality literature throughout the year. The themes and concepts behind each text will largely support our Knoxigations units and be selected based on the reading ability of the students. They will also have opportunities to build their understanding and inquiry skills through research opportunities and exposure to informational texts appropriate to their level.

Spelling

Students will participate in the Spelling Mastery program, which will be supplemented with vocabulary exercises. This is a 'Direct Instruction' program which is based on quality empirical research and has much evidence for its effectiveness. It helps students to understand the relationship between sounds, word parts and spelling patterns using a combined approach of phonemic, morphemic and whole-word strategies. When students reach a spelling age beyond 15 years, they will concentrate further on expanding their vocabulary knowledge.

Handwriting

The boys will be encouraged this year to develop their own cursive style when writing in pen. Explicit teaching will focus on correct formation and legibility as well as consistent size, slope and spacing.

2021 PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

We encourage all boys in Years K-6 to participate in the 2021 Premier's Reading Challenge. It is an expectation that all Year Six students will complete the challenge. More information will be available on the Knox Portal in late March.

ACCELERATED READER

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a reading program that supports and monitors your son's reading practice. He will be able to go to the School Library and pick books at his own level and read them at his own pace. When finished, he will take a short online quiz to measure how much of the book he understood. The reading quizzes will be completed at school only. In order to determine reading levels, each term the boys will sit a STAR Reading Test. This adaptive test uses multiple-choice questions and takes around 20 minutes to complete.

AR includes over 30 000 books. Each book is assigned three scores to help your son make suitable choices. The librarian and classroom teacher will also be able to provide support. Your son's teacher will record the ZPD (zone of proximal development) for your son in his diary.

A list of levelled books from our School Library is available on the Library page of the Knox Portal. The website <https://www.arbookfind.com.au/> may also be useful in finding books. Please see the information letter on the Knox Portal Year Six page for further information.

TECHNOLOGY


Our students benefit from authentic technology which is immersed in all our programs and activities. Safe use of technology is always a focus. Technology guidelines are explicitly explained and the consequences of unsafe use are regularly outlined. Over the semester students will be involved in cyber safety and digital citizenship sessions. All Year Six students have signed a Responsible Use of Technology Agreement.

KNOXIGATIONS

This year students will be involved in inquiry learning titled 'Knoxigations' across five domains: **Stories of the World and its People, Interconnected Systems, Sustainable Solutions, Tinkering Towards Tomorrow** and **Global Changemakers**. These lessons are transdisciplinary in nature as the tasks and activities will develop skills and understanding across a variety of curriculum areas, including historical, geographical and scientific. Teachers will support the students through a guided inquiry cycle. Technology Skills will also be taught by Scope IT and boys will use the skills they develop during this time when completing end of inquiry assessment tasks.

KNOXIGATIONS OUTLINE & OVERVIEWS 2021

An overview of our interdisciplinary Knoxigations units as well as the work we are covering within other subjects will be shared at the start of each unit, and these will be placed on the Year Six page of the Knox Portal. Please see the Knoxigations for 2021 below:

		KNOXIGATIONS SCOPE AND SEQUENCE YEAR SIX 2021																																																	
Term		TERM ONE										TERM TWO										TERM THREE										TERM FOUR																			
Weeks		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7										
Domain		Tinkering Towards Tomorrow										Global Changemakers										Interconnected Systems										Stories of the World and its People										Sustainable Solutions									
BIG IDEA & INQUIRY FOCUS		<u>Big Idea</u> Technology protects communities <u>Focus of Inquiry</u> An investigation into natural disasters; warning systems; disaster proofing cities; designing preventative tools										<u>Big Idea</u> Artistic expression connects diverse communities <u>Focus of Inquiry</u> An investigation into events showcasing artistic expression and its ability to bring together people from diverse backgrounds and communities.										<u>Big Idea</u> By the people, for the people...or not! <u>Focus of Inquiry</u> Australian democracy; analysis of systems of government around the world										<u>Big Idea</u> Mistakes of the past shape perceptions of the future <u>Focus of Inquiry</u> Ancient indigenous cultures; ancient migration patterns; influence of these on the present; development of trade										<u>Big Idea</u> Meeting needs without compromising our future <u>Focus of Inquiry</u> Finite resources; how population effects resources; resources impacting migration									
CONCEPTS		Responsibility Innovation										Connection, diversity, perspective										Perspective, power										Identity, culture, trade routes										Ownership, responsibility									
CROSS CURRICULAR CAPABILITIES		Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia Civics and citizenship Work and enterprise										Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories & cultures Difference and diversity Work and enterprise										Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories & cultures Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia Civics and citizenship Difference and diversity										Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories & cultures Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia Sustainability Civics and citizenship Difference and diversity										Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia Sustainability Civics and citizenship Work and enterprise									

SPECIALIST AND SUPPORT STAFF FOR YEAR SIX

Science	Mrs Maria Thomas	thomasm@knox.nsw.edu.au
PD Health	Ms. Bonnie McDonald	mcdonaldb@knox.nsw.edu.au
PE	Mr Adrian Van Bussell	vanbussella@knox.nsw.edu.au
	Mr Greg Scott	scottg@knox.nsw.edu.au
Music	Mr Ashley George	georgea@knox.nsw.edu.au
Visual Arts	Mrs Alex LeCouter	lecouter@knox.nsw.edu.au
Drama	Mr Terence Foltyn	foltynt@knox.nsw.edu.au
Japanese	Mr Caleb Bova (6H only)	bovac@knox.nsw.edu.au
	Mrs Kirsty Henry	henryk@knox.nsw.edu.au
Library	Mrs Emma Kate Smith	smithe@knox.nsw.edu.au
Learning Enhancement	Mrs Anne Felton	feltona@knox.nsw.edu.au
Wisdom, Life, Faith	Mrs Cate Mitiku	mitikuc@knox.nsw.edu.au
ICT Integration	Mr Ian Fairhurst	fairhursti@knox.nsw.edu.au
Sport Coordinator	Mr Mark Hitchiner	hitchinerm@knox.nsw.edu.au
School Psychologist	Dr Rebecca Lazarus	lazarusr@knox.nsw.edu.au

HOMEWORK AND STUDY HABITS

- Maximum 45 minutes per night.
- Minimum 15 minutes reading per night. We encourage reading aloud when possible.
- Homework is to be a shared and positive experience.
- The school diary is to be signed each week by a parent or carer.
- Please communicate any concerns regarding homework with the respective teacher.

Semester One

Homework will be placed on the Year Six page of the Knox Portal on Wednesday each week. It will be due on the Monday each week of the following week.

Year Six students are expected to plan their weekly homework schedule to allow time for extra-curricular activities (e.g. music tuition, swimming training, gymnastics) and homework obligations to be met. This may mean additional time being dedicated to homework on some occasions. It is anticipated that students will plan ahead in these matters to avoid being unable to present work at school when it is required.

If at any stage your son is unable to complete homework and there is a reasonable excuse, please simply write a note in his diary to excuse him. Homework has been designed at a Year Six level. If your son needs the homework modified because it is too challenging or too easy, please ask your son's class teacher for assistance in this regard.

Semester Two

Homework in Semester Two will work differently as the boys will not receive a weekly homework sheet nor will they have tasks placed on Knox Portal. The Year Six team will emphasise the use of the diary to begin to develop further independence. Time management skills will be scaffolded and supported, as the boys begin to focus on using their time effectively in order to get their homework completed.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION & EXCURSIONS

- Canberra – Wed 9 June – Fri 11 June 2021 (Week 8, Term 2)
- Outdoor Education – Camp Somerset – Tues 5 October – Fri 8 October 2021 (Week 1, Term 4)

BIRTHDAYS

We love to celebrate birthdays. When bringing food to school, please be aware of the fact that there are students in our year with severe anaphylactic reactions to foods such as peanuts and eggs so please check the contents of food packets. Party size bars are an easy option.

In order to ensure that all boys are included in the birthday celebrations, if your son has an allergy, it might be a good idea to provide a little treat for him to have when birthdays are celebrated. Please speak with your son's teacher regarding this.

Covid-19 Update:

Please note that during the Covid-19 pandemic, **only individually wrapped and commercially packaged goods** are to be brought in to celebrate students' birthdays.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU AND YOUR SON. SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF YOUR SON'S LEARNING PLEASE BE IN TOUCH WITH YOUR SONS TEACHER OR ALTERNATIVELY,
CONTACT ME ON sharpn@knox.nsw.edu.au**