

The Arts

VISUAL ARTS | PERFORMING ARTS | MUSIC | MULTIMEDIA

Newsletter

Term 1, 2020



Dear Parents, Guardians and Families,

We can't believe we are back into the swing of things already. How fast did those summer holidays go? We trust you all had a lovely festive season and got to spend some well-earned time together with your loved ones – sharing adventures and carving memories.

Needless to say, the Arts team made the most of the break and took the time to carve some adventures and memories too. Greg was blessed with lots of visitors from overseas this summer, including one of his close friends and his parents, which inevitably led to lots of adventures that included a beautiful 10-day trip around Tasmania. Aasta got to spend lots of time with her young family here in Melbourne and away in Albury Wodonga where her parents are from. There was lots of creating time together and summer frolics through the bush that backs onto her family's property. Meanwhile, Francine also shared lots of adventures with her son, close friends and family. There was time away at Phillip Island and country Victoria, lots of visits to the NGV to see the Basquiat and Haring exhibition (two of her favourite artists) and lots of catching up with friends.

The holidays was also a great time to reflect on what we had achieved in 2019 and to set some new intentions for the year ahead, particularly as the dawn of 2020 approached. We are all ready with a strong vision for 2020 and an eagerness to start building it.

Now, on that note, we bet you are all wondering what 2020 in the Arts is going to look like? We don't want to keep you hanging, so here's some highlights to look forward to with a more in-depth overview for Visual Arts, Multimedia & Performing Arts overleaf.

In our continuing efforts to deepen how students work and think like artists, and to embed the Studio Habits of Mind, the Term 1 focus for Visual Arts, across Grades 1-6, will be on developing craft and building a community of artists who are able to work cooperatively. Our goal is to continue to give students strong skills, work ethics and creativity that will enable them to further their own artistic practice. Because we always like to stretch and explore in the Art room, students will be building these elements through whole-class boot camps that will help them explore new techniques and materials, and through group design challenges in drawing, painting, sculpture/construction and collage. The Preps will also begin their journey in the Art Studio with lots of engaging, immersive and experimental activities designed to build foundational skills.

Excitingly, Multimedia will continue to morph into more of a choice-based program to further align it with the Visual Arts. Term 1 will be focused on building the students digital skills and exploring what it means to be a safe and responsible digital citizen. Learning will unfold through digital boot camps (akin to Art) where students will learn how to use an array of digital tools, programs and techniques and apply these in design challenges that will have them creating micro projects that not only put into place the skills they've learned, but help build their capacity to tell stories using digital tools; stories focused on different aspects of Digital Citizenship.

This year, we will continue to re-envision new and exciting things for our lunch time Arts Club and this year there will be a focus on how the young artists involved can engage the school community in art making and there will be more of a focus on 'public art'.

The Performing Arts program will be another jam-packed term with some amazing sessions and learning taking place. Mr Greg has written a little introduction and overview below, but there'll be plenty of games and explorations taking place.

We can't wait to share all of this creativity with you. Don't forget to tune into Seesaw. If you are a new family at the school, or an existing one yet to access Seesaw, and would like to know more about what it is and how to get access to your child's digital journal, please read the second last page for more information.

All our creativity,
The Arts Team
Francine, Aasta & Greg.



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What will the students learn in Term 4 in the Arts?

P to 6 Visual Arts

Preps | In Art this year we continue to embrace a choice-based program. Choice-based Art education allows students to choose topics and materials for exploration, provides relevant and brief instruction, and covers a broad range of topics in Art history, techniques and materials. The results are a collaborative learning environment, increased motivation to learn, and the development of artistic behaviour, such as problem-solving and decision making abilities.

The Art room has 'Art Centres'. Each centre is filled with organised and labelled supplies relating to that centre. These supplies are available to all children to use. The same standards (art content, skills etc.) as traditional Art education are embedded in each centre. Some traditional lessons and specialised, temporary centres enhance the curriculum. The students will experience concepts and materials many times, thereby reinforcing understanding and building skills. When working in the centres, the students will make real choices and be engaged in their work.

In Prep we will be exploring many of the 'Art Centres' through process art sessions. Process art is all about the experience the children have while they're creating. If it has a nice end product, that's great, but the end product isn't the focus of process art. The children will experiment with cutting, sticking, gluing, bending, stapling, mixing, painting... Sometimes we turn our process into an art piece, but often we don't worry about the outcome and just enjoy the experience of making and discovering.

Grades 1-6 | This year we will continue to focus on, and deepen, our choice-based Art program as we move into our third year of 'Teaching for Artistic Behaviour'. As with Term 1 in 2019, we will use Term 1 of 2020 to further develop the students' foundational skills, equipping them with a strong base from which they can build when it comes the time for them to envision and develop their own independent art works.

Last year, our Term 1 focus was on exploring the question: "where do artists get ideas?" These explorations definitely helped our students create incredible WOW pieces as the year progressed. This year, we will be zooming in on one of the eight Studio Habits of Mind – Develop Craft, which is all about giving students the time and space to explore different materials and techniques that they can apply to their own art works.

So what will this look like?

Students across Grades 1-6 will be split into groups, which they will work in for the whole of Term 1. At the beginning of each lesson, students will participate in a teacher-led (but sometimes student-led) 'boot camp', which is where they will watch a demonstration of how to use a particular material or do a particular technique. These boot camps will be short and effective and are specifically designed for students to be able to put these into practise, forming part of our 'Tuning In'. After the whole-group boot camp, students will split off into their groups and be allocated a Studio Centre to work in for two weeks. The studio centres that will be open are Painting, Collage, Sculpture/Construction and Drawing. Each centre will have its own unique 'design challenge', which will be a short project that whole group will have to complete in two weeks using all the materials in their allocated centre. For example, if one group is allocated the Drawing Centre, they will be given a drawing-based design challenge that will require them to use materials and techniques found in the Drawing Centre.

After two weeks, groups will rotate to a new centre and be given a new challenge. This will continue until all groups have rotated through all of the four centres.

Not only will students be given the time and opportunity to experiment with all the different materials in each of the centres of the Art Studio, but they will also be exposed to new ideas, techniques and styles of Art that will help them to 'Stretch & Explore' and 'Engage and Persist' – two other very important Studio Habits of Mind.

As students will be working in groups for the whole of Term 1, we will spend significant time each week discussing how we work cooperatively, what good team work looks/feels and sounds like and the purpose and importance of roles in group work, and students will be required to reflect on the successes, challenges and problem-solving of their team work from week to week. We will also be revisiting the *right to learn* and the *right to be safe*, and students will be working collaboratively in groups and as a whole class to create expectations, guidelines and procedures that will help us work as a cohesive community of artists during every studio session.

We will continue to share all of the learning on Seesaw and one of our focuses for this Term will be deepening our use of Seesaw to set individual learning goals for students.

Grade 5 and 6 Multimedia

In Multimedia, we will be working on building a strong community of digital artists, designers and creatives while also learning to develop our skills in using different programs and digital tools, digital techniques and our capacity to use these to tell stories.

As this is the first time our Grade 5 students will be doing Multimedia, we will begin by exploring the central questions: What is Multimedia? What digital tools and technologies can be used in Multimedia? How has digital media and media shaped our modern world? What are the positives and negatives? What role do they play, as young people, with their own use of digital technologies? through discussion and group activities. All Grade 5 and 6 students will also be exploring the key concepts around 'Digital Citizenship, Safety, Responsibilities and Digital Footprint', which will be the guiding theme that students will explore in this term's digital projects.

To help build the students' digital skills every two weeks, students will participate in a teacher-led 'boot camp' that will focus on a particular program or digital skill. We will cover a variety of tools and techniques that will include green screen technology in iMovie, storytelling through Plotagon, digital design through Canva, digital art and editing through procreate, beat making through Garageband and animation.

After each 'boot camp' students will work either individual or collaboratively through a digital design challenge that will help them put into use the skills they learned in the boot camp. Students will have 1-2 sessions to complete their challenge. All digital design challenges will work two-fold, not only to build their digital skills but to also give them the opportunity to explore the key concepts we unpacked around being a safe and responsible digital citizen. Through this, we will also be having important discussions about the use of modern technology to tell stories and shape thoughts and opinions.

Through the variety of activities, explorations and challenges, we are hoping students will build strong foundational skills and knowledge that will put them in great stead to move on to more choice-based, independent projects in the coming terms.

P to 6 Music and Performing Arts

Welcome back everyone and a big hello to our new students and families! A little introduction to you all... My name is Greg and I'll be taking your students one hour a week for Performing Arts. All students will get the chance to try, practice and pursue passions in music and performance. With the program running successfully for 2 years, we have built up a wide range of instruments and facilities to assist in nurturing talent and interest within Performing Arts. I am as ever excited about all the events, performances and opportunities the students will have throughout the year. I look forward to working and playing with every single class for a successful 2020!

The Preps - Introducing our new students to different instruments, songs, dance and sensory play, Performing Arts is sure to be a lot of fun, using games and song to introduce music into the preps everyday lives.

Grades 1 and 2 - This term we will be working closely with Senorita Irene using stories in Spanish and English to create a performance using a whole timbre of instruments and spoken word narration.

Grades 3 and 4 - Look out on Seesaw for the Grade 3 and 4's starting their own class band! Playing Ukuleles, guitars, keyboards and percussion, we're going to learn about the importance of each member of a band and how we can work together as a team to make the ultimate sound!

Grades 5 and 6 - Independent learning will be a focus within the Grade 5 and 6 program this term, providing the tools and support to learn instruments of choice while assisting students at each level wherever they may.

Key Dates & Reminders in the Arts: Term 1, 2020

Art Club – Tuesday lunch times (more information TBA)

Home & the Arts

Given how student-led and passion-driven our Arts program is, we think it's hugely important to get to know our students deeply and to be able to tap into their unique qualities, passions, attributes and personalities throughout the year in all three of the Arts subjects. Which is why last year, we sent out these 'Artist Profile' questionnaires for our young artists to complete. We would love it if you could take the time to sit down with your child and go through their responses once more as it is a fresh year and their interests may have changed. This will give us a resource that we can tap into when your child is working on art works or projects of personal interest. Your child's responses can be returned to us as a hard copy or can be emailed to sculli.francine.f@edumail.vic.gov.au (for students in Grades 3-6) or Dearnaley.Aasta.A@edumail.vic.gov.au (for students in Prep to Grade 2).

Artist Profile

Name of young artist _____
Grade: _____

1. Ten words to describe you: _____

2. What are some unique things about you? _____

3. What are the most important things to you? _____

4. What are some unique things about your family's culture or family traditions?

5. Tell us about the make-up and threads of your family?

6. What are the most favourite things you love doing? _____

7. Are there any personal stories from you or your family that you might wish to explore in your art or projects this year?

8. When you daydream, what do you daydream about? _____

9. Do you have any aspirations or dreams that you would like to explore in art?

10. What are you most passionate about? _____

11. Are there any local or global issues that you are interested in or passionate about?

12. What type of art materials do you most like exploring? _____

13. Do you have a favourite artist or art style? If so, who/what?: _____

14. What feelings does art or music make you feel?

15. Thinking about 2020, what are some things that you may like to make art about?

16. Thinking about 2020, what are some art materials you would like to see in the art studio?

17. Thinking about 2020, what are some pop-up studio centres your child would like to explore (outside of our main ones – drawing, sculpture, collage and painting):

18. For the parents, are there any creative, artistic or musical skills, or areas of expertise in your family that we could tap into (and that you may wish to share) to enrich our arts program?

19. For parents and child, what are some activities that you all like to do together?

20. For the parent, do you have any suggestions on ways to inspire your child's imagination in art? _____

21. Do you, our young artist, have anything you would like us to know about you or your art making, or a message for us as your art teachers, that you would want to tell us as we head into the 2019 art program?

NEW TO SEESAW?

Are you a new family at Sunshine Heights Primary School and don't know about Seesaw yet? Or maybe you are an existing family that would like to connect to Seesaw?

At Sunshine Heights Primary School, the Specialist team and students regularly use an app called Seesaw to share what they are learning in Specialist subjects. The Specialist team also use this app to distribute your child's Semester 1 & 2 reports for each Specialist subject.

Seesaw provides a safe and creative way for your child to document their learning. Each child has their own journal to which they add photos, videos, drawings and notes to showcase their learning in authentic ways.

We love using Seesaw because it opens the walls of our learning studios and allows communication between not only you and the Specialist teachers, but you and your child, giving you insight into their Specialist experiences. With this in mind all Prep parents, parents new to the school or existing parents not yet connected in P-2 can email dearnaley.aasta.a@edumail.vic.gov.au or sculli.francine.f@edumail.vic.gov.au if your child is in Grades 3-6.

If you have any questions about Seesaw, please don't hesitate to ask.

YEAR LEVEL	Visual Arts Performing Arts/Music Multimedia
PA	Monday 2:15PM-3:15PM – VISUAL ARTS Friday 9:00AM-10:00AM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
PB	Tuesday 10:00AM-11:00AM – VISUAL ARTS Friday 10:00AM-11:00AM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
PC	Monday 11:30AM-12:30PM – VISUAL ARTS Tuesday 10:00AM-11:00AM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
1A	Monday 12:30PM-1:30PM – VISUAL ARTS Wednesday 10:00AM-11:00AM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
1B	Monday 10:00AM-11:00AM – VISUAL ARTS Tuesday 11:30AM-12:30PM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
1/2A	Wednesday 11:30AM-12:30PM – VISUAL ARTS Friday 11:30AM-12:30PM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
2A	Tuesday 11:30AM-12:30PM – VISUAL ARTS Monday 11:30AM-12:30PM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
2B	Wednesday 10:00AM-11:00AM – VISUAL ARTS Wednesday 12:30PM-1:30PM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
3A	Wednesday 2:15PM-3:15PM – VISUAL ARTS Thursday 9:00AM-10:00AM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
3B	Thursday 9:00AM-10:00AM – VISUAL ARTS Monday 10:00AM-11:00AM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
3/4A	Tuesday 9:00AM-10:00AM – VISUAL ARTS Monday 2:15PM-3:15PM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
4A	Friday 10:00AM-11:00AM – VISUAL ARTS Wednesday 11:30AM-12:30PM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
4B	Wednesday 9:00AM-10:00AM – VISUAL ARTS Tuesday 9:00AM-10:00AM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
4C	Friday 11:30AM-12:30PM – VISUAL ARTS Wednesday 9:00AM-10:00AM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
5A	Wednesday 12:30PM-1:30PM – VISUAL ARTS Friday 12:30PM-1:30PM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC
5B	Thursday 10:00AM-11:00AM – MULTIMEDIA Friday 12:30PM-1:30PM – VISUAL ARTS Thursday 10:00AM-11:00AM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC Wednesday 11:30AM-12:30PM – MULTIMEDIA
6A	Thursday 12:30PM-1:30PM – VISUAL ARTS Tuesday 12:30PM-1:30PM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC Thursday 2:15PM-3:15PM – MULTIMEDIA
6B	Thursday 11:30AM-12:30PM – VISUAL ARTS Monday 12:30PM-1:30PM – PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC Wednesday 10:00AM-11:00AM – MULTIMEDIA