

Unit 3: Sharing the Planet

Water brings life

Dear Parents,

Over the next 6 weeks Year 4 will finish their work on energy and begin another Science unit about water and its importance to our lives.

The Central idea:

Water is essential to life and is a limited resource for many people.

Lines of Inquiry:

- The sources of water and how it is used.
- The distribution and availability of useable water.
- Our responsibilities regarding water and consequences of its loss.



Inquiry

In Inquiry we will:

- Recognise that water exists in different forms
- Explore the impact of the sun on the availability of water
- Describe how water sustains life
- Analyse systems of water storage and usage, both natural and human-made
- Explain why fresh water is a limited resource
- Identify water issues and propose solutions for responsible, equitable water use (for example desalination)



English

The students will conduct research on the topic of water by using explanation texts and non-chronological report texts. Students will explore and identify the structure, features and language of these texts. They will then use these text features to write an explanation text about one topic of interest to them from our science investigations about water. They will also create an information text

PowerPoint, which they will present to the class about a topic of interest to them about water.

Mathematics

We have been very busy in our second unit of inquiry. Students have inquired into the properties of shapes including both familiar and new shapes. Students enjoyed drawing some of these shapes on tessellated paper and then cutting them out in order to inquire more deeply into their properties. Students have also developed their skills in telling the time and most can use terms such as '[minutes] to/past [hour]' and as well as specific units of time such as 'quarter' and 'half' an hour. We have also continued to develop our numeracy skills. Into Unit 3 we will continue to develop numeracy skills by inquiring into Decimal numbers. Our main inquiry theme will be probability but we shall also inquire into Standard Units of measurement such as grams and meters.



Music:

During the previous unit, students have learned to play simple chords in Piano keyboard, they have learned to play melodies in Piano and have enjoyed playing together alongside with their classmates. In unit 3, students will be having a continuation of the previous lesson in chords playing and will be having some exercises in notes reading using the Treble clef and Bass clef wherein they will be constructing word or group of words for them to be able to improve their skills on notes' reading as well as their ability in constructing sentences.



Art:

Throughout Unit 2 the students have worked really hard to maintain the routines in the Art room. The students are following instructions clearly, and they are becoming very independent. During this unit, the students have been learning about the skills and techniques of Weaving. We looked at using different types of materials, and looked at how weaving has changed over time. The students created some beautiful chalk pastel paper weaves, and then they created dream catchers using a circular weave technique on old recycled CD's. Come to the Art room and check them out!

For Unit 3 the students will be focusing on the world around them, looking into things such as symbols

and motifs that present one's culture and identity.

Mandarin

Foundation

For foundation level kids, we are going to learn the unit "How we share the planet". In the unit, students will inquire into the situation of water use in China, especially in Nanjing. Students will learn the ways to protect the water around us.

Advanced

Throughout the Unit 2, the advanced year 4 students have tried very hard in Mandarin class, including reading and remember the articles in textbook, remembering the Chinese characters' and writing.

In the next Unit, they will explore the wonderful nature by learning several kinds of style articles, including Tang poetry, modern poem and essay. Besides of that, they also will learn four short stories which are focus on the topic of interesting story.

PE:

In PE we have been focusing on learning about relay's and 'Teamwork'. It is an important component of sports [and life] that participants learn to work as part of a team. That they know how to offer support, how to contribute to a team and how to work with others.

Relays are an excellent tool for developing these skills. Short competitions where existing skills, or new skills can be used in competition. The skills can be complex, or simple skills that students are still developing, and get to use under 'pressure'.

As the weather starts to get colder, we will turn our focus to games, sports and skills suited to indoors.