

Welcome back to Term 1 2016. Our first unit for this term is called 'Connecting with our Community'

The context- This is a personal development unit with a focus on Citizenship. We aim to build a strong foundation for the Middle Years learning community while also looking at ways each student can contribute to their school and local community. Through the unit, each student, in consultation with teachers, will develop their learner profile and learning goals for this term, as well as identify two ways they will contribute to the school community this year. We will also travel in to Mercy Place Aged Care in Colac once a week over 6 weeks to work with the residents there.

Key Understandings

The things I say and do affect the wellbeing of my community.
We are all part of class, school, local and global communities.
I can and should use my strengths to serve my community.

Essential Questions

How do we talk and act in our Middle Years community? And how don't we?
How can I use my strengths to contribute to the school community?
How can I contribute to the local community?
Why should I contribute to my communities?

Skills we are focusing on throughout the unit-

How to use positive self-talk.
How to communicate effectively within the class
How to help resolve conflicts
How to work as a community volunteer
Set personal goals using the 6Cs

Evidence of Understanding

1. Learning Plan

Students will produce a learning plan (in collaboration with teachers) including a big picture learner profile, as well as individual subject LIPs for English, Maths and Personal Development. They will share this with parents at a student-parent-teacher conference.

Sharing what we have learned

In small groups, students will present an aspect of what they have been learning to the Monday school assembly.

- What does a strong community look/feel/sound like?
- Why should we contribute to our community?
- Why is it important to set personal goals?
- What are some effective communication skills?

Volunteering Reflection

Students will write a comment for their end of term report about the local community volunteering project.

Homework expectations:

- Independent reading every night
- Weekly writing: autobiography or biography
- Unit tasks (students may have some work to complete at home associated with ongoing unit work)