

Welcome to the start of the 2017 school year and Term 1 in Pod2A with Mrs Kokoscke and Ms Princi. Students are taught by Mrs Kokoschke Monday to Thursday and I take the class on Fridays. Fridays are a little different to the rest of the week in Pod 2A as the learning on Friday is STEM based. As such we will be focussing on Science and Technology (design and digital technologies) with Math skills incorporated into our learning tasks. We will be involved in individual tasks, partner tasks and group tasks and we will be working on problem solving tasks throughout the term.

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### **Behaviour:**

Mrs Kokoschke and myself have the same behaviour and learning expectations in Pod2A. The only difference is in the way we record our observations. I record student behaviour using Class Dojo and use it to reward positive learning behaviours as well as to keep track of behaviour issues. I also use Class Dojo as a way to communicate with parents. Though class dojo I am able to let you know what is happening in Pod2A as a class story and to celebrate student successes with you. I will be sending home a parent invite to join Pod2A in class dojo so you can receive our class story and individual success messages.

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### **English/Literacy:**

English/Literacy in Pod2A will be Science and Technology based. In term 1, students will begin working on writing Reports and Exposition (argument). The report writing topics will focus on the unit we are studying in Science. Exposition writing will incorporate Science, Health, Technology and Geography current events that are relevant to students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Spelling will incorporate scientific and technological terms that the students encounter during Science and Technology learning. There will be an expectation that students will use their new vocabulary in their written work.

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### **Reading:**

On Fridays we focus on R5 reading. Students read independently for 20 minutes, respond and reflect on their understanding of what they are reading, share their knowledge/understanding with a partner and report back to the class. Our response and reflection of reading will have a include comprehension tasks.

**STEM:**

On Fridays students will be undertaking learning in the areas of Science, Technology and I.T. Math will involve problem solving activities and math tasks incorporated in our Science and Technology tasks.

**Math-** Math on Fridays will occur as a component of our Science and Technology work. We will be undertaking tasks such as measurement, data collection and creating tallies, tables and graphs.

**Science:**

Our Term 1 Science unit is Earth and Space Science and our topic is 'Creators or Destroyers'. The topic focuses on Volcanoes. Students will be planning and conducting ways to investigate and test their ideas (experimenting), collecting and presenting information and data, reflecting on their investigations and explaining their findings.

**Technology:**

In Technology we will be focussing on both Design and Technologies and Digital Technology. In Design and Technologies, students will be involved in problem solving activities such as designing solutions to environmental and needs based issues, designing, creating, improving and inventing everyday items. In Digital Technologies students will be involved in research activities, creating tables and graphs using Excel, importing images into documents from ipads and cameras, media arts and robotics.

**Fitness:**

Fitness will take place each Friday for 20 minutes, however if we are the winners of the Polite Panda an extra 10 minutes of fitness will be added the following week as a reward. Fitness will involve students in structured games, which incorporate co-operation, sport specific skills and free choice fitness activities.

**Visual Art:**

Students undertake learning in Visual Art on Mondays this term. We will be focussing on incorporating our understanding of the Elements of Art and will be beginning some work on the Principles of Design. Students will be learning about pattern and balance in artworks. We will be looking at pattern with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, Maori art and contemporary/pop art. We will look at balance through the way artists use elements of space, colour and tone in artworks. Students will also be looking at Japanese 'sumi-e' art and math in art.

Ms Angela Princi