

Grade 6
Semester Two Overview

In this second semester of Grade Six, students will be strengthening their writing skills through a number of different exercises. Report writing and writing for different purposes will introduce them to the skills they will need to develop in Junior High. Critical thinking and creative writing will also be very important this semester, the focuses of this aspect of writing skills include concise prose and self-edited work.

Our novel *Tiger Rising* is an excellent example of concise yet evocative prose and we will use this novel to create other written work including poetry.

Our weekly debate forums will continue and we will use a number of discussion strategies from jury style decision taking to round table discussions and traditional debates. Debates encourage constructive and critical thinking and offer strategies for argument that are positive and controlled. Practising this form of dialogue also assists in the critical thinking processes.

In continuation of our successful language and culture class one maths class per week will be conducted in the Indonesian language. This will give non-Indonesian students a practical use for the Indonesian language they are learning and will give Indonesian students a venue for working in their mother tongue and thereby giving it value and relevance in the classroom.

Our next history study is *The Crusades*. This follows the study of the birth of Islam and will be undertaken in the same style of combination learning techniques. These vary from dictation to recall of facts from listening and partner exercises as well as 'personal experience' creative writing similar to that undertaken in the study of the spread of Islam and *Sinbad the Sailor*. This enables the students to absorb an understanding of the major occurrences of history and later recognise the relevance the actions of the past have on the world we live in today.

Environmental Science will continue to study man's relationship to the planet and the many life forces that support man's existence. We will also look at the endangered species of the South East Asian region prompted by the tiger in the novel *Tiger Rising*.

In Design Technology we will make felt from wool and visit a paper making factory in the first term, the second term is student driven and will be a culmination of two years of practical projects and designs. Global trade, market forces and import export markets are a continuing scheme of work during Design Technology.

Geography will continue to look at areas of extreme change and, following "Alaska", the students will research the South Pacific and Greenland before studying more water issues in Africa.

Science class will continue with study in the Harcourt textbooks and students will use the interactive science learning sites in IT class.

Semester Two builds on the teaching of semester one and reinforces the skills and learning acquired. At the end of Semester Two it is anticipated that the students will be prepared for and aware of the requirements that will be expected of them in Junior High School.