Science

Science - Bruce Ziebell

Science is taught as a specialist subject to students in Grades 3-6 on a Thursday and Friday.

The Science program also provides two extension and engagement programs - The Solar Boat Challenge and the Human Powered Vehicle Challenge.

Transit of Venus

http://www.abc.net.au/science/transitofvenus/

On the 6th June, Venus will line up directly with the Sun and we'll get to see the planet as a small black dot against the bright Sun. The transit of Venus is one of the rarest cosmological events you'll ever see. This is your last opportunity for more than 105 years. The next transit will not happen until 2117.

Only six transits have occurred since the phenomenon was discovered – 1639, 1761, 1769, 1874, 1882 and the most recent in 2004. Each has its own story. Like the transit of 1769 that provided the public reason for James Cook’s voyage to the Pacific but led him to chart the east coast of Australia.

Australia, New Zealand, East Asia and the western Pacific are the best locations for viewing all of the 2012 transit, which starts here in Melbourne around 8.15am and goes through to 2.45pm.

It is most important that you don't look at the sun directly otherwise you could cause eye damage.

On the day if there is no cloud cover we will have in place a webcam to view the transit throughout the school network and we will use a number of indirect methods to view this occurrence. All are welcome to share this experience with us, I will be in the science room from around 8.00am.

http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2012/05/23/3508538.htm
http://www.scienceworksmuseum.org/Page.asp?NavID=637

Scienceworks is hosting Breakfast with Venus from 8am to 10am on June 6. Solarscopes will enable visitors to view the event, and there will be live feeds from around the world.
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Students in grades 3 & 4 and some from grades 5&6 are investigating establishing an indigenous grassland space in the dirt/mud outside the science room. Our current plan is to loosen the soil, fence the space with chicken wire, place a few good sized rocks and plant wallaby and kangaroo grasses with a few small flowering plants.

Bird boxes have been discussed as well as small raised water baths and a worm farm. Our aim is to try and attract / create habitats for small indigenous insects, reptiles and birds. Any parents who may have time to help establish the space please see myself.

Term one highlights are:

Students in grades 3 & 4 have had the opportunity to be involved in a science lesson at Mt Alexander Secondary College’s science laboratories. This term’s focus is electricity as an introduction to our topic covered later in the year. The lesson started with static electricity and to watch our students interact with a van de Graaff generator, listen to the crack of a spark or watch their hair stand on end, to witness the astonishment and wonder in their expression is a joy. The secondary teacher, Graham provides our students with the chance to be involved in a secondary school setting.

Students in grades 3 & 4 have been constructing their own sundials and being introduced to the adjustments needed to align the time from the shadow to that shown on our clocks. The difference between magnetic and true north and its impact and how the sun apparently tracks across our sky have also been introduced.
The students in grades 5 & 6 have been investigating renewable energy as part of their unit on electrical circuits. Students have built model windmills to assist in where would be a possible site for a school windmill and have been using solar panels to power light globes and small electrical motors.

Hot links for enthusiastic scientists - [CSIRO's Double Helix Science Club](#)  
[Science by Email](#)  
[Questacon](#)  
[Scienceworks](#)