spark

Information For Parents

When does Spark occur?
Spark happens once per week with students encouraged to continue their learning beyond the classroom.

How does Spark link to the curriculum?
Spark focuses on the Australian Curriculum's general capabilities looking at critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical understanding and intercultural understanding.

How can I see my child's learning?
The Junior School will hold a learning exhibition at the end of each semester, where all students will have something to exhibit based on their Spark sessions.

What is Spark?

Spark is an elective-based 'hands-on' program for Years 5 and 6 students, unique to Canterbury.

Each semester our students choose a subject to study. Then students from both year levels are combined into the same classroom and taught by relevant staff.

Spark is about building curiosity, encouraging students to try something different, and providing an exceptional opportunity for them to embark on their own learning journey as part of their World Ready Canterbury education.

Semester One 2023

$20 BOSS | Mrs Joelene Anderson

$20 Boss is a nationwide immersive program that introduces students to the exciting world of entrepreneurship and inspires them to become innovators by creating, launching and operating their very own enterprise. Students will work in teams to identify problems, create product solutions, and turn their ideas into a real business.

This subject promotes ongoing critical and creative thinking, while embedding financial capability, equipping students for their future careers and empowering them to forge their own pathways. At the Spark Learning Expo, students will have the opportunity to set up a market stall and use skills developed throughout the program to promote and sell their products to the community.

AQUATIC BIOLOGY | Mr Ben Woolacott

'I've got a creek in my backyard' is an aquatic biology unit that focuses on the environmental health of the creek system that flows through Canterbury College.

Students will be given the opportunity in small groups to survey a section of the creek and map its environmental diversity. Once students have completed their survey, they will initiate a plan to improve the creek's health, making it favourable for long-term species habitation.

CRITICAL & CREATIVE THINKING | Mrs Juanita Purvis

Thinking that is productive, purposeful and intentional is at the centre of effective learning. By practising critical and creative thinking, students can solve problems and devise innovative ideas to do so. Participants will follow the design process as they identify a problem, then investigate and research the issues.

They will develop their ideas, then plan and create solutions that will be evaluated and adapted based on testing. Their critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills will be applied to real-world issues that concern them, which may include freshwater access, environmental pollution or sustainable energy.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING: BUILDING BRIDGES
Mr Andrew Powell

Around the world, bridges are used to connect areas. Some may span long distances over water, others may be responsible for carrying heavy loads over valleys, while other bridges may even be required to move or transform – allowing other transport modes to come through.

In this subject, students will examine what goes into researching, planning, designing, testing and building a successful bridge. They will share their learning journeys and creations at the Spark Learning Expo.

REGENERATING AUSTRALIA | Mrs Alisha Richardson

Regenerating Australia is based on a short film involving hopes and dreams for the country's future. It is a news story for our nation: a story of empowerment, solutions and regeneration. In this subject we will explore greener and more vibrant cities and communities; investigate what a high-speed rail network would look like; and the impacts of large-scale wind, solar, battery and hydrogen projects.

We will examine the impacts of regenerative agriculture and reforestation combined with Indigenous knowledge and fire ecology. Students will work together to find solutions for building a better country for us all to enjoy. They will build their sense of citizenship by designing and implementing a regenerative action plan that positively impacts Canterbury College, leading to a better Logan and Australia.

MISSION TO MARS | Mrs Sharna Te Hau

Imagine 50 years into the future, and all the great nations have banded together to seek alternative settlements, to cater for our ever-growing population. We are constantly innovating in science, technology, engineering, maths, art and architecture. Spacefaring organisations are seeking to establish a settlement on Mars capable of supporting thousands of intrepid human volunteers.

Here, students will be responding to an open invitation to suppliers, which includes several important factors – such as structural design and infrastructure, daily operations, human factors and automation. They must overcome the challenges frequently faced by those in real-life scenarios. Students will gain valuable experience in the workings of a strong performing 'STEAM Team'. At the Spark Learning Expo, they will unveil their individual and collaborative solutions to challenges and pitch their designs and ideas to the community.

3D MOVIE ANIMATION | Mrs Kristy Blinco

Do you like making movies? Designing characters and stories? Then this subject is for you! Students will be immersed in becoming storytellers by designing their own amateur characters and using their imagination to allow their character to come to life in their own stop-motion movie.

Students will collaboratively work together to investigate animation characters. They will design their characters, create their characters, and then transport their characters into their own movie. Students will have the opportunity to plan, design, build, problem-solve, reflect and improve their creation.

GREEN THUMBS: GARDENING & PLANT PROPAGATION
Mr Paul Penny

Some simple facts: Climate Change is here and plants are a key part of the solution; Cost Of Living increases are here to stay; Everyone wants to cook well using fresh ingredients; Beautiful landscaping and the desire to fill our homes with plants is 'on trend'; Humans in the western world have finally embraced 'mindfulness'; A great place to learn and practise mindfulness is in the garden.

Students will learn gardening skills and plant propagation techniques, giving them a 'green thumb' and welcoming them to the leisurely productive world of self-sufficiency. They will grow their own food and propagate their own plants, including those for a multi-plant pot they can take home.

CSI: CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION | Miss Courtney Jones

Do you love detective stories, watching Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) shows, or dream of being a forensic scientist? Then this subject is for you! Using crime scene activities and investigations, students can learn skills in data collection, observation, analysis and problem-solving.

They will work collaboratively to find suspects and culprits via fingerprinting, fibre analysis, chromatography and other investigative strategies. Students will lead themselves through research and apply their knowledge of investigation techniques using critical thinking, analysis and communication through clear documentation. The big question is: Who did it?

THE MAGIC OF MOVEMENT | Mr Michael Brown

Moving our bodies! We do it by ourselves and alongside others. We do it every day for enjoyment and necessity. But do we ever think about the countless opportunities we have to move each day, and the physical, mental and emotional effects these different movement types can have?

With this topic, students will explore the different ways our bodies move throughout our daily lives and the direct result these movements have physiologically. Studying the way we move, and how it can transform us physically and mentally, will help students develop a better understanding of the importance of moving our bodies.

POTTERY WITH A PURPOSE | Mrs Lauren McCalman

What and who is pottery for? In this subject, students will be challenged to make an item that must hold something. They will select a client to create an item for – considering their needs, purpose (form and function) and aesthetic qualities.

Students will learn the foundations of pottery, and explore techniques for creating sophisticated and artistic sculptures, including wheel-throwing, hand-building and glazing. Participants will inquire, problem-solve and seek feedback to create a final product that meets their client's needs.

ARTS RENEWAL: BOOKBINDING & DECORATING
Mrs Suzi Kruttschnitt

Can functional objects be beautiful too? This subject is an inquiry learning project, where students will design and make their own handmade book, using decision-making processes and reflecting upon their personal interests. They will study Form vs Function and apply strategies to their creation, while considering how a book can be made aesthetically pleasing – combining traditional bookbinding processes with 21st Century artmaking techniques.

Students will experiment with unusual media and subject matter, research ideas from other artists, plus be inspired by stimulus from our own campus environment. They will develop their own page design ideas based on their intended purpose, while still retaining functionality; develop skills painting and drawing to create an aesthetically pleasing front and back cover; and demonstrate their individual artistic skills and flair.

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