Prospect North Primary School

Developing fun, active play space

An eat well be active - Primary Schools project school

Our thanks go to ACHPER for this article from ewba Newsletter 2013

In welcoming another active and healthy year at Prospect North Primary School, a lot of our focus is on maintaining what we have implemented so far. As a school that has had an active involvement in the eat well be active – Primary School project since 2009 sustaining our work while implementing a couple of new and exciting projects will provide a continued challenge for staff, students and parents at our school.

This year we have a big focus on reinventing our yard yet again to cater for growing numbers in our school. Part of my role as the Health and PE teacher will be to work with students on a whole school Playground Project. I will be working with students across all year levels in developing our new fun, active and safe yard. This project will be based around student voice using the IVAC Approach (Investigations, Visions, Actions, and Changes). Students will be involved in the process the whole way through, investigating the yard and playground theme, developing a vision, and action change, whilst working with the eight dimensions aimed at developing students’ action competence. Our eat well be active Action Team will be heavily involved in this project too.

Personalised learning is another focus area across our school this year and will be a powerful tool within the PE curriculum. Students will be given opportunities in units of work to monitor their own learning. Students will be guided to discover what they need to know based on the SACSA Achievement Outcomes. We will begin with students assessing their current levels of attainment within unit outcomes. This will include recognising their strengths and any areas needing improvement. Students will set individual learning goals that they will be in charge of monitoring and recording their learning through a variety of mediums including technology, voice recording, filming, a learning diary and formative assessment check lists as a record of achievement. Personalised learning sessions will run once per week with skill stations and activities set up to support each child to reach these personalized learning goals. All of this will occur with regular peer and teacher feedback.

We are also happy to welcome a new member to PNPS staff and our eat well be active team, Justine Veitch. She is with us for the year as our Physical Education, dance and drama specialist teacher. We will be working together trailing a team teaching approach with a focus on our personalized learning program where we aim to develop, integrate and offer a Fundamental Movement Skill and PE Intervention Program.

As you can see it is a busy year ahead as is the case in most schools, but also a year with very exciting projects. Lots of great eat well be active programs continuing to run on a day to Day basis with a big focus on student action teams, mentoring programs and student voice, interschool competitions at lunch times and out of school involvement in soccer and netball, SAPSASA clinics and our edible and sensory garden will have all working overtime.

Have a happy and healthy eat well be active 2013 and I look forward to seeing you all at the ACHPER (SA) Conference.

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eat well be active - Primary Schools Project, a joint SA Health and Department for Education and Child Development project from 2008-2013.