YEAR FOUR INQUIRY UNITS 2016

Sharing the Planet
An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.

Central Idea:
“Resolving conflict enables us to live peacefully.”

Key Concepts:
Responsibility: What is our responsibility?
Causation: Why is it like it is?
Connection: Why is it like it is?
Learner Profile: Caring, Open-minded, Balance
Transdisciplinary Skills: Accepting responsibility, Respecting others, Cooperating and Resolving conflict.

Who We Are
An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social, and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to human.

Central Idea:
“Many cultures share core values and beliefs which can foster connection.”

Key Concepts:
Connection: Why is it like it is?
Perspective: What are the points of view?
Learner Profile: Reflective and Principled
Transdisciplinary Skills: Listening, Speaking, Non-verbal communication and Presenting.

How we Express Ourselves
An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.

Central Idea:
“Literature helps understand and express our individuality through the written word.”

Key Concepts:
Perspective: What are the points of view?
Form: What is it like?
Connection: How is it connected to other things?
Learner Profile: Communicators and Thinkers
Transdisciplinary Skills: Comprehension, Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Viewing and Presenting.

How we Organise Ourselves
An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations, societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.

Central Idea:
“Communities are affected by the actions of international aid organisations.”

Key Concepts:
Function: How does it work?
Form: What is it like?
Causation: Why is it like it is?
Learner Profile: Risk-takers and Communicators
Transdisciplinary Skills: Organisation, Time management, Codes of behaviour, Analysis and Adopting a variety of group roles.

How we Express Ourselves
An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.

Central Idea:
“Throughout history, civilizations have had common needs and wants.”

Key Concepts:
Connection: How is it connected to other things?
Function: How does it work?
Reflection: How do we know?
Learner Profile: Thinkers and Inquirers
Transdisciplinary Skills: Formulating questions, Presenting research findings, Observing, planning, Acquisition of knowledge, Comprehension, Analysis and Evaluation.

How the World Works
An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.

Central Idea:
“Energy is transformed from one form to another and can be used to develop a sustainable future.”

Key Concepts:
Change: How has it changed?
Form: What is it like?
Learner Profile: Knowledgeable and Inquirers
Transdisciplinary Skills: Formulating questions, observing, planning collecting, recording, organising and interpreting data, presenting research findings.

Where we are in Place and Time
An inquiry into orientation in place and time, personal histories; homes and journeys, the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.

Central Idea:
“Throughout history, civilizations have had common needs and wants.”

Key Concepts:
Connection: How is it connected to other things?
Function: How does it work?
Reflection: How do we know?
Learner Profile: Thinkers and Inquirers
Transdisciplinary Skills: Formulating questions, Presenting research findings, Observing, planning, Acquisition of knowledge, Comprehension, Analysis and Evaluation.