

7TH FEBRUARY 2020

# YEAR 4 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER: TERM 1

## Important Dates

Wednesday 19th February	Meet the Teacher—2.00pm to 6.30pm
Week 5	Grade 3/4 Swimming
Monday 9th March	Public Holiday—NO SCHOOL
Monday 23rd March	Inquiry Showcase
Friday 27th March	Last day of Term 1—2.10pm dismissal



## Welcome to the 2020 school year!

### Reading

The students will begin 2020 learning to appreciate a wide range of authors, books and revisiting routines for the reading hour. Lessons will be around identifying the genres they love to read, the structure of the reading hour, setting up of the classroom library and how to use their reading journals effectively to practise their reading skills and strategies. The goal is to help students think of themselves as readers by reading books that they enjoy and participate in reading that they enjoy. Once the rules and routines of reading are embedded, the students will begin learning the strategies that will support their reading growth and help to decode and comprehend their Just Right Texts. Students should be reading each night as this helps them consolidate their learning. They are also able to access Literacy Planet at home and work on tasks set by their classroom teacher.

### Writing

In writing, the students will begin 2020 learning to understand why writer's write and the purpose of writing. The lessons will focus on understanding the writing process and how a writing piece grows from one small thought or sentence stem. This term will also see the students learning to write persuasive texts. They will learn about the structure of a persuasive text and the techniques and language features used to persuade the reader. The writing lessons will incorporate grammar, punctuation and spelling so students will continue to practise these skills regularly.

### Inquiry

The term will begin with classrooms focussing on setting the scene and 'Learning to Learn'. The Positive Behaviour Matrix will be re-visited so all teachers and students understand the behaviour and learning expectations.



Each classroom will establish expectations for morning and afternoon routines, moving around the school respectfully and the correct ways to play safely on the 4-6 play equipment. We will also create classroom agreements.



In the second half of the term, we will move on to our Health unit where we will learn that we can use strategies and skills to reduce harm, prevent accidents and create safe environments.

The students will have the opportunity to participate in a week long swimming program in Week 5.

### Mathematics

This term in mathematics the students will learn about the structure of the maths lesson which includes a warm-up, teaching of the concept, independent practice and reflection. They will be exposed to the different mathematical resources available in the classroom and how to use these tools effectively to grasp the concepts. Students will be given a counting goal that will help them become more efficient at solving problems.

Later in the term, our focus will be telling the time, and understanding and using place value to solve maths problems.

To practise the skills learned at school, students can access Mathletics at home. Their teachers will set tasks that relate to what they are learning in the classroom.

The Grade 4 teachers are very excited to be teaching your children this year.

We look forward to a productive and enjoyable year of learning, and working in partnership with you.



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## ART

To start off the term the students are decorating their art journals and folders to add a creative and personal touch. The grade 3 and 4 students have already started working on their 'superhero' self-portraits and are learning to incorporate the placement of objects, such as eyes, nose, mouth and body parts and where they fit in relation to each other. The students will then add features to create their own 'personalised' 'Superhero' version of themselves. The main focus of this term is about colour theory, starting with primary colours and making connections to famous artists that have worked with primary colours, such as 'Piet Mondrian'.

The students will be introduced to the colour wheel and they will create secondary, tertiary and complementary colours by mixing and experimenting with the different colour families to create new ones. As an example, tertiary colours are formed when we equally mix two secondary colours together; so the students will create artworks by mixing different colour families together to demonstrate their knowledge of how colours are formed. The students will also work with tints and shades and warm and cool colours and learn about the artists that use them effectively, such as Picasso and Andy Warhol. The 3/4 students will have great fun working in the art room and getting messy with paint, as well as experimenting with a range of colouring materials, such as pencil, texta, crayon and chalk pastel this term. I look forward to a fun and creative time with the 3-4's in the art room this term.

## LOTE—Chinese

Welcome back to an exciting new year! During term one, grade threes and fours will understand some traditions that are celebrated during Chinese New Year, such as the reason the Chinese use the colour red and firecrackers. Other topics that will be covered are pets and animals like 猫 māo (cat) and 狗 gǒu (dog), 生日shēngrì (birthdays), 运动 yùndòng (sports) and 时间shíjiān (time). They will learn to understand how to pronounce Chinese words using pinyin (Romanised sounds). They will learn to write some vocabulary using Chinese characters. Throughout the term, the grade 3s and 4s will be doing a combination of creative activities, role playing conversations and being involved in discussions about Chinese culture and history.

## Science

This term in science, the year 3 and 4's will be focusing on the unit of Biological Science. Students will explore the difference between living and non-living things, along with different life cycles. Students will be making and recording observations of living things as they develop through their life cycles for example insects, frogs and flowering plants. Later this term, students will have the opportunity to plant their own seeds and observe the changes in the life cycle of a flowering plant, whilst documenting their observations weekly.

## Physical Education

Welcome back everyone! This term will be great filled with confidence building and resilience. With that in mind, we will be using this term to get our first step in the door to prepare for Interschool Sports. First we will look at Tennis, rallying the ball back and forth and keeping the ball. Students will also use and learn the rules of playing Hot Shot tennis against someone. Next, we will learn the rules to Volleyball. Teaching our grade fours to serve the ball and knowing when to bump vs volley. After that, we will look at cricket – striking the ball and building the running stamina. Finally, we will look at soccer. We will focus on getting the ball back in, using the space and communicating with each other.

Get your hat, water and positive mind set ready because it's time to play!