

Welcome to Year 3/4 2016!

Wow! What an exciting week we've had, it's been a great start to 2016.

Student laptops have been rolled out and we are all very excited about the work that we have done to date.

By now your children should be feeling more comfortable with their new classroom. Core routines will be starting to become habits and we are hoping that you and your child are feeling happy in their new classroom environment.

During the past week we have had SRC speeches, swimming trials and planning day. Not to mention getting used to full days of school.

This overview is designed to give you some information about Year 3/4 during Term One so that you and your child can talk about what's happening in the near future.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM ONE:

FEBRUARY

17 – Hockey Clinics

22 and 23 – Meet the Teacher

24 – School Photographs

MARCH

8 – Michael Ymer (Maths) Parent Evening

15, 18 & 21 – Outdoor Education

24 – End of Term One

GRADE 3/4 YEARLY OVERVIEW

Term One curriculum will cover the key areas below. Please find a description of learning opportunities in Term One 2016. Although our focus is on the areas stated, the teacher may adapt the plan to suit the learning needs of the class.

ENGLISH

Thank you for helping to fill the Inspiration bags over the holidays. The students have been using their inspirations to help them plan and write a recount this week. Over the next couple of weeks we will be using the Inspiration bags as part of our Writer's Notebook Program to write narratives and persuasive pieces.

We will be reading narratives and persuasive pieces in Guided Reading with the aim of teaching the students how to identify different structures, vocabulary used and the reasons for writing in different ways.

Students have been taking spelling words home as part of their homework this week and will continue to bring two words home, a day for the rest of the term.

When conducting reading and writing lessons and workshops, teachers will focus on teaching skills that promote the correct use of punctuation and spelling conventions. They will also extend students' understanding of grammar and punctuation as teachers identify needs in individual's writing.

NUMERACY

It is important that students learn to master the proficiency strands of; understanding, fluency, problem solving and reasoning within all of the learning area of Mathematics. We plan our lessons so that students do not learn mathematics skills in isolation. Where possible, we teach skills for students to use and adapt when solving a variety of mathematic problems.

We will incorporate the follow strategies into lessons so that students gain a greater understanding and competency in these areas;

- Number – Skip counting and number sequences, odd and even numbers, addition and subtraction, rearranging and partitioning numbers to 10 000.
- Data collection, sorting, displaying and using
- Measurement of length area and shape properties
- Chance in everyday context

INQUIRY

Our Inquiry focus for the first half of the Term One will be on social relationships, resilience, values and personal learning skills. Students will be learning skills and strategies that will support them to;

- Get to know each other better.
- Deal with conflict.
- Develop persistence when faced with difficult learning tasks.
- Uphold the school values.

For the second half of Term One our Inquiry investigation will have a Health focus, based on different areas of health that students are interested in learning more about.

The term will end with a three day Outdoor Education program to further support the building of community and teams within the 3/4 area.

HOMEWORK

The students have a diary that they are expected to carry to and from school each day. This will enable parents and teachers to communicate if necessary, and for students to record homework expectations, reading practice and spelling words.

Homework will consist of daily home reading, practising spelling words and work on student's ILIP or a skills based homework task, eg. Punctuation, mathematic problem solving.

Teachers will collect homework on a Friday for correction and re-issue the following Monday.

NAPLAN (ADVANCE NOTICE)

Students in Year 3 are required to undertake NAPLAN testing in May (Term 2) this year. The tests will be held on the following days:

- Tuesday 10 May Language Conventions and Writing
- Wednesday 11 May Reading
- Thursday 12 May Numeracy

Students will be well-prepared for NAPLAN at school with a range of activities in Reading, Writing and Numeracy to facilitate their understanding of the test format. This will sit alongside our regular curriculum.

ENVIRONMENTAL & OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

The program will be conducted in weeks 8 and 9 of Term 1 in 2016. All students are strongly encouraged to participate. Students will develop team building and social skills and join in a range of challenging and engaging outdoor experiences with their peers. This year, students will attend Lady Northcote, CERES Education Centre and LaTrobe Sports Centre. Please return payment, permission notes and medical forms promptly to enable us to facilitate prompt planning and organisation of this program.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Students in Year 3 & Year 4 will have a 50 minute ICT lesson with **Miss Bonnie Lewis** or **Miss Michelle Sterjovski** in their classroom using their laptops.

The 5 ICT areas of study are:

- Applying social and ethical protocols and practices when using ICT.
- Investigating.
- Creating.
- Communicating.
- Managing and operating ICT.

During the year, students will have the opportunity to:

- Increase their typing ability through a range of programs and online games.
- Investigate and research using the internet with a focus on being able to use a search engine, using key words, to find websites related to the student's topic.
- Create animations using Kahootz and other programs.
- Learn specific Cyber Safety skills.
- Increase problem solving ability.
- Use cameras and video recording devices.

Classroom teachers will plan and incorporate these technologies into all learning areas as they see fit.

STUDENT LAPTOPS AND CLASS BLOGS

Thank you for your support with the implementation of the 1:1 devices this year. The students have settled down well to the responsible practices of owning their own laptop. They have learnt a lot and are coping well with the large amount of new information they are receiving every day.

We have introduced the students to a Microsoft product called OneNote that will help us store student's work. We have found that this program is a really good way for students to store their work in one place without needing to file a large number of documents. We will be storing school communication, notices and forms in the communication tab on OneNote and most computer tasks will be completed in OneNote this term. Please check your student's OneNote files periodically – this is a great opportunity for you to talk about what is happening in class. This term, we will also be focusing on improving student skill levels in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Picasa, Photo Story and Tux Typing. As well as developing skills in using these common programs, students will be developing skills in using video and audio software.

It is important that students only use their computers under the supervision of a teacher at school. This precaution ensures student safety and reduces the possibility of damage to the devices. As a result, students are not permitted to use the laptops in COOL CARE, in corridors whilst waiting for parents or in the school yard.

MUSIC PROGRAM

The Music program at Year 3/4 level emphasises the development of ensemble skills, where students play different parts at the same time. Instruments including melodic percussion (xylophones etc), hand-held percussion, guitars and recorders are used as part of the **Orff Schulwerk** approach to music education. This is an approach, developed in post-WWII Germany, that spread to many other countries across the world and which enables children of all abilities to access and create music with others. Students begin learning **recorder** at Year 3 and all students in Year 3/4 participate in the choir during Term 1.

In Music **in Term 1** we will be beginning (for Year 3s) and reviewing recorder skills (for Year 4s), focusing on the simple notes G A and B and adding others in order to play the melody of "Queen Caroline". Students will add other instruments including xylophones, metallophones, marimba and guitar to play this song as an ensemble. All Year 3/4 students are learning basic choir skills and etiquette in preparation for the end of term assembly performance, where they will sing "It's in my desk" and "Where go the boats" as the Intermediate Choir.

Time Allocation

Each class has one Music specialist session per week, running for 50 minutes with **Mr David Perry**. Recorder is used in most lessons, and other activities include singing, playing and development of skills.

From **Term 2 onward**, students in Year 3/4 will be able to choose if they would like to continue in **Intermediate Choir** for the rest of the year. Application forms will be handed out at this time.

How can you help your child?

- Please ensure your child has their own recorder that is kept in their class tub. Recorders are available at the school for \$9 each.
- Remind your child that classroom Music is for all children, not just those that are "good at music". Encourage them to participate fully in all classroom activities.
- Ensure that your child is able to attend and perform in this year's 3 to 6 Production, which will be held at a site outside the school. **More details to come, but this is an important part of the Music curriculum this year.**

VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM

Our aim within the Art room is to provide an imaginative and creative program which engages students in stimulating and challenging art experiences, so that they learn to work with ideas, develop artistic skills and respond to art works. Year 3/4 will attend one session of Art each week with **Ms Jaliya Rudd**.

- Children will work individually and collaboratively.
- Children's artwork will be promoted imaginatively and positively within the art room and around the school.
- Children will keep a visual art diary.
- Children should provide a clearly named art smock to protect their clothing.

Students will:

- Create ideas.
- Investigate sources of information.
- Explore materials.
- Manipulate techniques and processes.
- Arrange art elements; line, shape, colour, pattern, texture.
- Draft designs.
- Develop visual awareness.
- Use feedback and self-evaluation to refine work.
- Include the use of technology.
- Investigate art possibilities.
- Communicate personal responses.
- Identify key features.

- Describe features of their own and others' artwork.
- Make comparisons.
- Respond to visual stimuli.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORTS PROGRAM

The emphasis of the Physical Education and Sports Program is the development of skills, co-ordination, co-operation, enjoyment and healthy positive attitudes to physical activity which will prepare students for future recreational pursuits.

This semester in PE, we will be covering the areas of fundamental motor skills of ball handling/ bounce/kick/strike/throw/catch and minor games. Our major games focus will be on the sports of Tennis Soccer, Hockey and Aussie Rules Football.

This year's program will be supported by:

- Swimming Lessons
- Sporting Clinics as offered lessons, eg Tennis lessons/Cricket Australia lessons/Rugby clinics/Footsteps
- Platooning (Teachers working in teams to teach)

Time Allocation

Each class will have a Physical Education specialist session per week with **Mr Trent O'Sullivan**, running for 50 minutes.

The basic outline of each session will involve a warm up, skill based activities, a team game or activity, and a cool down session.

As well, students in Years 3-4, will have the opportunity to represent the school in Swimming (Term 1), Cross Country (Term 2) and Athletics (Term 3). Also during the year, some 3-4 students will be involved in other programs, if available during 2015.

How can you help your child?

- Show your child you believe physical activity and sport to be important for one's physical and social well-being by playing a game in the backyard with your child or going to the park to throw kick and catch a ball, etc.
- Encourage your children to be active rather than passive during spare time.
- Ensure your child presents himself/herself for PE and Sport properly attired, especially footwear.

PLEASE NOTE: We welcome parent participation in excursions and classroom activities. There will be a variety of opportunities for parents to help us to run the program during the year.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the 3/4 team in 2016!

Please feel free to come and see us with any concerns.

Thanks

Nick Kuhn, Sarah Pollnitz, Emily Rogers

Scott Eastwood and Sarah Linssen