FRIDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2013
GRADE 3/4 NEWSLETTER

Important Dates

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<td>27/2/2013</td>
<td>Parent information session</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/3/2013</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<td>18/2/13 - 21/2/13</td>
<td>Life Education Visit</td>
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Introduction
Welcome back to our first term in 2013. We trust that you had a safe and enjoyable holiday with your family.

It is pleasing to see the enthusiasm with which students have commenced the year. Programs have begun smoothly, beginning of the year testing is being carried out, along with activities to establish classroom routines and expectations.

Parent Information
Term one is a Sun Smart term and students are expected to wear their school hats. If you are placing sunscreen on your child please make sure it is done so at home. Please encourage your child to bring bottled water to school, as this will improve their concentration as the weather warms up.

Parent Teacher Information sessions will be conducted on the 27th of February. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and teachers to meet and discuss the academic and personal needs of your child.

A Home Learning Grid will be handed out on each Friday and we ask that parents encourage their children to complete homework tasks to their best ability and return it on the following Friday.

Reading is an important part of homework and all children are expected to read each night. Reading Log Books need to be completed by the students every day.

Please ensure your child’s clothing, hats and belongings are all labeled so they can be returned if misplaced.

If your child is absent or late to school, a note or phone call explaining your child’s absence is required.

Curriculum Overview

English
This term students will begin by setting up the classroom library and revising the Five Finger Rule by selecting Just Right Books for Independent Reading. Students will continue to use the comprehension strategies to explore different genres of texts and set goal to improve their reading skills. They are recording their reading experiences in their reading journals.

In writing, students are creating and personalising their own Writers’ Notebook. Students will learn to expand ideas freely and to implement effective writing strategies into their own narrative writing. They will continue to develop their understandings of spelling patterns, grammar and punctuation cues. Students will make generalisations in these areas and place their findings on classroom literacy walls for further reference.

Mathematics
In mathematics, students will be further developing their knowledge in the following strands: Number, Space, Measurement and Chance and Data.

Students will increase their knowledge and understanding of Number and Place Value through activities and Open-Ended tasks. Students will record their findings in a variety of ways using the Problem Solving Strategies.

Students will explain their understandings and findings through reflective maths journals and maths dictionaries.

Teachers and students will discuss mathematical vocabulary for each strand and decide on a common mathematical definition to be placed on the numeracy wall for future reference alongside student examples.

In both English and Maths, teachers continue to conference and set goals with students to encourage responsibility of students own learning.

Inquiry Unit

Inquiry Topics for Term 1
“Relationships”
This term grade 3 and 4 students will be looking at “Relationships — Values and Learning”
We want students to understand:

- The impact of personal choices and values that contribute to self worth and the development of positive relationships.

We will be asking questions like:

- What are values?
- How do my values and beliefs affect my self worth?
- How do my values and beliefs affect my ability to develop relationships?
- How do values impact my health? What healthy food choices can I make?

As part of the Values program, the children will participate in activities presented by Harold and the Life Education Van. The grade 3/4 students will focus on relationship and friendship issues.

Students will participate in outdoor environmental sessions to develop positive links and appreciation of our natural environment. The 3/4 students will also play a major role in the creation and maintenance of the Schools new ‘Rain Garden’

We look forward to your continued support in 2013.

Many thanks from the Grade 3/4 Team.
Chantal Touma (room 3)
Jenny Sipthorp (room 4)
David Jaggard (room 5)
Fay Kapp. (program aide)
**Important Dates**

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**Visual Arts**

Children will be guided through a range of activities to enhance their use of skills and techniques in the visual arts. They will view artwork and images from different sources and begin to gain an understanding of how styles and techniques used by these artists can be used in their own art work. The children will learn to use the art form of collage and textiles as a means of expression. Inspiration for artwork will be gained from the themes of Friendship, The Chinese New Year and, in conjunction with a public art display at Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre, the students will be involved in activities relating to the theme – ‘Pirates across the Bay’. The Grade 3 / 4 students’ artwork will become part of a school display.

Could children please be supplied with an art smock to protect their clothing during art class. An old oversized shirt, clearly labelled with their name would be fine. Art smocks will not be stored in the art room and will become the responsibility of the child. Please become aware of the day that your child has art so that you may remind them to bring their art smock to school.

**Curriculum Overview**

**Specialists**

**Sustainability**

The students will be introduced to the recycling programs at ANPS through the practical use of the paper, can/plastics, worm bins and waste bin. The students are encouraged to be aware of the need to care for the environment which we live in, through every day actions and behaviours. Monitors from each grade are responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products.

Throughout the year the students will participate in environmental education session in the worm room, and be involved in the hands on practical understanding of how their waste is recycled at ANPS using the schools worm farms/paper and cans/plastic recycling programs. Monitors from each grade are responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products.

In grade 3/4 the student are responsible for the management of the recycling bins in the eating areas of the schoolyard. Students are encouraged to show leadership with monitors from each grade being responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products.

This year we look forward to the construction of a “Rain Garden” that was made possible through MOBIL OIL AUSTRALIA’s Bright Future Education Grant.

The “Rain Garden” will be located in the frog pond area where it will collect and filter storm water before the water is released into the frog pond. We are also very excited to be nominated by City West Water, to be one of two schools to receive a “Wall Garden” this will further enhance our school ground and learning landscape.

**Music and Performing Arts**

Grade 3/4 students will explore creating and making music using instruments, singing and movement. Students will develop skills in composing, playing and performing music with a focus on rhythm and beat.

**Computers**

During term one the grade 3/4 students will be undertaking tasks in the computer room that will support their Inquiry Unit titled, ‘Relationships, Values and Learning’. Programs such as KidsPix and Kidspirartion will be used by the students to design concept maps about themselves. The students will also have the opportunity to use and become familiar with the Internet’s Search Engines in order to find facts, various information and images. Students will be taught how to transfer this information into a word processing document and edit it.

**Health and Physical Education**

During term one the 3/4 students will be participating in team based games and activities. The students will be learning about teamwork and will develop skills and strategies that will be transferred to game situations. Strong emphasis will be placed upon fun and enjoyment of exercise and the students will be encouraged to discuss the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyles. Throughout the term the students will be challenged with fitness circuits and will participate in a 20m shuttle run test to determine current fitness levels and will allow the students to set personal fitness goals.