Term 1 2015

GRADE 3/4 NEWSLETTER

**DATE** | **EVENT**
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18/3/2015—24/3/2015 | Life Ed Van
24/2/2015 | First Aide Incursion
18/3/2015 | Parent Information Session

Introduction

Welcome back to our first term in 2015. 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 4th of March. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and teachers to meet and discuss the academic and personal needs of your child.

A Homework sheet will be handed out on each Monday and we ask that parents encourage their children to complete homework tasks to their best ability and return it on the 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 labelled 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 goals 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 & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability.

Students will increase their knowledge and understanding of Number and Place Value, addition, subtraction and 2d shapes 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.

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, Values & Learning”

Our Major Topic Understanding is:

Our values and beliefs affect our self-worth and our relationships with others.

Our Focus Questions are:

- What are values and beliefs?
- How do my values and beliefs affect my self-worth and my ability to develop relationships?
- How do values impact on our health? (physically, mentally, emotionally and socially)
- Why do our values and beliefs affect our personal behavior and relationships with others?

As part of the Inquiry topic, the children will participate in activities presented by The Life Education Van and a First Aide Incursion.

The 3/4 students will also participate in a variety of sport clinics. This will involve skill sessions for badminton, district swimming trials, hockey, and little athletics.

We look forward to your continued support.

Many thanks from the Grade 3/4 Team.

Stephanie Kehoe (room 3)
Jenny Sipthorp (room 4)
Julia Georgiou (room 5)
Rob Avolino and Tara Gibbon (support staff)
**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 contribute to the Art in Public Places display at the Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre. This year’s exhibition is based around Sustainability and Environment. They will also have an opportunity to exhibit artwork during the 50th Anniversary of Altona North Primary School.

Art forms such as drawing, painting, printing, collage and textiles will be explored. The elements of art will be further explored with a focus on line and negative and positive spaces.

Could children please be supplied with an art smock to protect their clothing during art. 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. Thank you.

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**Music / Performing Arts**

During term one in Music & Performing Arts, grade 3/4 students will focus on developing their skill while playing musical instruments, singing and song writing.

Students will learn the basic structure of a song and how to write their own piece of music. There will be a focus on developing and building musical skills such as co-ordination, timing, rhythm, practice and performance. This will be done through playing their songs as a class, in small groups and individually. Students will work together to develop and rehearse a performance, which will be performed at the school’s 50th Anniversary.

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**Sustainability**

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 collec-

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**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. The students will participate in a mini, sequenced unit of Newcombe. The components of the unit will focus on serving, catching, passing, returning a ball in play and team rotation on the court. The students will also experience the fun and enjoyment of exercise and they will be encouraged to discuss the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyle. Throughout the term the students will be challenged with fitness circuits that will assist in improving their general fitness. The students will participate in a 20m shuttle run test to determine their current individual fitness level and will allow them to use the results from this test to set personal fitness goals.

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Cassie McCawley

Lynette Soto