**TERM 4  2015**

**GRADE 3/4 NEWSLETTER**

**Important Dates**

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<td>5/10 - 16/10/15</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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<td>2/11/15</td>
<td>Student free Day</td>
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<td>10/12/15</td>
<td>School Concert</td>
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**Unit Information**

Welcome back to term 4, we hope that all parents and students had an enjoyable and relaxing break.

Thankyou to parents who attended the Open Morning/Evening during Literacy and Numeracy Week and took the opportunity to share their child's learning time with them. Last term the children enjoyed buddy reading, cross grade sharing involving Literacy and Numeracy activities and a Book Character Dress Up Day.

Homework tasks will continue to be sent home each Monday and will need to be handed in on Friday. Reading at home each night is also an important part of their learning.

Students will continue to wear hats this term as recommended by the Anti – Cancer Council. If you would like your child to apply sunscreen please apply this at home or contact your child’s classroom teacher.

Most children in the 3/4 unit are participating in the Intensive Swimming Program at the Bay Fit Swim Centre. These children are learning valuable swimming skills and will have the opportunity to practise water safety.

Teachers will be busy in Term 4 writing reports. Please ensure your child’s portfolio has been returned to school, as your child needs to place more examples of their learning in their portfolio.

Preparations for the end of year concert are underway. Our theme for this year is “Spooky Magic”. The concert will be held at Altona North Primary School on Thursday the 10th of December. As the term progresses more information will be placed in the school’s weekly newsletter.

**Curriculum Overview**

**English**

In reading, students will continue to expand their knowledge of text genres. They will further develop their comprehension strategies through inferring, visualising, summarising and clarifying texts. They will also be revisiting the text structures and features of Persuasive Letters and Information texts.

In writing, students will continue to experiment with the text structures and features of Information texts while refining their skills. Students will develop arguments in oral and written formats using supportive evidence for persuasive letter writing. Students will continue to learn their Oxford Words and words taken from their own personal writing. Students will be investigating spelling patterns and sounds.

**Mathematics**

Students will be further developing their knowledge in the following strands: Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability.

Students will continue to develop their Problem Solving Strategies knowledge while completing Open Ended Tasks. They will be extending their Number skills through Multiplication and Division and linking them with the Perimeter and Area of shapes, Fractions and Decimals.

This term, students will be looking at tessellations, transformations, slides and turns of shapes. They will be investigating location language, map reading and directions.

Students will be experimenting with Capacity and Volume and measuring the Mass of different objects.

**Inquiry Unit**

**Inquiry Topics for Term 4**

“Sustainability for the Future ”

This term grades 3 and 4 students will be working on the science based inquiry unit “Sustainability for the Future ”

Our Major Topic Understanding is:

Human and natural changes to our environment affect the survival of living things.

Our Focus Questions are:

- What human and natural changes to our environment have occurred?
- How do human and natural changes affect our environment?
- Why are sustainability and conservation important for the survival of living things?

A Sustainability excursion is currently being organized, further details will be given at a later date.

**The Grade 3/4 Team.**

Jenny Sipthorp (room 4), Stephanie Kehoe (room 3), Julie Georgiou (room 5) and Rob Avolino
**Visual Arts**

Throughout Term 4, the children will complete the paper mache masks commenced in term 3. The children will talk about what a mask is and brainstorm ways in which masks can be used. They will view masks worn by a number of different cultures for ceremonies and celebrations and will be able to choose a culture or celebration as inspiration to decorate his or her own mask using painting and collage skills.

Activities later in the term will be inspired by the school concert and will be planned to suit the individual class items.

Christmas activities will also be a focus for the end of term.

Deb Morgan

**Physical Education**

Term 4 will see the Grade 3/4 students focus on participating co-operatively in various team based sports, which will allow them to develop their knowledge of tactics and rules. A particular focus will be on the games of Cricket, T-ball and Soccer, as these are some of our sports in the 5/6 Inter School Sports Program. Introducing them to the Grade 3/4’s will provide them with an opportunity to identify a possible sport that they may like to participate in for Interschool sport competitions in the years to come.

The weekly Physical Education lessons will continue to have a fitness based focus and the students will have the opportunity to once again participate in the 20 metre shuttle run test to see if their fitness level has improved over the year. The results from the test will allow the students to then set achievable short-term goals in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

Lynette Soto

**Music / Performing Arts**

During term four in Music & Performing Arts, grades Prep-6 students will focus on developing, creating and performing a class item for the end of year school concert with the theme of ‘Spooky and Magical’.

Students will discuss, create and plan their concert item by developing characters, choreography, acting parts, dance routines, props, costumes and lighting ideas for their performance.

Cassie McCawley

**Sustainability**

As part of the inquiry units in Term 4, all Grade Prep – Grade 4 students will engage in an inquiry into Sustainability.

Grades 3/4 Inquiry unit is “Water” Students Participate in the “Water issues” unit and identify a local, related environment or sustainability issue, including interaction with local community groups/ local government

This term we look forward to the final stage of the construction of the school’s Vegetable Garden.

Wal Raghdo