

YEAR 3/4 NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to Level 3 and 4 in 2017

Welcome to Level 3 and a new year at P.O.P.S. We hope that all families had a relaxing break. It has been a busy few weeks with many getting-to-know-you activities, learning the rules and procedures and trying to establish the routines in the classrooms. The Year Threes have settled into Level 3 extremely well and the Year Fours are proving to be reliable leaders. We are off to a great start and are certain it is going to be a wonderful year.

Victorian Curriculum

As a school, Park Orchards Primary School is guided by the Victorian Curriculum. This new curriculum has replaced the Australian Victorian Essential Learning Standards this year. Our focus, as always, will be on teaching the Curriculum in an engaging and meaningful way. Across the school, the learning areas are English, Mathematics, Humanities, Science, and Technologies. Students will also gain skills in the Critical and Creative Thinking Capability, Ethical Capability, Intercultural Capability and Personal and Social Capability. More information about the curriculum can be found at <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au>

Gardening and Cucina

The gardening and cucina program is one of the interdisciplinary areas and covers many of the essential learning areas in a variety of ways. In year 3 and 4 all students participate in looking after the vegetable patch and cooking with Mrs Daniel in the Cucina. Each class is split into two groups, where one group will be cooking with Mrs Daniel and the other group will be gardening. They will then swap the next time they are on duty. We would encourage adults to come and help us with the gardening or the cooking. Cooking starts at 2 pm and gardening starts at 2.40 pm. If you are able to lend a hand or if you know of someone (grandparent, friend) that is able to help, could you please let your classroom teacher know.

Dates to Remember:

Welcome Back Family Picnic	3 Mar
Labour Day (No School)	13 Mar
Curriculum Day (No School)	14 Mar
Fun Run	24 Mar
End of Term 1	31 Mar
Curriculum Day (No School)	18 Apr
Start of Term 2	19 Apr
ANZAC Day (No School)	25 Apr
House Cross Country	3 May
NAPLAN	9–11 May

Gardening and Cucina Dates

- 17 Feb—3B
- 24 Feb—3/4B
- 17 Mar—4M
- 24 Mar—4W

English

English is a vital component of the Victorian Curriculum, which we teach every day. In English, we use the CAFE reading strategies to strengthen reading skills. Our typical reading session follows a predictable structure, allowing students to feel comfortable and maximise their learning time. Daily reading is essential, and all students are expected to have a “good-fit” book to read. Each lesson introduces a focus strategy, then at least 20 minutes of sustained reading time, in which students focus on a personal goal or directly apply the learned strategy. Within our reading program, we are also introducing the reader’s notebook so that students extend their thinking about what they are reading. Everyone is encouraged to make connections not just within the book, but also between the book and their selves and the world around them. Teachers will regularly conference with individual students to set up their personalised reading goals to further enhance their learning. It is a fantastic opportunity to have an accountable conversation with your child about their current reading strategies they are applying!

Our writing focus this term is persuasive texts, and we will be using our writer’s notebook to plant the ‘seeds’ for writing. This will allow students to gather ideas about topics that they are passionate about and would like to see changed. With each piece of writing, students will work through the five stages of writing. The first stage of writing is prewriting, which involves brainstorming ideas onto paper. Writers then move to the drafting stage, where they begin to develop the content within the writing piece. The next three stages of writing are revising, editing and publishing. The writing process is dynamic and we highlight the fact that fantastic writers typically complete the final three stages in no specific order, however, the stages are implemented based on the author’s focus and needs at that particular point in time. It is fantastic to see the enthusiasm exuded by the students towards applying their learning through the creation of their own writing pieces.

Students will also develop their speaking and listening skills through daily group work and discussions. Each term students will also prepare a speech to present to the class.

Mathematics

This term, our learning will be extending on a range of concepts, relating to the three dimensions of Mathematics: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Students will be exploring place value and the importance of the a digits position in a number, as this connects to student success in complex mathematics. Our learning will then investigate the purpose of zero, and they will participate in investigations that draw on mathematics in a real life context. A range of addition and subtraction strategies will be applied with a focus on how great mathematician use clear working out to ensure success. For example, vertical column set up using the grids provided in our maths workbooks. At Park Orchards Primary School, we value the importance of reasoning our answers in mathematics. Students will be developing technical language, where they have to justify the strategy that they have chosen! Students will form a strong connection to this word as they are often asked to prove their answer, or thinking to other leaners within the classroom.

Science—Plants in Action

During the Plants in Action unit students' will be looking closely at flowering plants through hands-on activities. They will investigate the processes of pollination and germination, the stages in a plant's life cycle and environmental conditions that plants need for growth. They will learn about the importance of plants and how we depend on them for oxygen to breathe, as a food source, fibres, building materials, medicines and fuels, and for the pleasures of beautiful flowers. They will gain an understanding that Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, conservation of natural habitats and gardening all require some knowledge of plants.

Geography—The Earth's environment sustains all life

The focus for term 1 is on the concept of environment and how humans interact within it and develop an appreciation of the need for sustainability. Students will gain a greater understanding of the need to protect environments for the use of animals, plants and people is emphasised. The curriculum looks at the use and abuse of resources and the consequent issue of wastes.

Students will also be introduced to the concept of the world as a complete globe, including Australia's location and position. This will then be extended to include the location of the major countries of Africa and South America in relation to Australia.

Year 3 and 4 Timetable

	3B	3D	3/4B	4M	4W
Art (Mrs Bethell)	Wednesday	Thursday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday
Performing Arts (Mr Gill)	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday
PE (Mrs Marshall)	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday
Mandarin (Mrs Bian)	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday
Italian (Signora Fernando)	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday
Science	Tuesday	Tuesday	Thursday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Library	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday

Homework

Here are some expectations the children in Year 3 and 4 should meet when completing homework:

Homework must be well presented. To achieve this students will need to:

- Write neatly with a grey lead pencil and use spaces between words
- Keep their book neat and clean

If they don't understand the task they should **speak to their teachers** during the week.

Year 3 & 4 Homework:

Spelling will come home once a **week on a Monday** and is to be returned **EVERY** Friday.

Reading, Spelling and Mathematics will be checked by your teacher on a weekly basis.

Homework will generally total 30 minutes, 4 days per week.

Homework will consist of:

Independent reading (15 - 20minutes, 4 days per week). You may read a book of your own choice or you may need to read a text selected by your teacher. As well as reading to yourself, please be sure to have a parent hear you read aloud at home regularly each week. You must write the name of the book you are reading **into your reading logbook and get a parent signature ONCE a week.** Your teacher will check your book **EVERY** Friday.

Written practice of spelling words that will be copied at school into your homework book at the start of each week

Homework Spelling tasks for each week:

Monday – underline/circle /highlight focus sound of the week eg brick

Tuesday – break each list word into phonemes eg brick = b/ r/ i/ ck

Wednesday – put list words into alphabetical order

Thursday – Look Say Cover Write Check list words

Up to **5 Mathematics tasks** relevant to the weekly focus, set by your teacher. **If you do not complete a task at 80% success or above,** the task will be set again for you to complete.

This term students will prepare and present a speech to represent the class in the SRC.

Classroom Reminders

3/4 Sport

Students will be participating in 3/4 sport on a Wednesday afternoon.

Water Bottles & Brain Food

Please send in a bottle of water and some brain food for your child to keep on their desk at school.

Hats and Hair

Hats are compulsory until 1st May. Remember no hat no play! For hygiene reasons, we encourage students with long hair to tie it back.

Visual Arts—Mrs Bethell

Students will attend a weekly art lesson in the art room. The aim is to provide stimulating learning experiences that promote self-expression, provide for creativity and imagination in addition to the development of particular skills. This term, the students will be making a 'beach boxes' collage/painting. They will be constructing the beach box out of coloured pop sticks, painting a background using rollers and paint brushes and adding natural and man-made collage materials to complete the art. We will then be creating a poster for the Warrandyte Festival where the students will decide what combination of materials/mediums to use. Finally we will complete an Easter activity.

Performing Arts—Mr Gill

This term in performing arts, Year 3 and 4 students are focusing on both music and drama improvisation. We are jamming in drum circles and creating our own rhythms to the beat. We will also be focusing on dynamics and tempo. For the drama element, we are playing games to create roles and situations on the spot and practise our improvisation skills. A main overall focus this term is to develop our confidence to perform in front of others.

Physical Education—Mrs Marshall

Representatives from Cricket Australia ran a cricket clinic with all classes in Year 3 and 4 at the start of the term. The cricket clinics aimed to maximise participation and had students rotating around different activities focusing on the skills of batting and bowling. As we continue the cricket unit, the emphasis will be on the fundamental motor skill of 'overarm throw'. Students will be encouraged to 'throw for distance', giving them a better chance of developing and enhancing the correct technique. Students will be encouraged to assess their stance before they throw and take note of what their body does throughout the throw. Following that Year 3 and 4 students will participate in a Tee-ball unit with a focus on the fundamental motor skill of 'two-handed side arm strike'. Towards the end of term we will commence our Fitness unit and training for Cross Country. In the first week of term students completed the Beep Test, which is used to measure their base level of fitness. Students will explore the health benefits of fitness, and their own fitness abilities. After the Cross Country event in term 2 students will complete the Beep Test again in the hope that they can beat their own result.

Mandarin—Mrs Bian

In Term One the Year 3/4 students will have a revision of what they have already learned, such as special greetings used during Chinese New Year time, vocabulary of numbers, body parts, food, drink, colours etc. Students will learn about the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival) and listen to the stories about the New Year, watch videos about why people celebrate the New Year and how it is celebrated in China and in Melbourne. They will also make Chinese paper lanterns, etc. Students will participate in a variety of class activities such as songs, games, stories, role plays, craft, etc.