

# POPS Year 3 & 4 Newsletter

24 APRIL 2017

Connie B, Lyn D, Linda M, Emma W and Alan B

## Welcome back to Term 2

Welcome back to term 2! The children have come back revitalised and have settled back into the routines that were established in the first term. In term 1 we were working together to build the children's confidence, independence and self esteem. With this we expect students to work hard, co-operate with their teacher and their classmates and enjoy the fantastic journey of learning along the way.

## Homework

Year 3 & 4 homework this term will still consist of 3 components which are expected to be completed by each Friday (plus an additional project at one stage of the term):

- **Home Reading**— Students are expected to read at home for a minimum of 15-20 minutes at least 5 nights a week. A record of this needs to be kept in the green Reading Diary and signed by parents at least once a week
- **Spelling practice**— Students will be given a list of spelling words to learn each week and activities to help with this.
- **Mathletics**— tasks relevant to the weekly foci will be set for students to complete online.

## Life Education Van at POPS

Life Education Australia is the nation's largest not-for-profit provider of preventative drug and health education in schools. Their unique program and resources motivate, encourage and empower young people to make informed healthy lifestyle choices by challenging their values and attitudes, expanding their knowledge and developing skills.

The Life Education Program enhances our POPS existing health and wellbeing programs by conducting student sessions and providing pre and post visit activities all of which use best practice in drug education.

Life Education recognises that the effectiveness of positive health messages is enhanced when the message is reinforced over a period of time, across the curriculum and within the home and broader community. It also promotes school connectedness for both students and their families by facilitating parent information sessions and school based family forums.

## 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

### Dates to Remember

24th April—  
Werribee Zoo Excursion

3rd May—  
POPS House Cross Country

4 to 8th May— Life Ed Van

9th—11th May—NAPLAN  
(for Years 3 & 5)

16th May— Year 3  
Currawong Excursion

22nd to 26th May—  
Education Week

24th May—  
District Cross Country

25th May— Open Night

12th June—Queen's Birthday  
(No school)

20th June—  
Year 3 & 4 Market Day

29th June—  
3-Way Conferences

30th June—End of Term  
(Early Dismissal 2.30pm)

17th July— Curriculum Day  
(No school)

18th July— Students return  
to school for Term 3

## English

Year 3 & 4 students develop their knowledge of the English language through speaking and listening, reading and writing.

**Speaking and Listening:** students participate in a variety of listening and speaking opportunities including small group and whole class discussions, formal verbal presentations to both familiar and unfamiliar audiences, questioning and offering useful feedback and suggestions. Students will develop their skills by:

- Clearly expressing opinions
- Reflecting and articulating learning
- Listening to the ideas of others
- Preparing for media news articles to present to the class

**Reading:** students are exposed to a variety of texts, and will do reading every day, Key elements we will focus on during Term 2 include:

- Thinking throughout the reading process using 'Think Marks'.
- Features of Fiction texts
- Determining Importance of texts
- Summarising texts
- Identifying Author's message

**Writing:** students develop their writing skills through many activities including directed writing tasks and activities that concentrate on specific writing conventions. In term 2 we will focus on:

- **Writing personal choice texts**
- **Writing Narrative texts**
- **Writing Explanation texts**
- **Soundwaves spelling sounds ( o a), (g gg), (u o), (h,j,g,ge,dge), (ai, ay, a\_e, a), (l ll), (ee, e, ea, y, ey), (m, mm, mb), (i\_e, y, igh, i, ie), (n, nn, kn, ng, n).**
- **Grammatical features including: compound words, antonyms, homophones, plurals and contractions.**

## Geography

The focus for term 2 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.

## Science

### **Package it Better**

In Science this term Year 3 & 4 students will be involved in the Primary Connections unit titled: *Package it Better* progressing through the 5e's instructional model: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate and Evaluate.

The *Package it Better* unit links science and technology with literacy in the classroom. It provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of the design of packages and the choice of appropriate materials to use. Students design and test a package that will safely deliver a fragile gift. Through investigations students observe and gather information about what makes a successful package.

## Mathematics

**Year 3 & 4 Mathematics:** At this year level

*Understanding* includes making connections between representations of numbers, partitioning and combining numbers flexibly, extending place value to decimals, using appropriate language to communicate times and describing properties of symmetrical shapes. *Fluency* includes recalling multiplication tables, communicating sequences of simple fractions, using instruments to measure accurately, creating patterns with shapes and their transformations, and collecting and recording data. *Problem Solving* includes formulating, modelling and recording authentic situations involving operations, comparing large numbers with each other, comparing time durations, and using properties of numbers to continue patterns. *Reasoning* includes using generalising from number properties and results of calculations, deriving strategies for unfamiliar multiplication and division tasks, comparing angles, communicating information using graphical displays and evaluating the appropriateness of different displays.

**Year 3 & 4 Term 2 Mathematics Teaching Concepts:**

- Addition & Subtraction — vertical algorithms with trading
- Addition & Subtraction – worded problems and open ended tasks
- Multiplication facts
- Multiplication & related Division (worded problems/problem solving)
- Patterns & Algebra—number patterns
- Data Representation & Symmetry
- Chance & Data
- Location & mapping

**Rubbish Free Lunches** - To help care for our environment and assist with minimising waste and litter around the school, please send your child's lunch and snack in reusable containers that can be taken home and washed. Fruit peel and cores are fine as we can use them in our compost and to feed the chickens.

### Cucina Timetable - with Mrs Daniel

The Cucina program begins at 2pm; students bring their bags and are dismissed from the Cucina.  
Two parents are needed to help each session in the Cucina

4M	Thursday April 27th
	Thursday May 11th
4W	Thursday May 4th
	Thursday May 18th
3/4B	Thursday April 20th
	Friday May 12th
3B	Friday May 5th
3D	Friday April 28th
	Friday May 19th

# Specialist Curriculum Overview

## Visual Arts

Children 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 children will be studying the work of American artist, Georgia O'Keefe and will be drawing an abstract impression of a flower.

This work will be completed using the student's choice of colouring mediums. For Mother's Day, the children will make a present using their collage skills. (It's a surprise.) We will then start a Threads and Textiles unit, where the children will learn to use wool to make a Mexican 'God's Eye'. Finally we will complete a group art activity that will be framed to sell at the P.O.P.S. Trivia Night.

Michelle B  Art Teacher

## Physical Education

In the lead up to our House Cross Country event students will continue to partake in the Fitness unit. Students set themselves SMART fitness goals last term, and will attempt to reach their own personal goals this term. Students will complete the Beep Test again at the end of the Fitness unit, with the hope they have improved their overall fitness.

Following that students in Year 3 and 4 have the privilege of Hockey Victoria running a Sporting Schools program covering the varying skills of Hockey. They will have skill focused sessions, as well as introducing attack and defense skills in small, modified games. We will finish off the term by commencing our Athletics unit, which covers the fundamental skills of 'run', 'throw' and 'jump'.

- Sarah M



## Performing Arts

This term, the Year 3/4 students are expanding on the skills we learnt last term. We will be working further on rhythms for music using our rhythm cup exercises, and will be improving our improvisation skills for drama with games such as "What are you doing?"

Later in the term, we will begin to look at different instruments, including ones you might find in other cultures. Year 3 & 4 students will be introduced to the ukulele in preparation to learn chords next term.

David G



## Mandarin

This term, the topics for Year 3/4 students are *Days of the Week, Months of the Year and Seasons*. Students will learn to name days of the week, months of the year in Mandarin using the numbers 1-12. They will learn to identify the months in each season and understand that the seasons are different in Australia and China. They will also learn to express which season they like or dislike.

Students will be introduced to another traditional festival this term, which is "Dragon Boat Festival". Students will learn about the traditions and customs about the festival through a historical story and a video.

Limei B

