



YEAR 3 AND 4 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Mr Brewer, Mrs Puckering, Miss Jacob and Mrs Bullen

Term 1

Welcome Back

Happy New Year and welcome back to school for 2018. It has had a tremendous start to the school year. The students have all been enthusiastic and focussed on their learning and the teachers have been extremely impressed with the overall attitude and behaviour of the students. This term we begin building a classroom culture for success in learning, and build strong learning relationships with parents and others across the year level. It benefits the students when supported with their learning and with teacher guidance, it's a straight forward process. The expectation is to listen to a variety of learners in reading, sharing their writing pieces and even discussing their thinking within maths. Our learners are at the centre of everything we do and are very energetic when given opportunities to share their thinking. With our upcoming 'Getting to Know You' interviews, we look forward to meeting and discussing the opportunities around learning with you

Homework

Homework will come home as of this week. Please go through with your child their homework. Homework will be brought home by students on Mondays and it is due to be handed in, completed on Fridays. The homework is a consolidation of the spelling and maths that the students have been working on in class. It is an expectation that all students complete their homework. We understand that homework cannot always be completed due to unforeseen circumstances that may arise. If issues do occur, a note, email or phone call communicating this would be appreciated.

A few reminders

To ensure that your child is prepared for school each day.

- Ensure that all items of school clothing, including hats are labelled with a full name. Lost items will be put in the Lost Property located in the Pettet Centre.
- The weather is often very warm in Term One. It would be fantastic for students to come to school dressed for the weather. Students need to have their hats to play in the sun during play times as well as P.E. lessons and wearing sunscreen will protect their skin from sun damage.
- Bringing a water bottle is also essential so they can stay hydrated throughout their learning. Students are given time throughout the day for their 'Brain Food', which includes healthy snacks such as fresh or dried fruits and vegetables. To help protect our environment and reduce waste in our school, students are encouraged to bring 'Nude Food', where they bring food without wrappers.
- Black shoes are part of the uniform and this year we are asking that all students wear black shoes or black runners, the preference would be leather, to and from school. If needed students may bring alternate runners for sport and PE in their bags and change into them at school.
- Hair ties and bands also need to be in school colours of white, yellow or green, coloured nail polish and jewellery is not part of the uniform, earrings can be studs or small sleepers.

Dates to Remember

Pancake Day	13 Feb
Getting to Know You Conversations	13 & 15 Feb
Labour Day (No School)	12 March
Curriculum Day (No School)	13 March
End of Term 1	29 March
Curriculum Day (No School)	16 April
Term 2 begins for students	17 March
ANZAC Day (No School)	25 April
NAPLAN	15—17 May

Digital Technologies

At Park Orchards Primary School we are committed to giving students the best possible start to their education: building skills for the future, not the past. We embed technology throughout the curriculum and provide new opportunities for students to represent their thinking, clarify ideas, make connections, identify patterns, and reflect on their thinking across the curriculum.

We have been successfully running a Bring Your Own (BYO) iPad program for Grade 2 - 6 students for several years. We encourage students to bring their own iPad to school and use it to enhance their learning opportunities. The BYO iPad program helps us to create highly engaged, personalised learning environments. Students are given the opportunity to become digitally fluent, become responsible users of technology and develop skills that will prepare them for high school and beyond.

By the end of Level 4, students describe how a range of digital systems and their peripheral devices can be used for different purposes.

Students explain how the same data sets can be represented in different ways. They collect and manipulate different data when creating information and digital solutions. They plan and safely use information systems when creating and communicating ideas and information, applying agreed protocols.

Students define simple problems, and design and develop digital solutions using algorithms that involve decision-making and user input. They explain how their developed solutions and existing information systems meet their purposes.

Cucina and Gardening

The aim of gardening and cucina is to provide a real life context for learning in which the theory and practice of growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing are interwoven. Students have a 45 minute gardening session supported by a 90 minute cooking session throughout the term. The process of the veggie patch to plate captures their interest, curiosity and energy as well as their appetite. Hands on experience in both the kitchen and garden provides students with physical activity, opportunity to learn a new language by describing flavours, foods and plants and developing maths skills as they calculate, measure and weigh. The awareness of environmental challenges and diversity is enhanced as well as learning how to work as a team, develop awareness and respect for other cultures and grow their confidence and self esteem as they achieve new skills and knowledge.

Cucina and Gardening Roster

9 Feb — 3/4B
16 Feb — 4B
23 Feb — 4P
2 Mar — 3J
9 Mar — 3/4B
16 Mar — 4B
22 Mar — 3J
23 Mar — 4P

If you are available to help with either cooking at 2pm or gardening at 2.40pm please let your child's teacher know.

Working with Children Check

At Park Orchards Primary School all volunteer helpers must have a current Working with Children Check. This means: you must have a WWC Check to assist in classrooms, canteen and school activities like excursions, camps and special events (ie athletics, swimming carnivals). A volunteer can commence work in a school when they provide a receipt as proof they have applied for a WWC Check with the Department of Justice.

English

READING WORKSHOP

In Year 3 and 4 we will continue with the Reading Workshop, to build on the previous years of school. This program emphasises the importance of comprehension alongside accuracy, fluency and expanding vocabulary. The students will have individual reading goals which have been discussed during one on one conferences with the class teacher. The students each select 'just right' books for their own level and interest. They are encouraged to "track" their thinking with post it notes and to share their understandings of the book they are reading with the class.

As the independent reading workshop is a whole school approach, each classroom has a CAFÉ menu or display to demonstrate the particular reading strategies that we have been learning about. You will see this growing throughout the year in every classroom. Some of the strategies that we may be learning in our reading sessions this year are; checking for understanding, tuning in to interesting words, backing up and re-reading, choosing just right books and monitoring and fixing up. We will be learning many other strategies to improve our reading and comprehension further.

A typical reading session is comprised of the following: a mini lesson – where the reading strategy is introduced, a collaborative learning task (turning and talking or partner reading) and an independent learning task such as independent reading or a reading group with a focus. There is an opportunity at the end of each lesson for the students to share their thinking with the class and for the class to reflect on their learning.

WRITING WORKSHOP

This term has begun with students writing recounts based on their holidays. We will then look at narratives, where the students will examine the structure and language associated with this genre, as well as create their own short story with an embedded problem and solution.

Later in the term., students will be immersed in persuasive texts. They will be develop their writing skills through the use of quality texts and explicit teaching. They will create their own arguments for and against different topics and look at different persuasive language techniques. As part of our writing program, students will use their Writer's Notebook. The notebook is used to record personal thoughts, ideas and writing topics that develops and extends thinking. It also supports students to shape their writing into different topics and writing genres. The teaching of spelling and grammar is a critical component of our writing program.

HANDWRITING

At the beginning of Year 3 the focus is on the revision of correct formation of letters. During the year the students will commence joining their writing. The line size is 14mm. Year 4 students consolidate their joining of letters before beginning to use pens. The line size is 11mm. Pen Licences are issued in Year 4.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Students will be provided with opportunities to exchange information, while exploring ideas and listening to the opinions of others. They will participate in discussions, conversations and presentations in small and large groups, learning to vary their speaking and listening to suit the context, purpose and audience

Science

This term our Year 3 and 4 scientists will be discussing how we identify whether something is living or non-living in our unit Feathers, Fur or Leaves. They will look at some living things and what features they have such as feathers, scales, warm blooded, fins, exoskeleton to name a few. The students will then work together to group living things according to their observable features.

Mathematics

It is important that students learn to master the proficiency strands of; understanding, fluency, problem solving and reasoning within all of the learning area of Mathematics. We plan our lessons so that students do not learn mathematics skills in isolation. We, where possible, teach skills for students to use and adapt when solving a variety of mathematic problems. Before preparing for each topic the teachers across the level will conduct a formative assessment which will allow us to teach every child at their point of need based upon where they are in their learning. We will incorporate the follow strategies into lessons so that students gain a greater understanding and competency in these areas.

Year 3

- Number – Investigate odd and even numbers, explore number sequences, recognise the connection between addition and subtraction, rearranging and partitioning numbers to 10 000.
- Recall multiplication facts of 2, 3, 5 and 10
- Collect data and create data displays.
- Measurement—Make models of three-dimensional objects and describe key features
- Chance in everyday context

Year 4

- Number – Investigate number sequences, odd and even numbers, addition and subtraction, rearranging and partitioning numbers to 10 000.
- Recall multiplication facts up to 10 x 10
- Select methods for data collection and construct suitable data displays.
- Measurement—Explore the properties of 2D and 3D shapes
- Chance in everyday context

Geography

Our Geography unit for semester 1 is titled, “Places that are Similar and Different”. The content will allow the students to compare and contrast different features and characteristics of both Australia and the wider world. We will look at how climates can be varied between areas, and we will discuss the importance of protecting significant sites in Australia.

Timetable

	3J	3/4B	4B	4P
Art (Mrs Bethell)	Tuesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday
Performing Arts (Mrs Lee)	Tuesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday
PE (Mrs Carbone)	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday
Mandarin (Mrs Bian)	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday
Italian (Signora Fernando)	Thursday	Thursday	Thursday	Thursday
Science	Thursday	Thursday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Library	Friday	Friday	Tuesday	Tuesday

Specialist Page

Performing Arts — Mrs Lee

During Performing Arts, the students in Year 3 and 4 will sing together and explore different rhythms using body percussion as well as percussion instruments. They will continue to learn about the treble staff and how the concepts of pitch and rhythm are represented by musical notation.

The students will learn how to play some songs on the recorder and ukulele. They will also learn about the musical elements of dynamics (loud and soft) and tempo (fast and slow) and look at the structure and rhyming patterns of songs and ballads, identifying the verses, chorus and bridge.

We will develop skills in the Dramatic Arts through improvisation as well as small plays and skits.

Physical Education — Mrs Carbone

Let the Games Begin! Year 3 and 4 students will start the year by competing in the POPS Winter Olympics. They will represent a country and participate in modified events such as curling, speed skating, ski jump, snowboarding, skeleton/luge, biathlon and ice hockey. They will learn about the history, significance and the sports and disciplines that make up this major international sporting event. Following this, students will have the privilege to engage in Lacrosse clinics over 3 weeks with a representative from Eltham Lacrosse Club through the Sporting Schools fund. The Lacrosse clinics aim to teach students the rules and develop the essential skills of catching with a stick, passing and shooting. Students will be encouraged to explore and practise different techniques to propel objects to the target. Following Lacrosse, Year 3 and 4 students will participate in a T20 Cricket unit with a focus on the fundamental motor skill of the 'two-handed strike'. They will engage in game sense activities and apply basic rules and scoring systems. Towards the end of term we will commence our Fitness unit and training for Cross Country. Students will complete the Beep Test which is used to measure their base level of fitness. They will explore the health benefits of fitness and assess their own fitness abilities. After our House Cross Country carnival in term 2, students will complete the Beep Test again in the hope that they can beat their own result.

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 children will be creating a poster for the Warrandyte Festival using paper manipulation and collage skills to depict a Warrandyte building. (The theme is 'Streets of our Town.') Next we will look at the theme of 'Autumn' and use leaves to print with. We will also be using colour diffusing paper to create our own autumn leaves. Finally we will make some Easter jewellery using an air drying modelling compound.

Mandarin — Mrs Bian

Welcome to the year of the dog! In Term One the 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. The students will start to learn pinyin, the sound system of the Chinese language. They will also learn to read some poems to practise using pinyin.

In terms of the cultural aspect, students will reinforce their knowledge about the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival). They will learn about this festival through listening to the stories about the New Year, watching videos about why people celebrate the New Year and how it is celebrated in China and in Melbourne, and making hong bao (the red packets), etc.

Students will participate in a variety of class activities such as songs, games, stories, role plays, craft, etc. Students will have fun and continue enjoying learning Mandarin.