Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back to a new school year. The children have settled back into school life very well and, even in two short days, we have had a very productive time! We would like to thank you all for the support we have received so far as our students adapt and change to their new teachers and learning spaces. We are all looking forward to the year ahead and excited about the great activities and events we have planned. Watch this space....the termly newsletter in conjunction with the fortnightly whole school newsletter is a great way to keep informed about everything going on at this very busy time of the year.

Meet the 3/4 team:

Year 3:
Julie Nield
Kathy Skantzos
Annabelle Sizeland

Year 4:
Robyn Heeps
Daniel Watts

A warm welcome to Dan who has recently joined our school. Feel free to pop in and meet us in person otherwise we’ll see you at the Information Night!

Information Night

We will be holding an Information Night on Tuesday 10th February. There will be two sessions, providing exactly the same information. The first is scheduled 6-6.45pm and the second from 7 -7.45pm. This has been designed to give you the flexibility to attend more that one learning levels information session if you have other children.

You are invited to attend this session to find out more about the learning programs and events that will run in the Year 3/4 level this year. You will also receive a booklet outlining all relevant information, including a brief outline of the curriculum areas covered, daily timetables and our expectations of the children. If you have any questions after reading the booklet, please ask your child’s classroom teacher for clarification. We look forward to seeing you on the 10th!

Volunteers needed!

Years 3 & 4 are involved in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program in a weekly garden and kitchen session. We must have five volunteers per session for the program to operate. The volunteers work with small groups of students helping with the necessary tasks. This ensures greater enjoyment, increased learning experiences and a safe learning environment. It is best if volunteers can commit weekly but if you can only spare a few weeks that is still greatly appreciated. It is a wonderful learning experience for all and we highly recommend you consider the time to become involved if you can. The program starts this week for the students, with introductory sessions with Nadia and Marion. Next week (Week 3), the program will commence fully where parent helpers will be required. So, if you can spare some time on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday to assist in either the kitchen or garden, please contact either:

Robyn Heeps, Year 4 teacher: heeps.robyn.r@edumail.vic.gov.au,
Nadia De Cesaris, chef: gallo.nadia.n@edumail.vic.gov.au;
Marion Bonadeo, gardener: johnmarionb@yahoo.com.au.

CLASS REP

Each class is now looking for a Class Rep. If you are interested in this role, please contact your child’s teacher asap.

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Dates for your diary

- Swimming Trials (Yr. 4-6): Tues 3rd February PLC
- Information Night: Tues 10th February. Either 6-6.45pm & 7-7.45pm
- School Photos: Fri 20th March
- Movie Night: Fri 20th March
- Music Incursion: Mon 23rd March

Julie Nield February 2015
Homework
Each week children will be expected to complete a range of activities from the homework grid. The completion of these tasks can be organised in any way you feel will help your child complete the set tasks successfully over the course of a week. Your child will also be encouraged to plan their activities using their diaries. Homework will be issued on a Monday and the grid is to be signed by parents and returned to school the following Monday.

Integrated Curriculum

SCIENCE

Year 3: ‘Night & Day’; Observing The Sun
And The Moon. Earth’s rotation on its axis causes regular changes, including night and day. This topic is about why we experience day, night and the seasons. Students will study the relationship between the Earth, Moon and Sun. They will learn about the Earth’s axis and orbit and they will observe and understand the changing appearance of the Sun and the Moon in the sky.

Year 4: ‘Friends or Foes: Plants In Action’
Cycles: Living things have life cycles. Living things, including plants and animals, depend on each other and the environment to survive. In this unit students learn about different types of living things. They classify organisms according to different criteria and examine the life cycles of plants and animals.

HISTORY

Year 3: First Australians
Students will study the importance of Country and Place to indigenous peoples of the local area. Students will investigate the cultures, beliefs, languages and social organisations of indigenous people before the arrival of Europeans looking closely at their communities and clans; languages and dialects; Dreaming stories and their meanings and the significance of the environment and land-management practices.

Year 4: First Peoples
Students will investigate the diversity and longevity of Australia’s first peoples and the ways indigenous peoples are connected to Country and Place (land, sea, waterways and skies) and the implications for their daily lives. They will study their ways of life and the beliefs and practices followed by indigenous Australians in this area. Students will also inquire about the relationship between language; country; place and spirituality; indigenous shelters (for example, caves); nomadic lives; hunting and gathering; technologies (for example, axes, fire, boomerangs, javelins, digging sticks); Elder’s roles; cave and rock paintings; didgeridoos; ceremonial dances; taboos; totems and kinship laws.

Literacy

Reading: Students will continue to develop their reading fluency, word recognition and comprehension skills through daily rotation activities. Students will also be exposed to a variety of quality illustrated books where they will be encouraged to make connections and share their ideas and make inferences from the texts. Students will participate in Literature Circles to discuss books in small groups.

Writing: Students will start using a ‘Writer’s Notebook’ to understand the process of developing a piece of writing from a ‘seed’ to a published piece. Through the use of the Writer’s Notebook, students will be encouraged to develop their own interests and write about ideas and topics that are truly their own, allowing all students to develop their own style as a writer. Students will also be explicitly taught and practise the purpose, structure and features of writing narratives, persuasive pieces and ‘snapshot’ descriptive writing.

Spelling: A variety of strategies will continue to be investigated in weekly spelling lessons, focusing on phonetic awareness, visual and morphemic strategies. Students will practise editing skills and check for the correct grammar, punctuation and spelling in their writing.

Numeracy

Our focus is to make Mathematics one that targets ‘real life’ skills. One of the aims of the program will be for students to understand the purpose and importance of Mathematics in their lives and be able to apply a range of concepts to understand what they encounter on a daily basis. The program will address the areas of: Number & Algebra; Statistics & Probability & Measurement & Geometry.

Reminders:

♦ A school hat must be worn until May.
♦ Each child requires a bag for borrowing from the library.
♦ Green message folders are available from the school uniform shop for $5.

Student Diary

Each student has been given a student diary. These diaries will be used for daily correspondence between home and school. It will also act as a record of your child’s home and school reading. The children must record daily what they have read at home and have it signed by a parent/carer. Your child will be given 15 minutes silent personal reading time per day at school.