Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome to Term 2. It’s a long one, 11 weeks to be exact and there is a lot to do. Take a look at the diary dates on the bottom of this page and make sure you have them on your calendar. The students will also be making a note of them in their diaries and can remind you! Naplan week for Year Three is on the 12-14th May. Preparations will be full steam ahead for the Phillip Island Camp (2-4th September) during this term. Forms and letters will be sent home and it is really important to fill them in thoroughly and return them promptly. So everyone, buckle up and enjoy the ride!

Year 3/4 teachers:
Year 3:
Julie Nield (Team Leader)
Kathy Skantzos
Annabelle Sizeland
Year 4:
Robyn Heeps
Daniel Watts

Feel free to pop in before 8.45am or after school if you need a quick word with your child’s teacher. If you require a longer conversation, please make an appointment so that any issues can be discussed thoroughly. Many thanks.

Naplan Testing

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas (or ‘domains’) of:
- reading
- writing
- language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- numeracy.

NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum. If you have any concerns, please speak to your child’s teacher and/or visit http://www.nap.edu.au/

Just a reminder..........

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. So, if you can spare some time on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday to assist in either the kitchen or garden, sign up online by following the icon link shown here on the Wattle Park PS website.

Volunteers always needed so please sign up!

21st April: ‘Polly Woodside’ excursion (Year 4)
7th May: Music Incursion ‘Walal’
8th May: House Cross Country, Coopers Reserve
12-14th May: Naplan testing
28th May: ‘First Peoples’ excursion to Melbourne Museum (Year 3)

Julie Nield April 2015
Integrated Curriculum

SCIENCE

Year 3: In our Science topic, ‘Grouping Living Things’, students will be combining their scientific inquiries with the Kitchen Garden Program investigating how living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things.

Year 4: We will be exploring ‘Lifecycles’. This is about living things in our garden and the different types of lifecycles of plants and animals. Some of the activities we will be conducting is planting, experiments, creating scientific diagrams, mind maps and lifecycle charts. As part of the garden program we will be investigating seed germination and bees. Our other science topic is ‘Machines’, focussing on simple machines and the force required to perform tasks. This is a very hands-on unit that involves designing and creating a variety of machines. Students will be working in groups to create a marble run using their knowledge of simple machines.

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: Journeys of Discovery: Students will be investigating and presenting an information report on a world explorer, navigator or trader up to the late eighteenth century including their contacts with other societies. Student learning will be enhanced when they participate on the ‘Ship shape and ready to sail’ program on the ‘Polly Woodside’ three masted tall ship built in 1885 and preserved at Melbourne’s South Wharf.

Hot Fact: Did you know the ‘Polly Woodside’ sailed 1.5 million kilometres around the globe? That’s a tenth of the way to the Sun!

Literacy

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

Writing: Students will continue to use their ‘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.

Numeracy

Our focus in Mathematics continues to be 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.

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

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

Students will continue to make full use of their diaries for daily correspondence between home and school, the recording of homework tasks set and the note of events at school and home life. It is important to note that the diary also serves as a record of your child’s home and school reading. The children must record daily what they have read at home with the page numbers and have it signed by a parent/carer. Your child will be given 15 minutes silent personal ‘stamina’ reading time per day at school when they will also record their reading.

Homework

Each week students will continue to complete a range of activities from the homework grid. And complete them in their homework book. The completion of these tasks can be organised in a way you feel will help your child complete the set tasks successfully over the course of a week. Your child will be encouraged to plan their activities using their diaries. Homework is issued on a Monday and the grid is to be signed by parents and returned to school the following Monday.

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