Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back to a new school year. The children have settled back into school life very well and, even in one week, 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 are 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 busy time of the year.

Meet the 3/4 team:

Year 3:
Melinda Downes and Katie Hardy
Annabelle Sizeland
Julie Gledhill

Year 4:
Hayley Wilson
Daniel Watts
Vicki Phillips

Information Night

We will be holding an Information Night on Tuesday 9th 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 than 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. The Year 3 and 4 information booklet will be available online. It includes 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 9th.

Years 3 & 4 are involved in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program in a weekly garden and kitchen session. Welcome to our new kitchen instructor Carolina Trantino. 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 Carolina and Marion. Next week (Week 4), the program will commence fully where parent helpers will be required. Please click on the link below for more information. If you can spare some time on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday to assist in either the kitchen or garden, please contact either:

Marion Bonadeo, garden specialist: johnmarionb@yahoo.com.au
Carolina Trantino, kitchen specialist: cdangelo@westnet.com.au
Hayley Wilson: wilson.hayley.M@edumail.vic.gov.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.

Please!

We ask if families could please contribute one Coles Antibacterial Hand wash Pump 250ml OR Woolworths Select Handwash Antibacterial Original 250ml and a box of tissues per child.

Volunteers needed!

Swimming Trials (Yr. 4-6): Tues 9th February PLC
Information Night: Tues 9th February. Either 6-6.45pm & 7-7.45pm
School Photos: Fri 18th March
Movie Night: Fri 18th March
Punctuality: Students to line up at 8.50am ready to start learning at 9am.

We ask if families could please contribute one Coles Antibacterial Hand wash Pump 250ml OR Woolworths Select Handwash Antibacterial Original 250ml and a box of tissues per child.
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

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, focussing 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.

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: ‘Changing Face of the earth’: In this unit students learn about different types of rocks and their function in nature. This topic is about the features on the surface of the earth. Students will learn about different types of rocks and how they are formed. They will study different types of rocks and soil, and learn about processes of weathering and erosion.

HISTORY
Year 3: ‘Contributions to community development’
This unit covers the influence of many cultures to local communities. It examines the role of diverse cultural backgrounds in the development of the local community and the way individuals and cultural groups have influenced change in the local community over time.

Children will explore the similarities and differences in developments over time between two local communities (for example, leadership, sport, religious buildings, local architecture, languages, shops, restaurants)

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.