Welcome to the Year 3/4 Team

- Hayley Kellahan
- Natasha Laroque
- Drew Baxter
- Robyn Heeps
- Helen Sterling

Specialists

- PE - Melinda Downes
- LOTE - Ainslie Peszynski
- Music - Lorelle Caulfield-Lloyd
- Art - John Davey
- Garden - Marian Bonadeo
- Kitchen - Nadia Gallo

Year 3/4 SPECIALIST TIMETABLE 2014 – Term 1

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Years 3 and 4

**English**
In year 3 and 4, English is made up of a focus on speaking and listening, reading and writing. Generally it begins with a whole class activity and then moves into small group activities based on the needs of the students.

**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.

**Writing**
Students plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts. They learn about text structures, language features (including grammar and punctuation), print, and multimodal elements appropriate to the audience and purpose. A range of approaches is used to engage students in writing, including Writer’s Notebook, teacher modelling and shared construction of writing.

**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 18mm.

Year 4 students consolidate their joining of letters before beginning to use pens. The line size is 14mm. Pen Licences are given out in year 4.

**Spelling**
During the week a variety of spelling strategies will be employed to assist your child in acquiring a range of skills, such as phonemic activities (letter and sound patterns – eg. through/ threw/ blue), Spelling Journals (look/say/ cover/ write/ check) relate to words which they are using in their writing and frequently used words.

**Reading**
Students will read an increasing range of material including imaginative and informative texts, in print and electronic form. Students will use a range of strategies to interpret the main ideas and purpose of texts. Through discussion, students will develop their understanding of why interpretations of a text may vary, how the choice of subject matter is influenced by context, the author’s purpose and the intended audience.

Literature Circles is our home and school reading program that the year 3s and 4s will participate in all year. The program will further strengthen the link between home and school with the focus being regular home reading. The concept of our Literature Circles is very similar to that of a book club and will take place on Mondays or Tuesday. Children will be required to complete a reading task each week.
**Mathematics**

Our focus is to make Mathematics one that targets ‘real life’ skills. One of the aims of the mathematics program will be for students to understand the purpose of mathematics in their daily lives.

The program will address the areas of:
- Number & Algebra
- Statistics and probability
- Measurement & Geometry

**Number Facts Revision**

Weekly worksheets will be given to students as part of their weekly homework task and are to be completed over the course of a week and returned when homework is due.

**Mathletics**

Students have access to the Mathletics program. Children can access this from home to consolidate and revise areas in Mathematics.

**History/Science**

Our focus is on learning through an inquiry process and the Thinking Curriculum – challenging and extending children’s thinking. There is a focus on the development of research skills via the use of technology in the classrooms, the Library and various support services and references. These skills are developed through a range of specific content areas from the AusVELS Curriculum.

Term 1 History and Science topics:
- Year 4 - Journeys of Discovery
  - Observing the Sun and Moon
- Year 3 - Change and Continuity Over Time
  - Changing Face of the Earth

**Homework / Diary**

Students will be given a personal diary to record upcoming dates, the specialist program, reading comments and other reminders/general communications. Diaries will be collected on a weekly basis and need to be signed by parents.

Children will be given a weekly homework grid that is to be completed, signed and returned to class teachers early each week.

**National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2014**

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will involve students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 from all States and Territories.

The NAPLAN will be conducted for the indicated year levels in 2014 on the following dates:
- 13\textsuperscript{th} May 2014 - Language Conventions and Writing (including spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- 14\textsuperscript{th} May 2014 - Reading
- 15\textsuperscript{th} May 2014 - Numeracy
Competitions
Wattle Park Primary School participates in the Australasian Schools Competitions. This year the year 3/4 students are given the opportunity to undertake the English, Maths, Science and Spelling competitions. This is not a compulsory activity but we do encourage our students to be involved. Again as we approach this time we will provide students with practice opportunities to prepare them for this process. There is a cost involved in participating in these competitions.

Sport
Year 3 and 4 classes have PE for 40 mins (in term 1) per week on various days. Please refer to specialist timetable for specific times.
Please make sure your child has appropriate footwear on that day as well as a water bottle and a hat.

Camp
This year’s camp is to Arrabri Lodge in Warburton. The dates are from the 26th to the 29th August. Further details regarding costing and an outline of the program will be distributed later in the year.

Swimming
Swimming Lessons run in the last 2 weeks of Term 4. They are held at PLC. We welcome Parent Helpers – keep your eyes open for the notices which will come home closer to the end of the year.

Sun Smart
Please remember that Term 1 and 4 are Sun Smart terms. Students are to wear a broad brimmed hat which is named. Students are encouraged to wear sunscreen which may be applied before recess and lunchtime. Water bottles for classroom use (containing water only) are encouraged.

Communication
Written reports are provided at the end of Term 2 and 4. After reports are sent home in June there is a time set for parents and teachers to meet to discuss the student report. These reports will indicate the expected levels in Year 3 and Year 4 and the level your child has achieved. Appointments can be made at different times over the year by both the parent and the teacher when there are issues requiring discussion.

Any communication you need to make can be written in your children’s diary.

Medical Issues
If a child is well enough to attend school but requires medication to be administered during school hours, parents should supply the medication in a pharmacy-dispensed container that gives the name of the student and the dose required. The name of the medication should be clearly marked on the container. Accompanying the container, parents are requested to provide written instructions regarding the medication required, the date/s to be administered, the dose and the time it is to be given (this is to be given to the office). Proformas are available from the office. Please note non-prescription medications will not be administered.

Parent Involvement
We encourage you to become involved in your child’s education. We welcome parents to assist us with
special events such as excursions, kitchen/garden program, organisation of support materials etc. Prior notification of these events requesting assistance would always be given. You may like to join a school committee – PFA, Scarecrow or Education Committees.

**The School Norms**

All children are encouraged to think of the school norms when participating in all school activities. The norms are Respect, Encourage, Care, Value, Responsibility and Challenge. The students continually refer to the norms during the year through discussion and role plays.

**Music**

The children in grades 3 and 4 visit the Music room for a lesson each week. The program is conceptually based with the children participating in activities focusing on areas such as beat, pitch, dynamics, tempo, form and tone colour. At this level children extend their knowledge and usage of formal notation which they are encouraged to read and use in a variety of situations.

The emphasis in Music is on participation as the children explore and respond to a range of music through dance, movement, singing, creating and playing. The children continue to play a variety of musical instruments that are incorporated into weekly lessons.

**Performance** is a big part of the Music program at Wattle Park with events such as our School Concert and Carols night at the school. The children learn the material, based upon an overall theme, in Music classes. This is supported by additional rehearsals with their class teachers. More details about these will be provided closer to the dates.

The grade 4 children also learn to play the **descant recorder** during class. This is a valuable experience as the children learn to play an instrument in which they achieve quick success, whilst reinforcing their knowledge of musical notation.

Each year we also hold **Music incursions** that enhance the existing program, exposing the children to a variety of art forms. This year we have two incursions, the first of which will provide an insight into the music of Polynesia with Bernard Mangakahia Mana - The Spirit of Polynesia. Our second incursion involves a very special performance of Cinderella by Opera Australia. These incursions will take place at school with the support material providing the basis of the Music program in the preceding and precluding weeks.

**Senior Choir** - The Senior Choir meets once a week for half an hour and is run by myself and Susan Wright. The children learn a repertoire of songs for performances scheduled throughout the year. Membership in Senior Choir is voluntary although once a commitment has been made children are encouraged to remain for the whole year.

Lorelle Caulfield-Lloyd
(Music Teacher)

**2014…..**

The year 3/4 team are keen to make a smooth transition for all the children into the new school year. If you have any concerns regarding your child please do not hesitate to come and talk to us. With everyone working together we will make this year a happy and successful one.

Many thanks,
Year 3/4 Team
Helen Sterling, Robyn Heeps, Drew Baxter, Natasha Larocque, Hayley Kellahan