



Issue #4 October 2018

3/4 Team Newsletter

Term 4 2018

Important dates for Grade 3/4 - Term 4

Tuesday 6th November	Melbourne Cup Day - public holiday
Monday 13th & Wednesday 14th November	Science Incursion - 'Full Steam Ahead'
Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st November	Financial Maths Incursion
Monday 10th & Tuesday 11th December	End of year excursion to Legoland. Monday: 34R, 34PA, 34 CS Tuesday: 34BP, 34NP, 34OF Please ensure students are at school by 8.30am on the day that <u>their</u> grade is attending the excursion.
Friday 16th - Thursday 20th December	Grade 3/4 Swimming Program Students to attend one session each day.
Monday 19th December	Reports sent home
Friday 21st December	End of Term Four

Welcome to Term 4

Term four is shaping up to be another busy term. The students will be participating in some exciting excursions and incursions that will enrich their learning in the classroom and offer some valuable (and fun) co curricular experiences. As the year draws to a close, the anticipation and excitement of moving to a new grade next year begins to build and we all wonder how the year has flown by so quickly. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the year. The connections between home and school are important and have an impact on student wellbeing and attitudes to learning.

The 'Space Expo' earlier in the year highlighted the wonderful communal support and celebration of learning in the 3/4 area. Watching students who were apprehensive about speaking, and not sure what to expect, proudly explaining and answering questions about what they'd researched was wonderful. Listening to, and reading, the positive comments of others was the 'icing on the cake' and built the confidence of many students. Thank you!

GRADE 4 CAMP - MT EVELYN

The Mt Evelyn camp was a fantastic way to conclude the term. The students (and teachers) returned somewhat tired, but full of tales about the fun activities and time spent with friends. Highlights included the awesome giant swing and whizzing along in the flying fox. The activities encouraged students to participate in some new experiences and many students challenged themselves to try something new that was often out of their comfort zone. It was great to see the students work together and further develop cooperation and teamwork skills. Congratulations to the students who cooperated, showed excellent manners and made the experience fun for all.

Term 4 English



Reading

Students will continue to participate in small group reading activities in either guided reading or reciprocal reading sessions that enable them to work through a text that is a little more difficult than they can read independently. After teacher guidance through the text, assisting students to develop new skills, knowledge and strategies, activities are completed to enhance text comprehension. Students will continue to utilise iPads or computers to find further information. Students are also engaged in daily independent silent reading, so are encouraged to have a book they are interested in at school every day.

This term we have a particular focus on:

- figurative language and how it is used by authors to convey or enhance meaning
- evaluating a text (reading to find information in different parts of a text and combine it with the author's implied meaning, to fully understand what they have read)
- revision of reading strategies, according to particular needs of each student.



Writing

This term the students will focus on idea generation and plot development in narrative writing and revising their written pieces to make improvements in content, word choices and sentence structure. Students will also learn about the structure and features of explanation texts. Students will continue to take part in formal grammar and spelling sessions to build on their knowledge and understanding of how to use the English language to communicate effectively. Weekly spelling lists of words to learn for homework will continue to be posted on the school website in the 3/4 learning area. The lists are based on learning a sound or letter pattern to assist students in their everyday written work.



Speaking and Listening

Speaking and listening continue to be integrated into all aspects of learning sessions. Students are also continuing to develop an awareness of purpose and audience when speaking or listening in different situations. Students are encouraged to listen attentively to others, ask relevant questions and speak clearly and audibly to articulately convey their ideas and thoughts. We are continuing to focus on an awareness of appropriate times and ways of communicating verbally during independent working time. Students are also encouraged to be aware of the need to adjust the volume and tone of their speech to suit different situations.

Term 4 Mathematics

REVISION OF DIVISION

During term four in Numeracy we use mental computation strategies to revise division concepts, particularly recording long division. Long division steps help develop understanding and allows the student to focus on the repeated process for each place value part in the algorithm. For example 43 divided by 3, students ask – Can I share 4 tens with 3 people? Yes. They get one each and there is 1 left over. This leftover is now renamed into ones, so we now have 13 ones. The student asks again - Can I share 13 ones with 3 people? Yes. They each get 4 ones and there is 1 left over or remainder. So 43 divided by 3 is 14 remainder 1. Students are encouraged to use materials or drawing to help make links to the formal recording.

Students are **strongly encouraged** to have **automatic number facts to 100 in both multiplication and to make links to division**. This is vital as it “frees” up the working memory of the students and allows them to focus on more complicated thinking of renaming and recording algorithms appropriately.

Parents can again support this ongoing process of learning number facts in multiplication strategies. Once learnt, children’s speed of recall can be developed. Revision sheets are located at the bottom of the 3/4 stairwell or by using “google” to print out some revision sheets.

Below are some examples of the mathematical thinking and language that your child will be exposed to at school. The facts are taught in the order below with links made between strategies, such as 2, 4 and 8 facts all being based on doubles.

Example	Strategy	Mathematical Thinking
10×4	Groups of ten	I know 4 tens is 40 (place value/ concept).
2×4	Doubles	I know 2 groups is doubling, 2 fours are 8.
3×4	Doubles and 1 more lot	I know 3 groups is double the number four and then one more group of four so 12.
1×5	1 group of anything is the number itself	I know 1 group of 5 is 5, the number itself.
0×3	Zero groups of anything is 0	The musical trio didn't arrive, so there were no musicians.
4×6	Double Double	4 groups is double and double again. Double 6 is 12 and double 12 is 24.
5×4	Half of 10 times	10 times 4 is 40 and half of 40 is 20.
6×3	5 times plus one more lot	I know 5 groups of 3 is 15 + one more lot of 3 is 18.
9×7	Multiply by 10 times less one lot	I know 10 times 7 is 70 so I need one lot less of 7 so 70 - 7 is 63.

8 x 6

Double double double

Double 6 is 12, double 12 is 24, double 24 is 48.

7 x 3

5 times + 2 rows

I know 5 groups of 3 is 15 and 2 more lots are +3, +3 so 15 + 6 is 21.

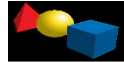
FRACTIONS

Term 4 will focus on fractions and making link to already known fractions, such as halves and quarters. Student will be involved in activities that assist in making, naming and recording fractions. They will then count in common fractions and move to mixed numbers. They will be exposed to converting mixed numbers to improper fractions and reverse. Fractions will be compared and benchmarked against key fractions, like half. Equivalence will be explored through concrete materials. If ready, students will add and subtract fractions with like denominators and those able will be exposed to unlike denominators.

DECIMALS/MONEY and PROBLEM SOLVING

Links will be made to tenths to develop place value understanding of decimals and those ready will extend this knowledge to hundredths. Money will revise the four operations and explore problem solving strategies. Practical resources will assist understanding.

We are also having a smart money workshop incursion involving money and budgeting. This will be on Tuesday 20th November and Wednesday 21st November.



MEASUREMENT/CHANCE AND DATA

Volume and capacity and formal units will be revised as necessary. Students will compare, order and measure using scaled instruments. They will then use volume and capacity to solve problems. Links will be made using scaled instruments. Students will then be extended into converting measurement units or problem solving using applied concepts.

Chance and Data will be further explored making links to probability and the chance of things happening. Students will make and interpret graphs to reflect real life data.

Temperature and Time will be revised to extend reading the time to minutes and understanding temperature scale.

Term 4 Inquiry

This term our Inquiry unit, 'States of Matter and Forces', will introduce and extend the students' knowledge and understanding of the following:

- Matter can be classified as a solid, liquid, or gas
- Matter takes up space and has weight/mass
- Matter is made up of particles (molecules/atoms)
- Matter can be identified by its properties
- Some matter can change its properties and form through the addition or removal of energy (heat)
- The different types of forces such as: push, pull, friction, air resistance, buoyancy
- How forces are exerted on objects
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We have a number of exciting activities planned, including a terrific incursion, 'Full Steam Ahead'.

A large part of the unit will involve students in conducting several experiments, where they will also learn about the structure and elements of a scientific report. Towards the end of the unit, students will write their own scientific report about an experiment they have done.

Digital Technologies

The recent acquisition of class sets of laptop computers that are now being shared in the 3/4 area, means that computers are more accessible and able to be used in a variety of ways across all curriculum areas in the classroom. During timetabled ICT sessions, students are continuing to develop word processing skills by publishing special pieces of work using various tools and visuals. Some classes are creating PowerPoint presentations and learning to use animations, transitions and insert pictures to make their presentations unique and interesting.



This term we are most excited to be introducing our newly purchased little (but with a big personality) coding robots, Spheros. Spheros are robots that are connected to the ipods through an app that will help students learn important coding skills by programming them to follow specific paths and create sound, movement and light sequences. Spheros are lots of fun and build on what the students have previously learnt using our other robots, Dash and Dot. The teachers have been enjoying experimenting with the cute little Spheros. We are sure the students will have fun, work as a team and learn a lot about coding at the same time.

Wellbeing

This term in Wellbeing we are learning about responsible decision making. The topics are: Responsible Decision Making – personal, social and ethical, Protective Strategies and Dealing with Change. Students will learn – that children make around 3000 decisions every day, that a decision can be responsible or irresponsible and that there are consequences for their actions.

TERM 4 SWIMMING PROGRAM:

The organisation of the 3/4 Swimming Program is currently being finalised. The intensive program will take place at the end of the term, from **Friday 16th December to Thursday 20th December**. Students will travel by bus each day to participate in small group sessions run by the staff at the Elite Swimming Centre. It is a great opportunity for students to build their fitness, have fun and improve or practise their swimming skills. Please check Compass in the coming weeks for details.

*****Please continue to check the 3/4 learning area on the school website for homework and other information*****