



Year 3/4 Team Parent Newsletter - Term 2 2018

Dear Year 3/4 Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to another extremely busy term! We have already done so much! This week students engaged in the Robo-Kids incursion, where they spent the day learning to code a robot to complete a number of tasks. Students needed to think critically and 'guess and check' about how to solve problems. The students had a wonderful time and we thank the Science Team for organising such a brilliant day. We also have an incursion coming up on Tuesday the 31st of July exploring empathy and how to build friendships. 'The Building Friendship and Empathy' workshop explores students' interactions with peers, as well as developing and displaying empathy. The workshops cover fitting in/inclusion, nice play, effective communication, body language and other social skills that are vital to positive peer relationships in later years.

We have also been invited to the free "Find your treasure" workshop at the Newport Library on the 21st of August. Students will explore Australian Children's Literature and will discover their inner artist through specially-designed workshops aimed at honing their skills. This workshop relates closely with the work students will be completing in regards to their Literary Lights books.

Classes will be required to attend the workshop at different times. These times are:

- 9.30 – 10.15am - Emma and 3/4G
- 12.15 -1pm - Alanna and 3/4M
- 1.30 – 2.15 - Mat and 3/4W
- 2.15 – 3pm - Warren and 3/4H

Classes will leave school approximately 30 minutes before their workshop begins, and will return to school approximately 15 minutes after their session. Each class will require one or two parent helpers, so if you are able to attend, please contact us.

Literacy

Daily Reading Hour:

We will continue to model, discuss and practise reading strategies by reading aloud to students, reading together with students, reading in small groups through reciprocal teaching, guided reading, student/ teacher conferences and reading independently.

Areas we will study in Term 3 include:

- Poetry – author's devices and fluency

- Fiction
- Effective Research skills
- Paraphrasing
- Information Reports – structure and features
- Questioning
- Reading for enjoyment

Daily Writing Hour:

We will continue to model, discuss and practise writing a range of text types.

The topics we will focus on this term are:

- Poetry
- Fiction
- Illustrating
- Information Reports
- Writer's Notebook activities

Students will be engaged in the writing process by planning, drafting, editing, revising and publishing their stories.

Word Investigation:

Each week, we will continue to focus on investigating a spelling/sound pattern or other language conventions. This focus will be closely linked to the weekly spelling lists sent home.

Numeracy

We will continue to model, discuss and practise mathematics skills and understandings and a range of strategies for solving mathematical questions. The following areas will be studied this term:

- Fractions and Decimals
- Multiplication and Division
- Tessellations and Tangrams
- Pattern and Algebra
- Problem Solving Strategies

We encourage you to assist your child in practicing their times tables at home as well as at school. Students should also be given opportunities to read both analogue and digital time.

History

The students are already excited about our Big Question for this term, which will explore History. After the initial groans, we have found our students are extremely inquisitive when it comes to learning about life in the 20th Century. Starting from Week 3 we will be holding the 'Era of the Week,' starting with the early 20th Century and moving through to the 1990s.

Our big question for the term is:

How have people from the past shaped the world as we know it?

Understandings:

- Life has changed from the past and there are important reasons why
- Major events and certain people from the past have impacted life today
- We can learn through sharing stories and using a range of sources to gather information
- History is often told by the winner but stories can be told in different ways and facts may change over time

Science

This term in Science we will be exploring a range of Psychological experiments that have been conducted over the past 100 years. Students should gain a greater insight into how the brain works. This will then be linked to strategies for their learning and social interactions.

Homework

In Grade 3 and 4 the homework expectations for our students are:

- 30 minutes of reading at least 3 times per week
- Practising spelling words
- Practising times table
- Other project assignments that may be handed out throughout the year