

GRADE 4 NEWSLETTER

~ Term 3, 2014 ~

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Semester 2, already! Hope you all had a restful break and are ready for another busy term. It was great to meet many of you again at the mid-year parent/teacher interviews and appreciate your continued support throughout the year.

Some key dates for your diaries:

Literacy/Numeracy Week (incl. School Spelling Bee) - Week 3

Family Maths Night (Grade 4-6) - Wednesday 30th July

Australian Maths Competition - Thursday 7th August (selected students)

School Athletics Carnival - Friday 15th August @ the V.U. Athletics track

End of Term 3 - Friday 19th September



Punctuality

School starts for all students at 8:20am. Students have tasks to complete from the first bell, lunch orders, notes and money are to be handed in at this time. Late arrival can affect students' progress and can make it difficult for them to settle into daily routines. Please ensure that students arrive at school before the 8:20 bell.

If your child has been absent at all, can you please send a note to school with your child explaining their absence.

2014 Grade 4/5 Camp Program

We have had a good response for this year's Grade 4/5 School Camp, to be held at the Anglesea YMCA camp (Mon. 13th - Wed. 15th October- 2nd week of term 4). Thanks to all the parents who volunteered to help (we had in excess of 25!). We have selected a group of parents from across the team, and look forward to their participation, which for many will be their first camp experience - good luck!

In the next few weeks, we will be sending out medical and dietary forms and we ask that these are returned promptly, along with any outstanding payments by the due dates (next instalment of \$60 is due by 1st August), so we can make the best preparation for another fun camp. Towards the end of term, students will have some 'teamwork' sessions, where they will learn more about what will happen at camp, be issued with equipment lists and they will be able to select their own cabin groups.



Grade 4/5 Sport Rotations

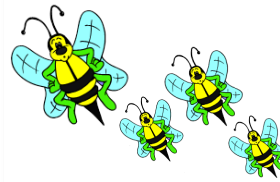
The Grade 4 and 5 teams will be running a series of rotations this term, introducing students to new sports and skills. This will be an opportunity for students to work in teams, develop sportsmanship qualities, and work with different teachers across grade levels, in preparation for the Grade 4/5 camp program at the start of Term 4.



Weekly Maths Rotations

Maths rotations will continue this term, once a week, offering support and extension opportunities. Students in the extension group will be participating in a series of projects to extend their application of advanced mathematical skills. Eight students have also been selected to take part in the Australian Mathematics Competition.





Spelling Bee & Maths '24' Competitions

All classes will be running spelling competitions in order to select entries for the 2014 Wyndham Spelling Bee competition. There will be one entry at the 3/4 grade level, with the Wyndham final to be held on the evening of Tuesday 26th August.

We will also be running an in-house 'Maths 24' competition, allowing small class teams to challenge their mental arithmetic skills with other talented students.



Term 3 Inquiry - First Contacts

This term we will be completing a history unit, learning about European settlement, first explorers and the first fleet. Students will also learn about Aboriginal life before, at, and after settlement. They will need to research a famous explorer and orally present it using either a digital medium, or in poster format.

Term 3 Homework

Homework will begin again in week 2, and continue each week throughout the term. It will follow a similar format to term 2, with the added focus on netbook specific activities to try and consolidate the skills learned in class. It will again be handed out and explained on Monday and will be expected back each Friday for correction.

Homework should not be stressful or too time consuming. The activities are intended to support what is being done in the classroom and it is valuable for children to complete each task to the best of their ability (your support is invaluable).

Netbooks

Please remind students to ensure that their netbook is brought to school each day charged, as we have limited charging facilities in school, due to the large uptake of the program and most charging units being sent home.

If anyone is experiencing any technical problems with using their netbooks at home, please write a short note explaining the problem and send it to school, so that we can have our technicians work on a quick solution.



Earn and Learn Program and School Wide Positive Behaviours - Rewarding Great Effort

Last term, many students enjoyed a 'gold class' party session for their outstanding efforts in class and on homework tasks. We will continue with our class rewards program, where students can earn money tokens for good work and leadership behaviours. They will have further opportunities to purchase a variety of rewards this term.

Our school wide 'bee' token reward system will also continue, including opportunities for whole class rewards. Our Grade 4s have accumulated multiple bee hives/tokens which they will be able to trade in for some bumper prizes. Let's aim for the magic 100 bee hives for the BONUS COMBO AWARDS!

We look forward to working in partnership with you again this term and achieving further great success. *Regards, Grade 4 Team.* ☺