

GRADE 4 NEWSLETTER

Term 1, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A big welcome to all of the students and parents who will be part of the 'Grade 4' team this year. The grades are as follows:

Grade 4A: Miss Rebecca Parker

Grade 4B: Miss Rebecca Guest

Grade 4C: Mrs Sharon Day-Askham

Thank you to all those parents who made sure that their child had a, hat, art smock, library bag and tissue box on the first day of school. If any of these items have been overlooked, we would much appreciate them being brought into school as soon as possible to ensure a smooth and happy start to the year for students....and their teachers! ☺

Some key dates for your diaries this term:

School Swimming Competition – Friday 13th February

Netbook Handover Evening – Tuesday 10th February 6 - 6.30pm

Intro. Parent / Teacher Meetings – Mon. 16th & Tues. 17th February

School Photos Day – Thursday 5th March

Labour Day Holiday – Monday 9th March

Grand Prix Reward Trip – Friday 13th March

School Carnival – Friday 20th March

Last day of term – Friday 27th March, 2015

Parent / Teacher Meetings

In order to provide the best learning opportunities for your child, we want to ensure the best home-school partnership possible. We are therefore keen for all parents to meet with their child's classroom teacher at the start of the year, to discuss any concerns and plan the best learning environment for your child. We look forward to meeting you in Week 3 (notes have already been handed out).

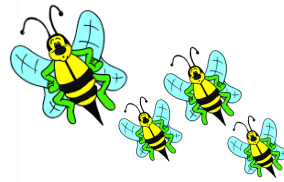
Netbooks

This year the Grade 4-6 students will continue with the 1:1 netbook program, building on from the great success of the past 4 years.

We will be holding a 'handover' evening on Tuesday 10th February (6-6:30pm) for families who have completed netbook payment (for Term 1 or the whole year), where we will be able to give more information on the program and complete the netbook agreements, allowing children to take their netbooks home during non school-hours.



We look forward receiving payments on time (\$60 per term, or \$200 for the whole year), in order that your child can have the use of their netbook to fully utilise the ICT tools, including use on weekly homework tasks. Those parents who paid \$60 before the holidays can still get the discounted annual cost, by paying the remaining \$140 balance this term.



Homework

Homework will begin in Week 2, so that the children can ease into the school routine the first week back. It will be handed out and explained on Monday, and will be expected back each Friday for correction. Homework tasks cater for different abilities to help consolidate learning in class. *It will also include netbook options for those who have use at home.*

Homework expectations are:

Daily: To read for 15 mins (noted in diary and parent signed)

Weekly: Complete one literacy task (with a focus on spelling), one numeracy task and one physical activity.

Homework should not be stressful or too time consuming. The activities are intended to support class work, and it is valuable for children to complete each task to the best of their ability.

Ongoing communication – Student Diaries

Diaries will be given to all students and we ask that they are checked and signed by parents each week. This is a great way for students to organise their school and homework demands, also ensuring parents and teachers have effective two-way communication with each other. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please feel free to arrange an appropriate meeting time. *Problems are usually easier to resolve if they are dealt with promptly.*



If your child is absent/sick/late, please inform us in writing so that the office can maintain up to date records.

Grade 4/5 Camp

This year the Grade 4/5 School Camp will be held at Arrabri Lodge, Warburton. This is our three-day 'bush' camp and takes place from Wed. 14th – Fri. 16th October. The cost will be approximately \$230. We hope as many children as possible will be able to participate in this positive experience and we will be sending out notes of interest in Term 2.



School Times

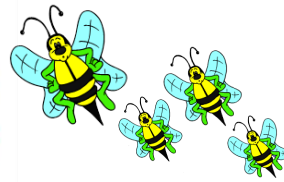
School starts for all students at 8:20am and students have tasks to complete from the first bell, while registers are taken and monies/letters are being collected.

****Late arrival can seriously hinder student progress and will make it hard for them to settle into the daily routines****



TRUST licences: All students will be issued with Trust licences in Term 1, as part of our Positive Behaviours program to encourage responsible behaviours in our B.E.R. building. This program hopes to instill the leadership qualities we believe all of our students are capable of.





Projects for the Year

Term 1 Project - Me, My Netbook and I & School Carnival

An introductory project to help get the 1:1 netbook program up to full speed and set up our dynamic learning space in the B.E.R. An opportunity for students to assess their different learning styles and develop a wider array of learning tools, with an emphasis on developing their ICT skills; utilising the netbooks to improve their learning potential. Also making preparations and running our School Carnival.

Term 2 Project - Living With Change

As part of our science unit based around biological science, our grade 4s will have the opportunity to become hands-on scientists, testing out theories related to our science study. They will also look at life-cycles and foodwebs.

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 Indigenous 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 4 Inquiry – Materials Move

In Term 4 we have a physical science focus unit looking at the workings of basic machines, carrying out experiments and learning science concepts and theories. Students will research the work of scientists and produce a project about an area of science they have studied. A very hands-on topic to encourage inquiry and discovery!

Specialist Programs

Students will attend specialist classes in the areas of P.E., Art, Library Studies and Performing Arts. These will be rotated throughout the year, with students having three specialist sessions per week.

No Hat, No Play Policy

Please remember that Bellbridge is a Sun Smart school, and therefore during Term 1 all children are required to be wearing their school hat. These are to be either a navy blue broad brimmed hat or a legionnaire's hat. If your child does not have a hat, they will need to be playing in appropriate sheltered play areas.



School Wide Positive Behaviours & Earn and Learn

Be SAFE Be RESPECTFUL Be RESPONSIBLE Be a LEARNER

In keeping with the establishment of the whole school approach to student well-being, Grade 4 students will be involved in discussing common rights and responsibilities and how these impact on classrooms, the B.E.R. building and the school in general. Students will receive rewards through collecting individual BEE tokens as well as the Grade 4 Earn and Learn incentive program. *Rewards will include involvement in special excursions, such as a trip to the 2015 Australian Grand Prix!*



We look forward to working in partnership with you this year and having a very successful 2015.

Regards, Grade 4 Team. ☺