

GRADE 4 NEWSLETTER

~ Term 1 2018 ~

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 (Room 28): Miss Rebecca Clark

Grade 4B (Room 26): Mrs Adele Gilligan

Grade 4C (Room 28a): Mr Shaam Nundlall

Grade 4D (Room 25): Mr Dom Marafioti

Thank you to all those parents who made sure that their child had a hat, an art smock, a library bag and a 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:

Netbook Handover Evening - Wednesday 7th February 5:30 - 6.00pm

District Swimming Try-outs (selected students only) - Wednesday 7th February

Parent/Teacher Meetings - Mon. 19th & Tues. 20th February

Bellbridge 3-6 Athletics Carnival - Friday 2nd March

Labour Day Holiday - Monday 12th March

School Twilight Carnival - Friday 16th March

National Ride to School Day - Friday 23rd March

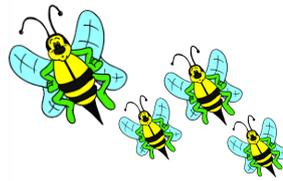
Grand Prix Excursion (selected students) - Friday 23rd March

Last day of Term - Thursday 29th March

It's a good idea to read the school newsletter to keep up to date with school activities, term dates, public holidays and curriculum days. Also check out the school website: www.bellbridgeps.vic.edu.au and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BellbridgePrimary

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 4 (details about booking on Compass will be provided soon).



Netbooks

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

We will be holding a 'handover' evening on Wednesday 7th February (5.30-6pm) 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 to receiving payments on time (\$60 per term, or \$200 for the whole year up-front), in order for your child to 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 promptly paying the remaining \$140 balance (due date 2/2/18).

Homework

Homework will begin in Week 3, so that the children can ease into the school routine in the first few weeks 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 take netbooks home.**

Homework expectations are:

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

Weekly: Complete one English task, one Maths task and one physical activity task.

Homework should not be stressful or too time consuming. The activities are intended to support class work, while building good study habits. It is valuable for children to complete each task to the best of their ability.

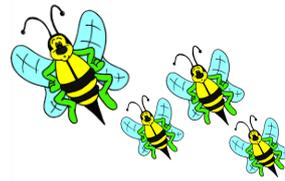
Ongoing communication - Student Diaries

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 notify the office on or before the day, and then send a follow-up note when your child returns.





Guide Dog Puppy in 4A

This year Miss Clark and 4A, with the help of all grade 4's, are raising a Guide Dog puppy. Kandace is a very welcome addition to 4A. She is a 'Guide Dogs Victoria' puppy, and will be in the classroom every day over the year. Kandace will have her own space in the classroom where she can sleep and play with her own toys. Grade 4 students will play an important part in Kandace's social development by providing a busy environment for her to become comfortable in. The classroom experience will help her learn to ignore distractions and concentrate on her job when out working in the community.

Grade 4/5 Camp

This year the Grade 4/5 School Camp will be held at Anglesea YMCA Camp, Anglesea. This is our three-day beach-camp and takes place from Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th October. The cost will be approximately \$270. 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 rolls are taken and monies/letters are being collected.

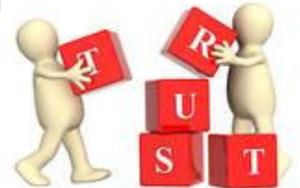
*****Late arrival can seriously hinder student progress and will make it hard for them to settle into the daily routines*****



Term 1

English in Term 1

Students will independently read daily, participate in reading activities focused on a range of comprehension strategies and will have frequent one-on-one reading conferences to determine individual goals. In writing, students will be focusing on retelling past events through recounts. They will also focus on transactional writing, such as letters, postcards and invitations. Later in the term, they will focus on writing descriptions.



Maths in Term 2

Throughout the term we will be focusing on various areas:

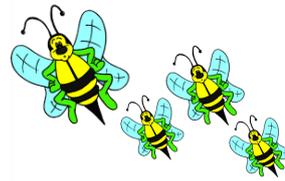
Number and Algebra: Addition, Subtraction, Division, Multiplication, Place Value and Money.

Measurement and Geometry: Time

Students will also complete weekly maths challenges in class and frequent problem solving challenges.

Term 1 Inquiry Unit - What Makes Me Click

An introductory unit to help get the 1:1 netbook program up to full speed and set up our dynamic learning space. 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.



Specialist Programs

Students will attend specialist classes in the areas of P.E., Art, Performing Arts and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). 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, and the school in general. Students will receive rewards through collecting individual bee tokens, whole-class beehives as well as the Grade 4 Earn and Learn incentive program. Rewards will include involvement in special excursions, such as a trip to the 2018 Australian Grand Prix!



TRUST licences

Students will be issued with Trust licences throughout Term 1, as part of our Positive Behaviours program to encourage responsible behaviours with our dynamic learning space. This program hopes to instill the leadership qualities we believe all of our students are capable of.

Active Travel

Every Wednesday is 'Wheel and Walk Wednesday', where we encourage students to walk or ride a bike, scooter, or skateboard to school. For those that live too far from school, we ask that you get dropped off on one of our Active Paths and walk or ride the rest of the way. Each Wednesday, classroom teachers collect data on how our students travelled to school. We have seen great improvements in our school's active travel rate since the implementation of this program last year, and we look forward to seeing this rate continue to improve.

We look forward to working in partnership with you this year to have a very enjoyable and successful 2018.

Regards, *Grade 4 Team.* ☺