

Grade 3 Newsletter - Term 2, Week 1, 2017



Dear Grade 3 Families,

Welcome to Term 2! It is lovely to see everyone back at school this week, ready for new learning adventures.

Parent Helpers

Thank you to those parents and grandparents who assisted last term by reading with children in the classroom or by attending our excursion to Science Works. We will continue to need your help this term with reading. If you were unable to assist last term and would like to this term, please see your child's teacher.

Maths

In Maths this term we will start by focusing on time – reading a calendar and telling time. Telling time can be a very abstract concept for children, but by the end of Grade 3 they are expected to be able to tell time to the closest minute. Please support this at home by ensuring you have an analogue clock and regularly asking your child what the time is. Next our focus will become multiplication and division. Throughout the term we will be learning various mental maths and problem-solving strategies.

Times Tables

As the year progresses we will also begin to focus more on times tables. By the end of the year it is expected that Grade 3 students know the following tables, at least: 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. Of course, if ready students will be extended beyond these tables. We are sending home a copy of times tables to help your child practise. Just a few ideas for practising tables are:

- Reading times tables on the back of the toilet door or in the car
- Chanting
- Timing your child chanting a table and seeing if they can get quicker
- Calling out sums for your child to answer
- Flashcards
- Serving dinner - 2 sausages for 5 people equals ten sausages
- YouTube and Mathletics songs
- Apps (such as *10 Minutes a Day Times Tables* and *Multiply*).



English

You will have heard the term CAFÉ used in the context of our reading program. Unfortunately this does not mean we are sipping hot chocolates and eating cake at school! CAFÉ is an acronym for comprehension, accuracy, fluency and expanding vocabulary – all necessary for becoming the best readers we can be. In Grade 3 we focus on all of these, particularly comprehension. As indicated in our new homework letter (see your child's homework book) at this stage reading progress in terms of levels slows as books become more complex and comprehension also becomes more complex.

With regards writing, we will start the term by reviewing the genres covered in Term 1, narrative and persuasive/exposition. Next we will write information reports, then recounts. Occasionally homework will include a chat about our Big Write topic, with the writing stimulus glued into homework books.

Inquiry

Our Inquiry topic this term is called, 'Our Place.' We will start by looking at the map of Australia, before learning about Indigenous Australians, including the local Bunurong People and their culture. We will also explore how Australia and specifically our local area have changed since white settlement. In week 7 of Term 2 we have an incursion at school, which will be presented by an Indigenous Australian group. A notice will be sent home shortly.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN is an annual national assessment of literacy and numeracy for all Australian students in grades 3, 5, 7 and 9. This year it will take place over three days, May 9th-11th. Friday will be a catch-up day for absences. We will have covered the relevant curriculum and will be working through a few practise tests in class so the children are familiar with the format. Please remember that NAPLAN provides a snapshot of one day and we do not get the results for some time. While the rules regarding the test

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conditions are strict, we will try to make the experience as relaxed as possible. We want the children to show their best work and they will not be able to do that if they are stressed about the results. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions about NAPLAN.

Homework

Due to feedback last term our homework expectations have changed this term. Please see your child's homework book for a letter detailing the changes.

Grade 3 Camp – Save the Date

We will be attending a one night camp at Merricks Lodge, Merricks, from November 13th-14th. This is a new camp for MEPS, to a venue that can sleep all of our Grade 3s at once (in previous years we went as two separate groups, as the venue could not accommodate us all). Last year we researched many possibilities for a new camp and were impressed with all that Merricks Lodge has to offer. Its relatively close proximity to Mt Eliza is also a bonus. Further information about camp will be sent home in Term 3. In the meantime, we recommend getting your child ready for a night away from home (if they are not already used to this) by having the odd sleepover with family or friends.

'Tantalising Tuesdays' - Wool

This term our Tuesdays will be 'tantalising.' After lunch each Tuesday the children will take part in a variety of activities including sport, coding, finger-knitting and team-building games. All students are asked to please bring a ball of wool to school asap so that they can participate in the finger-knitting activity.

Play Dough

We regularly use play dough for various hands-on learning activities at school. Our supplies are running low and need to be refreshed. If you would like to donate some play dough to your child's class it would be greatly appreciated. Making play dough could even create some fun at home for you and your child. Don't forget to talk about the Maths involved when measuring out the ingredients, etc. The following recipe has proven to be reliable:

Ingredients

- ½ cup salt
- 1 cup plain flour
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 cup boiling water
- Food colouring



Method

1. Mix salt, flour, cream of tartar and oil together in a medium sized bowl.
2. Ask an adult to add boiling water and mix until dough is pliable.
3. Add food colouring and knead until dough is evenly coloured.
4. Allow to cool and store in an airtight bag or container.

Important dates:

Jogging club	Thursdays, 8.15am
ANZAC Day assembly	Monday, April 24 th
NAPLAN	Tuesday May 9 th – Thursday 11 th
House Cross Country	Monday, May 8 th
Grade 3 Assembly performance	Monday, May 29 th
Indigenous Australia Incursion	Wednesday, May 31 st
Reporting Day – student free day	Thursday, June 29 th

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are looking forward to a busy and productive term!