



# The Grade Four Newsletter

## WELCOME TO 2017

A huge welcome to 2017 to all our school community. We hope that everyone had a great holiday. It was wonderful to see our students return full of enthusiasm, ready to start the new year. Our teachers in Grade Four are as follows: Ellen Cake, Raelene Harvey, Jeff Dirago and Bec Haley. We look forward to meeting you all at our 'Meet the Teacher' Interviews on Tuesday, 14th and Wednesday, 15th February.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Swimming Trials - Monday, 13th Feb.
- 'Meet the Teacher' Interviews- Tuesday, 14th and Wednesday, 15th Feb.
- Life Education Incursion- Monday, 20th and Tuesday, 21st Feb.
- Grade 4 Assembly item- Monday, 20th Feb.
- District Swimming.- Wednesday, 22nd Feb.
- School Photos- Tuesday, 28th Feb.
- Michael Grose Information Night- Tuesday, 28th Feb.
- PTA Movie Night- Friday, 3rd March
- Labour Day, Monday 13th March
- Last day of term- Friday, 31st March—dismissal 2.30 pm
- Commence Term 2- Tuesday, 18th April
- Grade Four Camp Phillip Island. Wednesday, 26th April— Friday, 28th

### LITERACY

**Reading:** In Grade 4 we do CAFE Reading (Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding Vocabulary). Teachers use the CAFE System to assess, instruct and monitor student progress in reading. Students are always encouraged to read for meaning, select novels relevant to their reading ability and of course, enjoyment.

**Writing:** All text types and genres are addressed over the Grade 4 year. During this term we will be focusing on recounts and persuasive genres in text. We will continue to use VCOP strategies and BIG WRITES to help develop the children's writing and share their writing pieces during class time. Students will also be working hard at their joined writing to earn their pen licenses this year.

**Spelling/THRASS:** Students will have weekly spelling words to complete as part of their Grade 4 homework. These will be taught in class and THRASS sounds will be focused on as a strategy for spelling.

### GRADE 4 SPORT

The students are very excited that they are getting the opportunity to participate in district events in swimming this term and Athletics and Cross Country later in the year. We are having Grade 4 sport on Wednesday after Lunch. Students will need to wear runners on this day.

### NUMERACY

This term the Grade 4's will be studying Place Value, Addition and Subtraction in Mathematics. In order to maximise your child's learning we conduct mathematics sessions in various groupings. To support your child, it would be great if you could practise automatic number skills such as times tables and quick addition sums with them at home.

### INQUIRY

This term our Inquiry unit is 'Healthy Active Kids' which focusses on healthy food and lifestyle choices. As a part of this unit we are having an incursion from the Life Ed Van which will enhance their engagement and understanding of this unit.

### HOMEWORK

After looking at the parent feedback on our homework survey conducted last year, the school is going to trial the homework matrix, (Grade 4's began using this towards the end of 2016). The children will be able to choose certain activities, with others being non-negotiable. This will more than likely begin in week 4. Homework expectations will come home with the first homework tasks. We would love students to start reading for an hour a week and recording this in their homework books in week 2.

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## **PARENT HELPERS**

We are very grateful for the parents that are able to assist in the classroom. Once we are settled with our grades, classroom teachers will let parents know about opportunities to provide assistance in the classroom. Parents or other volunteers who assist will be required to read and sign a confidentiality form. This will only take five minutes. If you completed a form last year you are not required to complete this again. A big thank you to those who

## **ANAPHYLAXIS AND ALLERGIES**

We have some students with Anaphylaxis and severe allergies to a range of things in our year level. Please be aware of this throughout the year and classroom teachers will communicate requirements with you for special events.

## **EXCURSIONS AND NOTICES**

Please ensure all notices are returned by the due date so your child can attend, even if the cost is being deducted from the levy.

## **PHILLIP ISLAND CAMP**

**Wednesday, 26th April—Friday, 28th April**

Our camp will be held in Term Two at Phillip Island. This camp provides a wonderful educational experience for our students. The range of adventure activities offered promote team building in a safe yet challenging environment. Information in regard to the camp will be distributed soon.

## **TIMELY ARRIVAL**

Children must be at school by 8.40 am, the bell goes at 8.45 am. Students arriving to class after 8.50 am must report to the office with their parent for a late slip. Tardy arrivals are not good for the child involved and impacts on the running of the grade at this crucial time when teachers are setting up the day. We are sure you will appreciate this and make every effort to ensure timely arrival !

## **TIQBIZ**

This is a free app we use to communicate school events. Please download this if you haven't already. Simply tick the Grade 4 and Whole School boxes. For further assistance please contact Mr Barren.

## **ABSENCE NOTICES**

Just a reminder that absence notices should be handed to your child's teacher the day they return to school after illness or other circumstances. A big thank you to the parents who consistently do this.

## **HATS**

Please remember that hats must be worn at school from the end of September through to the end of April.

Please ensure that your child's hat is clearly named on the inside .

Unfortunately over time many hats can become tatty and faded, in which case it may be time to purchase a new one.

## **REMINDERS**

Please have a look at home for any art smocks, library bags or reader bags left from last year and bring them into school for your children to start using. Each child needs to have their own for school.

**Thank you for your help and support. We look forward to having a fantastic, fun-filled term!**

**Ellen Cake, Raelene Harvey, Jeff Dirago and Rebecca Haley**

**Grade 4 Team**