

8th February, 2019



Hello and *welcome* to Grade 3 at MEPS! Below is some information about Grade 3, 2019.

READING

As in Grade 2, we teach the CAFÉ reading strategies (Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Extending Vocabulary). While we teach a range of these strategies each week, your child will also work with their teacher on specific strategies that they need to master. The teacher will hear your child read regularly in order to determine progress and which strategies your child needs to focus upon.

HOME READING

Your child will bring home readers from next week. We call these 'good fit' or 'just right' books as they are at or just below the level your child is currently learning to read. They should not be too hard and they should be fairly easily read and understood. There is a table in the back of your child's Homework Book for them to record their home reading. Our expectation is at least a total of one hour of reading per week. It is still very beneficial for your child to be reading every night, even if they are just reading to themselves before bed. Please be aware that by Grade 3 children do not generally move as quickly through reading levels as they do in Grades Prep, 1 and 2. This is because there is a strong focus on comprehension and analysing aspects of texts, such as the author's reason for writing, descriptions of characters and word choices. The emphasis on home reading is enjoyment and practise of the reading strategies taught at school.



READING HELPERS

We love reading helpers in Grade 3! We will be sending home a note shortly asking for volunteers on specific days of the week.

WRITING

In 2018 MEPS undertook an extensive review of our approach to teaching writing. Based on evidence-based best practice and feedback from the school community we will begin to implement VOICES writing in 2019. VOICES is an acronym for writing traits that contribute to success in writing: V - voice, O - organisation, I - ideas, C - conventions, E - excellent word choice and S - sentence fluency. We will explicitly teach these writing traits as we explore and practise a range of writing genres. Our first genre for 2019 will be narrative writing.

Throughout the year the children will also learn to join their handwriting so that they can write neatly and efficiently, ready to gain a pen license in Grade 4.

SPELLING

The children will have a list of words to learn each week at school and as an optional homework task at home. These lists will be based on a spelling pattern or grammar rule such as contractions or plurals.

MATHS

Some concepts and skills within our Mathematics curriculum will be taught in your child's home class and others will be taught in Grade 3 ability-based groups. The children will complete a short pre-test prior to each Maths unit, so they are taught at their individual point of need - not too high and not too low. Our first unit will be place value.

INQUIRY

During our first couple of weeks at school we have focused upon getting to know each other, the behaviours that embody our school values and understanding our feelings. For the remainder of this term our Inquiry focus will be Indigenous Australia and the history of Australia since its discovery by white explorers.

HOMEWORK

Our Grade 3 Homework Matrix will be sent home in Week 3 in Homework Books. There are two compulsory tasks each week – Reading (one hour) and Mathletics (500 points or set tasks). There are also two optional tasks, one of which may be spelling. There will be a list of suggestions for the optional tasks based around family life, learning about the world and using skills learned at school.

FLEXIBUZZ

Each week the Grade 3 teachers will send a message via the Flexibuzz app detailing what we will be learning in the coming week, as well as important calendar reminders. If you have not already installed this app, we recommend you do so. There is a link to join on the school website.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Thank you for labelling and organising your child's stationery items. It made our first day organisation run very smoothly. In Grade 3 we use headphones, library bags, reader bags, art smocks and of course hats. If your child does not have any of these items at school, please send them ASAP. They need not be green school issue items as long as they do the job (apart from the hat).

Could you please send along a box of tissues if you haven't already? As the winter months come, they are very much in need in our classrooms. Thank you!

MEET and SRC REPS

In Grade 3 the children have the opportunity to nominate themselves as a MEET or SRC rep. We have discussed the responsibilities involved and any interested children will explain to their classmates why they would be a good rep early next week. We will announce the successful nominees in class by the middle of next week.

CAMP – save the date!

This year we will be attending camp at Merricks Lodge from November 14th – November 15th. You will receive more information about camp at a later date.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year with your children, teaching them all of the amazing things in the Grade 3 curriculum. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. If we are unable to speak to you immediately due to meetings, yard duty or other commitments, we will arrange a time to meet with you. Alternatively, we are contactable at the following email addresses:

Christie Urquhart – Urquhart.Christie.C@edumail.vic.gov.au

Lauren McInnes – mcinnes.lauren.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

Michelle Polley – polley.michelle.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Amy Hille – hille.amy.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

Please understand that we will reply to your email as soon as possible, within standard working hours. However, if you have important information that needs to be passed onto your child, please call the office as there is no guarantee an email will be seen and passed onto your child before the end of the day.

Warm regards and thank you in advance for your support this year.

CHRISTIE URQUHART, LAUREN MCINNES, MICHELLE POLLEY AND AMY HILLE

