

**PUPIL FREE DAY  
FRIDAY, MARCH 10**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to all students and families and a special welcome to families who are new to our school in 2017. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning in Grade 4 and have many fantastic learning activities planned for the term ahead. The Grade 4 teachers are Miss Kristen Boyd (4KB- Grade Leader), Mrs Sarah Faranda (4SF), Mr Alister Murnane (4AM) and Mrs Cheryl Pantelidis (4CP). In addition to classroom teachers, Miss Alisha Jessop is the Grade 3 & 4 Area Co-ordinator. Mrs Christine Knight, Mrs Michele Moore and Mrs Suzan Crittenden (Education Support Staff) will be working in the Grade 4 area.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Monday, February 13	Parent/Teacher Information Sharing 3.15 – 6 p.m.
Thursday, March 9	School photos
<b>Friday, March 10</b>	<b>Pupil Free Day</b>
<b>Monday, March 13</b>	<b>Labour Day (public holiday)</b>
Thursday, March 16	Mambourin Gardens local excursion
Friday, March 31	Last day of Term 1 ( <b>2.30 p.m. finish</b> )
Tuesday, April 18	First day of Term 2 ( <b>8.50 a.m. start</b> )
Wednesday, June 14 – Friday, June 16	Grade 4 Camp

**MORNING ROUTINE**

Please ensure that children stay in the playground and do not enter the school buildings before the bell rings at the beginning of each day. When teachers allow children into the classroom, students will put their bags away in the assigned area for each class. *When children receive their iPads to take home, they will have permission to come into the classroom before 8.50 a.m. to put their iPads in a secure place.* If you wish to see your child's teacher before school please make an appointment to ensure that the time is available.

**HOMEWORK**

Each Monday Grade 4 children will take home Mathematics and Spelling/Writing homework. This homework is designed for students to be able to complete independently and return on Thursday each week. Grade 4 students have been given a homework folder, which they will keep their work in. In addition, students will also have daily home reading. It is expected in Grade 4 that students read for at least 20 minutes each night. Please ensure that your child's reading diary is signed and returned to school each day in their book bag. Children will receive achievement stickers when they reach a certain number of days of home reading.

Children will be able to select books for home reading from the class and school library as well as choosing books from home and public libraries. Try to provide your child with a range of reading experiences at home such as reading to a sibling, having a story read to them as well as reading to you and independently.

**LITERACY**

During Term 1 our focus areas for Literacy will be:

***Writing- Personal narratives and Information reports***

- Identify purpose and audience
- Identify different text types and genres
- Create an individual Writer's Notebook to record ideas
- Understand the writing process
- Explore various ways to start personal narratives
- Organise and sequence writing using several logically ordered paragraphs
- Use simple and compound sentences
- Research using a variety of sources including books and electronic resources
- Form letters correctly and continue modern cursive handwriting.

***Reading***

- Select a 'just right' book
- Use prior knowledge and information to make connections and predictions
- Make and justify predictions
- Develop the ability to generate questions while reading
- Use strategies such as re-reading, reading on and breaking up words into smaller chunks
- Continue to build independent reading stamina.

Please support your child's learning in Literacy by asking what they are reading and writing about at school.

## NUMERACY

Students will be provided with a Numeracy program to challenge and engage them, where they will be encouraged to think of what their own next steps of learning will be.

### During Term 1 our focus for Numeracy will be:

- Reading and writing numbers to at least 10,000
- Ordering whole numbers and simple fractions
- Understanding place value e.g. 100 is equal to 10 tens
- Understanding and using a range of mathematical vocabulary, particularly to describe addition and subtraction
- Automatic recall of basic multiplication facts to include at least 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s and related division facts
- Measurement: length and temperature
- Collecting and recording data in picture graphs, column graphs and tables
- Problem solving related to the above topics.

## INTEGRATED STUDIES

Our first integrated topic for the year is *'Plants in Action'*, with a focus on Indigenous plants. Children will begin the unit by investigating the plant life cycle and processes such as seed dispersal as well as a visit to the local Mambourin Gardens on **Thursday, March 16**. Subsequent lessons will involve investigations about what seeds need to germinate and what plants need in order to grow.

During Term 1, students will also complete learning on aspects of being *Sun Smart* and reinforcing their understanding of the Iramoo Top 10 'Not-Negotiable' Social Skills.

## PEN LICENCES

This year Grade 4 students will have the opportunity to obtain their pen licence. Students will be required to meet a list of expectations including following Iramoo's workbook expectations. Your child will be presented with a blue pen and a copy of their pen licence when the criteria have been met.

## GRADE 4 TIMETABLE

Below is a timetable of the days of Grade 4 specialist and library classes:

Class	Visual Arts	Information & Communication Technology (I.C.T.)	Performing Arts	Physical Education (P.E.)	Library	Spanish
4SF	Tuesday	Tuesday	Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Wednesday
4KB	Tuesday	Tuesday	Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Wednesday
4AM	Thursday	Thursday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Friday	Wednesday
4CP	Thursday	Thursday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Friday	Wednesday

Please remind your child to have the correct equipment for these classes such as library books ready to return **the day before** their library day and an art smock provided for art. Please note that in addition to physical education, we have Grade 4 sport once each week and on this day (to be advised) your child will need suitable footwear and clothing. Children are also required to have a suitable bag to bring library books to and from school.

## GRADE 4 CAMP

The Grade 4 camp will take place from Wednesday, June 14 – Friday, June 16 inclusive. It is a residential camp at the Victorian Blue Light Camp in Maldon with a focus on Bike Education. We would like as many children as possible to attend. The cost of this trip will be approximately \$220 and will require the children to have some wet weather clothing and a bike helmet. More information will be provided towards the end of Term 1.

## BIKE EDUCATION

During Term 2, Grade 4 students will participate in our Bike Education program. This program will include theory based lessons on bike and road safety, together with a practical component where students will practise their skills riding a standard 2 wheeled bicycle. To ensure that all students are prepared for both Bike Education and Grade 4 camp, please encourage your child to practise riding when possible.

## IPADS

We will soon be starting the 1:1 iPad Program for students in Grade 4. Information sessions were held last year where payment options, setting up iCloud accounts and other general information was discussed. If you are new to our school or require more information about the program, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Mills (ICT Co-ordinator). Additional information will be provided this term.

## BEHAVIOUR AND EXPECTATIONS

All Grade 4 students have started the new school year extremely well and we expect this to continue. Over the next term we will look more closely in class at our Iramoo 'Top 10 Not Negotiable Social Skills'. These are the social skills that all of the Iramoo learning community follow and provide a platform for our classes to be calm and appropriate learning environments for your child.

### Getting Ready In Numeracy (GRIN) – Grade 4 Numeracy Intervention Program

Selected Grade 4 students will receive extra support to increase their confidence and skills in Numeracy this term. The support program is called *Getting Ready In Numeracy*. The students know the program as GRIN. Parents of these children will receive letters informing them of their participation.

This program helps children in their maths learning in the classroom. Initially, they will be involved in two additional sessions per week to prepare them for the maths lessons in their classroom. The results from GRIN programs in schools, including our school, have shown that students improved their learning in maths lessons and achieved higher levels of skills and confidence.

#### Maths Learning Tips for Parents

- Talk with your child about maths in real life situations.
- Involve your child in cooking when making something simple, especially measuring using millilitres (ml) and grams (g).
- Involve your child in handling small amounts of money, e.g. paying for something and working out how much change should be received.
- Talk with your child about the distance you travel, e.g. home to school and home to the Werribee Plaza.

#### Maths Learning Tips for Children

- Think positively, you *can* work it out.
- Practise the simple things you already do until you can do them easily. This helps when you are learning something new.
- Talk with your family about something you did today in Maths.

Miss Alisha Jessop and I will be teaching the Grade 4 GRIN program this year. Should you have any queries please contact Miss Jessop or me at school on ☎ 9741 2803.

**Mrs Dijana Pateras, GRIN Co-ordinator.**

## MEETING FAMILIES

We are looking forward to meeting with families who have requested interviews on Monday, February 13. Having a positive relationship between teachers, students and families really goes a long way in helping children to succeed at school. If you haven't requested an interview with your child's teacher and would like to, please arrange a time that is convenient for you and for the teacher.

## PUNCTUALITY

To continue to provide a positive and organised learning environment, please ensure that your child is at school before 8.45 each morning so that classes can begin promptly at 8.50 a.m. We encourage students to walk or ride their bikes to school when possible in order to promote health and sustainability. Children who are late to school are required to obtain a late pass from the office. If your child is absent from school, a signed note is required when they return to school to explain their absence. Your vigilance in ensuring that your child attends school every day is greatly appreciated.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is important that your child wears the correct uniform to school every day. If your child is not wearing correct school uniform on a particular day, please inform their teacher with a written explanation. No jewellery is allowed to be worn at school except small earrings (sleepers or studs) and watches. If you are unsure about what is and is not acceptable, please refer to our Student Dress Code which is available at our office and on our school website. Please label your child's uniform items with his/her name.

## SUNSMART

During Term 1 and Term 4 every child is required to wear a hat when outside. The hat must be a broad brimmed or legionnaire's hat that will provide shade for the face, neck and ears. Children will require a hat every day during this term for all play times and Physical Education sessions. Please ensure that your child's name is written clearly inside his/her hat. Children who do not have a hat at school have to stay under covered areas during play times, remain indoors at lunchtime and will not be allowed to participate in any outdoor activities. Our Term 1 and Term 4 policy is **NO HAT, NO PLAY**. Our SunSmart policy is available to view on our school website at [www.iramoops.vic.gov.au](http://www.iramoops.vic.gov.au) Hard copies are available on request. Hats can be purchased from our uniform shop.



## MATHLETICS & ABC READING EGGS

We use two interactive e-learning resources called **Mathletics** and **ABC Reading Eggs** to compliment our teaching of Mathematics and English. Both programs originated in Australia.

**Mathletics** and **Reading Eggs** provide opportunities for your child to improve his/her mathematics and reading skills in an engaging and fun way. The primary goal is to improve mathematics results and essential reading skills.

These programs can be used online from home. Each child can use their Mathletics username and password to access both of the programs.

**Mathletics** can be found at [www.mathletics.com.au](http://www.mathletics.com.au)

**ABC Reading Eggs** can be found at [www.readingeggs.com.au](http://www.readingeggs.com.au)

If you require further information about Mathletics and Reading Eggs please contact your child's teacher.

## **SPECIALIST CLASSES**

Below is a brief outline of what all Grade 4 students will be learning about this term in our specialist areas.

### **Visual Arts**

This term Grade 4 students will be exploring '**Plants in Action**'. They will begin by making a freestanding cactus complete with a colourful bloom before moving onto a paper plate venus fly trap. Students will then explore the work of well-known artist Vincent Van Gogh whose sunflowers will inspire a beautiful still life artwork. The planning phase of this major artwork will be in the form of a dice rolling game that should produce some varied and original results! The skill focus will be on construction, painting and drawing.

### **Performing Arts**

In Term 1, students will begin a study on Silent Movies. The work of mime artists Charlie Chaplin and Mr Bean will be explored. Students will participate in various mime activities, including presenting a song as a melodrama and a performance piece that combines the use of masks, movement and music. All of this will lead to a group production of a silent movie skit. This year students will have an opportunity to participate in a school rock group. If you believe that your child shows talent and commitment in the field of singing or playing musical instruments, please encourage and support them to audition. Auditions will be held in the next few weeks. This year's touring performance will take place in Term 1. The performers are a Spanish group and students will prepare for the performance by singing and playing accompaniment to songs that will be included in the show.

### **Physical Education (P.E.)**

To begin Term 1 Grade 4 students will be identifying their physical strengths and setting a goal to achieve in Physical Education. Students will then participate in a range of cooperative games which will encourage teamwork and 'getting along' skills. The games will allow students to work in groups and take on different responsibilities that will hopefully lead to success in the activity. The students will be developing their striking, focusing on hitting a moving target and hand eye co-ordination. They will also learn the skills and rules of bat tennis and have the opportunity to participate in a bat tennis tournament. Throughout the term students will be training for our Iramoo Senior Cross Country, they will be developing their running endurance and setting personal goals for long distance running. Parents are encouraged to help prepare students by supporting training at home. Our Cross Country will be held on **Tuesday, March 7** and students are encouraged to do their best. To finish the term students will be learning the basic skills of golf with using the correct grip, stance and swing being the focus.

**\*\*Spectators are welcome to take photographs at our school events but must of course be respectful of their use on social or other media, not posting a photo of any child without permission from the child's parent.**

### **Information & Communication Technology (I.C.T.)**

Grade 4 students will start the year using the computer lab to do some very important testing for **Numeracy** and **English**. The results from these activities will be very helpful to the classroom teachers in their planning. We will then use some computer lesson time to work with students on the use and care of their **new iPad Air 2** iPads, including creating and maintaining passcodes and navigating apps and settings. Students will follow up using the Budd:e Cybersmart Online Program to reinforce concepts about how to be safe online.



Time permitting, we will finish the term by introducing and revising the basic and some of the more advanced features of iCal (a digital calendar program) including managing regularly occurring events and setting up notifications.

### **Spanish Language**

**¡Hola Padres!** We are very excited to have the Grade 4s on our Spanish timetable in 2017. In Term 1 we will discuss the many benefits of learning another language like Spanish and look at the cultural similarities and differences among the many Spanish speaking countries. Students will cover topics such as the Spanish alphabet, simple greetings, expressions & exchanges as well as covering our main topic for this term '**The Sounds of South America**'. Iramoo has partnered with Musica Viva In School to bring a musical group '**Tigramuna**' to perform for all our year levels as in March. Iramoo is very excited to be able to provide our students with a sensational cultural experience such as this and look forward to the students' participation in learning and singing in Spanish. **¡Hasta luego!**

Thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter. Please discuss the content with your child and encourage him/her to take some responsibility for the various actions and requirements needed.

**KRISTEN BOYD (GRADE LEADER), SARAH FARANDA, ALISTER MURNANE & CHERYL PANTELIDIS  
GRADE 4 TEACHERS**