

**GRADE 4 NEWSLETTER
TERM 3**

July, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope that all families had a restful and relaxing holiday break. It is great to see the students settle back into the school routine so quickly and with positive attitudes. We are looking forward to another busy term of learning in Grade 4 and have many fantastic learning activities planned.



CAMP – VICTORIAN BLUE LIGHT YOUTH CAMP, MALDON

Well done to all 111 students who attended the Grade 4 Camp in Maldon at the beginning of Term 2. Iramoo Primary School promotes the values of **Respect, Responsibility and Relationships** and all values were required from students during the camp. Children returned from Maldon very tired but brought home with them new experiences, skills and achievements. The children showed excellent attitudes and behaviour throughout the various activities and challenges of the camp. The Grade 4 teachers would like to say a very big thank you to our volunteer helpers Mrs Christine Knight, Mrs Kari Olcorn, Mrs Sandra Cameron, Mrs Shara Jolley and Mr Wayne Driscoll for their fantastic support whilst we were at camp.

LITERACY

The main **writing** focuses for this term will be persuasive writing and narratives.

In **Persuasive Writing** children will discuss a variety of topics with a partner and in small groups. Students will be encouraged to develop their ideas and opinions on these topics and give reasons for their thinking. How to express an opinion, support it with evidence and being able to share one's thoughts are essential skills for students to develop so that they can be more thoughtful about the world in which they live.

In **Narrative Writing** children will learn to create imaginative stories based on their personal experiences. Students will use the seven steps of writing to plan and write their stories. They will learn about how to make their writing more interesting by using their five senses, thoughts, feelings and descriptive language. Students will also continue to follow the writing process, which includes editing, revising and publishing.

In **Reading** we will explore the structure of a variety of non-fiction texts. Students will revise the purpose of various features found in non-fiction texts, including: subtitles, captions, contents page, glossary, index and labelled diagrams. Students will learn how to use the structure and features to make predictions about what they will learn from the text. We will also focus on summarising what we have read and being able to explain the main idea of a paragraph. We will continue to revise selecting a *'just right'* book. This allows students to choose books that suit their reading ability and interests.

MATHEMATICS

During Term 3, Grade 4 children will be studying the following mathematics topics:

- Investigating number patterns
- Connection between fractions and decimals
- Measurement- including time, length, mass, estimating and measuring angles
- Interpreting and creating maps
- Symmetry
- Collecting data and creating/interpreting graphs
- Money- rounding to the nearest dollar/five cents, calculating change
- Problem solving- breaking problems into smaller parts

We will also continue to build on children's ability to calculate mentally using strategies such as doubling and halving numbers, skip counting and applying known number facts.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

Our Integrated Studies topic for Term 3 is **'Australia's Neighbours - We are similar but different.'** Students will gain a deeper understanding of the countries that neighbour Australia. They will learn how these places are similar to Australia, however they do have differences. These countries depend on their environment to survive and need to find ways to keep their environment sustainable.

LIFE EDUCATION

This term Life Education Australia will be visiting our school. The Life Education Program is a mobile classroom staffed by a specially trained teacher. The Life Education van will be visiting our school from Monday, August 28 to Thursday, September 14. Each Grade 4 class will attend the Life Education van for a one and a half hour session and will participate in the unit **'Mind Your Medicine'**. During this session children will discuss issues and engage in activities centred on:

- Factors that can contribute to a person's sense of self-worth
- Dimensions of health such as physical, social, emotional and environmental
- Effective communication as an essential component of maintaining positive relationships
- Medicines as drugs and the consequences of their misuse

Through their participation in the program, children will receive a booklet that contains follow-up activities that will be carried out in the classroom after their visit to the Life Education van. The cost of this session is \$10 per child or \$20 per family.

Getting Ready In Numeracy (GRIN)

Students who participated in the GRIN program last semester displayed improved attitudes and confidence towards Numeracy, which was fantastic to see. This term they will continue to attend two sessions per week to prepare them for Numeracy lessons and further increase their mathematical skills and confidence in the classroom.

Should you have any queries please contact Miss Alisha Jessop or Mrs Dijana Pateras at school on ☎ 9741 2803

HOME READING

Please remember that children should be bringing home a *'just right'* book to read and share each night. It is better for your child to bring home a book that they find a bit easier and enjoy rather than struggle with one that is too challenging. Children are able to select books from the school library as well as from a selection of levelled books shared amongst the Grade 4 classes. Students may also read books from home or the local library. We encourage the children to neatly fill in their own take home reading diary. Please ensure that an adult signs the diary after reading each night. If your child does not bring home a book each night to read, please contact your child's teacher.

We believe that your child's education is a 'team effort' between home and school, therefore we appreciate your continued support with reading at home. Please ensure that your child has a quiet, comfortable place to read uninterrupted for at least 20 minutes each night. We would like to congratulate the children who are consistently recording their reading at home and returning their reading diary to school. As well as children reading independently, we recommend that you listen to your child read and discuss what they are reading and why they have chosen a particular book.

HOMEWORK

Grade 4 children will continue to receive their homework every Monday. It is to be completed to a high standard and returned to school each Thursday. Please encourage your child to practise spelling words by saying them aloud, covering them up and then writing the word down and checking that it is correct. You can also prompt your child to add detail and description to their homework sentences, as this is something that we have been working hard to achieve in class. Please help to ensure that your child has a regular routine in place to complete and return their homework. The Grade 4 teachers would like to thank parents/guardians who monitor the completion of homework each week.

iPads

Most students are now in a good routine of bringing their iPads to school each day fully charged and ready to use during lessons. Please ensure that your child continues this routine throughout the year. We have been very pleased to see that students have been participating in *Mathletics* and *Reading Eggspress* from home. This is a great way for students to take some responsibility for their own learning.



Each child has their own username and password in order to access the programs.

Mathletics can be found at www.mathletics.com.au

ABC Reading Eggspress can be found at www.readingeggs.com.au

PROGRAM ACHIEVE 'YOU CAN DO IT'



This term students will learn about the very important concepts of **Persistence** and **Organisation** as part of our Program Achieve social skills program. **Persistence** means sticking to a job until it is completed, even if it is difficult or boring. It is the ability to work hard to achieve results. The lessons on **Organisation** are designed to increase student awareness of the important elements of organisation, including how to set goals and methods for planning their time. As well as helping them at school, it will also help students organise themselves at home such as completing their homework activities and arriving at school on time each day. This semester students will learn about how to become more persistent and organised so that they can achieve their academic goals.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As the weather is quite cool please encourage your child to bring a jacket/coat, which they can wear when going outside to play on colder days. These are not worn inside the classrooms. Please make sure that your child does not wear any non-uniform items *over* his/her uniform. If you feel that the weather is especially cold, he/she may wear additional items *beneath* their uniform, provided they cannot be seen. Please ensure that all of these items of clothing are labelled clearly with your child's name. Students are also reminded to remove any nail polish and jewellery that does not comply with our student dress code.

ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY

Overall, the Grade 4 school attendance data was very positive for the first half of this year. At Iramoo we aim for every child not to miss more than 10 days of school for the entire year (5 days per half year). The attendance data for your child was included in their report. If your child has already missed more than 5 days of school, please try to ensure that they attend school as regularly as possible throughout Terms 3 & 4. The Grade 4 teachers would like to congratulate all of the children who achieved perfect attendance (or very close to) for Terms 1 & 2.

School commences at 8.50 a.m. each day. 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. Continued absences from school will mean that your child will miss out on valuable learning opportunities necessary for his/her learning progress. Your vigilance in ensuring that your child attends school every day and arrives before 8.45 a.m. is greatly appreciated.

FRUIT AND WATER

Consuming water and fruit are great ways to get the brain working! We encourage all children to have a bottle of plain water at their table that they can drink throughout the day. **No cordial or juice please.** *Healthy* lunches and snacks are also encouraged.



REPORTS

Last term your child received their school report outlining their progress throughout Terms 1 & 2. We hope that you took the time to read through this report and have discussed the future goals with your child. In your child's report is a section titled '**What you can do at home.**' Within this section are some basic ways you can help at home to build on knowledge and concepts taught at school.

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

Grade 4 students will be creating art inspired by Australia this term. They will begin with a gorgeous wombat who is made from painted and folded paper plates and other mixed media. Students will then learn about the indigenous creation story before painting a design onto a Wathaurong eagle template. To end the term students will create an artwork that depicts the iconic Sydney opera house. If time permits they will also redesign the current Australian flag to include imagery that they feel is connected to our culture and history. The skill focus will be on drawing, painting and construction as stipulated in the Victorian Curriculum for Visual Arts.

Performing Arts

This term in Performing Arts students will work on producing a film clip depicting events surrounding an abandoned school. The learning will involve developing characters and scripts, as well as familiarisation with camera operation. Students will need to provide costumes and props, rehearse, film/perform and edit their recorded footage. All scripts will begin the same but are open-ended requiring groups of student to complete them with their own interpretation. This task has been thoughtfully devised to address the Victorian Curriculum for Drama, which stipulates that students use relationships, tension, time and place and narrative structure when performing scripted drama and that they use performance skills to communicate ideas and create a sense of time and place in their drama.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Grade 4 students will be learning the skills and game strategies of volleyball with the focus on serving and setting the ball as well as reading the play and moving toward the ball. In accordance with the Victorian Curriculum students will then develop their soccer skills with dribbling, passing and game strategy being the focus. To finish the term students will be introduced to the game of badminton where the aim will be to improve hand eye co-ordination, feet position and racquet control.

Digital Technologies (I.C.T.)

Grade 4 students will begin Term 3 by completing their Neutramask movies already filmed during Performing Arts lessons. They will then start work on the production of a silent movie. Students will again work in groups to write storyboards and film the story in Performing Arts. They will use editing techniques in Digital Technologies lessons to produce their movies. This project will give students a chance to demonstrate and build on skills in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum. In particular, importing images, movie clips, music and text to create an entertaining movie! Time permitting we will also revise the basic features of the Scratch computer programming software.



Spanish Language

¡Bienvenidos! In Term 3, students will be learning the '*Days of the week*' and '*The Seasons*'. Students will be creating a poster about their favourite season that will include phrases and adjectives to describe the season in Spanish. As well as practising their previous knowledge of greetings to have a conversation with a friend or '*un amigo*' in Spanish. We look forward to the term ahead. ¡Adios Amigos!



Science

Smooth Moves

Science is an essential area of learning that allows students to have understanding of the world around them. At Iramoo this year, there is once again a dedicated science teacher who leads the teaching of science lessons from Grade 1 to 4. This will be done alongside students' classroom teacher and will focus on scientific knowledge & understanding and enquiry learning.

Grade 4 will begin with the topic '*Smooth Moves*'. Students will be encouraged to reflect on what they already know about forces then plan and carry out an investigation on comparing the different forces of friction and gravity. They will make predictions about what they think will happen, record results and reflect on the outcome. Students will explore a range of scientific vocabulary to support their understanding of science.

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), ALISTER MURNANE,
CHERYL PANTELIDIS & IAN STOKES
GRADE 4 TEACHERS**

VISION PORTRAITS FAMILY PHOTOS

at Iramoo Primary School

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017

Limited sessions available, bookings are essential.

\$15 includes a 10" x 13" with frame.

Order forms available from our school office or if you would like to book online go to

<https://www.trybooking.com/QGKK>

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