What’s Happening in the Classroom:

**English**
- Reading sessions will be linked to our Integrated Studies unit “Wetlands”. A range of text-based activity sessions will further develop the students’ level of reading comprehension. All children should be reading at home on a daily basis. The children are required to record the regularity of their home reading on their weekly homework sheet. Regular home reading is an important component of the students’ homework commitment.
- Writing tasks will involve personal reflections, response to a text and practice with writing different types of text. Children will continue to practise strategies for planning and editing their own writing. Legible handwriting continues to be a focus for each session.
- The students engage in regular Spelling activities. The Most Common 100 to 500 Spelling Word Lists are used to assist in the acquisition of spelling accuracy. Each week a new letter blend is revised/introduced with the children being expected to learn these words as part of their homework. The children have opportunities at school to demonstrate their understanding of these ‘list’ words and show how much they have been practising. With each blend the children will be learning words appropriate to their current level. The basic letter blends for Term 1, are in order as follows: ‘ck’ – back, ‘sh’ – shy, ‘sh’ – dish, ‘ch’ – chat, ‘ch’ – rich, ‘th’ - thin
- All students are regularly encouraged to participate in class discussions and oral activities. Speaking and Listening are incorporated in all English sessions. The children are expected to speak with clarity and confidence at all times.

**Mathematics**
Maths at this level is taught on a daily basis. All Maths sessions are structured to cater for a wide range of Mathematical abilities. All students work as a whole class, in small groups and independently, depending on the focus of each session.
- Using the four processes (+, -, x, ÷) when working with numbers up to 5 digits (99 999)
- Skip counting by a range of numbers.
- Learning and revising the 2, 5 and 10 times tables extending to the 6 and 7 times tables
- Using and drawing maps with a focus on directions and grid references.
- Measuring and comparing distances, time and mass with a variety of units.
- Graphing a variety of results to compare and analyse data.

**Integrated Studies**
The Integrated Unit of Inquiry is ‘Wetlands’. This unit involves the students learning about the different types of wetland environments and the different types of plant and animal habitats that they support. The children develop their understanding that living things need certain conditions to survive. Life Cycles and food chains will also be explored as well as how Wetlands and similar environments can be preserved and cared for by people.

**Learning Technologies**
The children will continue to use a wide range of computer programs. General word processing skills will continue to be developed. Skills in creating tables and borders, excel spreadsheets and a variety publishing techniques will be developed. The children will further their understanding of file management and the use of email and internet to enhance their learning across the curriculum.

‘You Can Do It’ and **Values Program**: The Foundation for Term 1 is ‘Getting Along’. This encourages the students to practise behaviours such as friendliness, helpfulness, sharing, following school rules, tolerance and respect. The weekly Values Program will continue, with a different value introduced at Monday morning Assemblies. The value will be followed up in the classroom and also referred to incidentally during the week.

**Library** sessions will be conducted each week with children having the opportunity to borrow books – a library bag is essential. During these sessions there will be a focus on literature appreciation as well as information gathering skills.
Aspects of the Specialists’ Programs to note include:

**Physical Education**
Term 1 will begin with an introduction to Athletics skills (sprints, hurdles, throws and jumps) in a lead up to House Athletics in early Term 2. The focus on fitness will be greater in Level 3, with each class starting with a fitness component and a stretching session at the start. Level 3 students will enjoy Sport games every Wednesday afternoon.

**Indonesian**
The Grade Three’s will learn action words and words for classroom objects. The Grade 4’s will learn to construct 3-4 word sentences and respond to questions in Indonesian.

**Music**
Year 4 children will be focusing on singing and rhythm reading. We will play tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments. The children will be introduced to note reading. Children will have the opportunity to participate in movement and listening games. We will continue with recorder as our main instrumental focus. We will continue our choral programme this year.

**Drama**
The Grade 3’s will be introduced to Drama using various skills of moving, role-playing, improvising, freezing, mirroring, sculpting, shadowing, performance dance, playing theatre-sports and voice projection. Each student will have the opportunity to work individually, in groups and as a class to concentrate on play development of focus, climax, mood and symbols.

**Art**
The focus this term is Threads and Textiles. The students will explore the attributes and limitations of a wide variety of fabrics and threads. They will create their art works using techniques of twisting, shaping, cutting, sewing, pasting and pulling. They will add decorative elements with buttons, sequins and beads. Topics will compliment classroom themes where appropriate

**Classroom Helpers**
We welcome your assistance in our classrooms. Please discuss suitable times with your classroom teacher.

**Tissues for Children’s Use in the Classroom**
To assist with a ready supply of tissues, all children are requested to please bring a box of tissues for use during the year. It will be helpful if these could be brought to school by Friday 23rd February. We will then have a supply for the remainder of the year. 

**Whilst this is an outline of the general curriculum for Term 1, all students are assessed individually and are taught at their appropriate level.**

**Dates to Remember:**
- Friday 9th February: New Families Barbeque
- Monday 12th February: Year 3-5 Swimming Program commences
- Monday 19th February: Information Evening
- Friday 23rd February: Year 3-5 Swimming Program concludes
- Monday 26th February: “Getting To Know You” Parent Teacher Interviews
- Friday 2nd March: Clean Up Australia Day
- Thursday 8th March: School Photos
- Monday 12th March: Labour Day Holiday
- Monday 19th March: Bravehearts Incursion
- Thursday 22nd March: Easter Event (to be confirmed)
- Friday 30th March: End of Term 1, 2:30 dismissal

**VELS Level 3 Team Teachers:**
Rebecca Davy, Scott Zachariassen, Colm Feeney and Sue La’Brooy.