What’s Happening in the Classroom:

English
- Reading sessions will be linked to our Integrated Studies unit “Energy and Its Uses”. 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 ‘Energy and Its Uses’. This unit involves the students learning that energy exists in many forms and can change from one form to another without disappearing. The children will discover that electrical energy is changed into sound, light and movement, and that the changes in motion are directly related to the application of force. Students identify changes in everyday electrical appliances within the home and create simple electrical circuits and devices. Through investigating a range of everyday situations, they talk and write about the energy changes that occur. Their studies will also be supported by an excursion to CERES Energy Farm in Brunswick. The students will learn about energy generation and conservation and will participate in hands on activities focusing on renewable energy.

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 the 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, starting with Cricket, Kickball, Netball, Rounders and Hockey. Students will be asked to reflect and improve their own performance.

**Mandarin**
The Grade 3’s and 4’s will be introduced to the Chinese culture and taught a few simple greeting phrases. They will learn to count 1-10 in Mandarin.

**Music**
Year 3 and 4 children will be focusing on singing and rhythm reading and playing in Term 1. We will play recorder. Children will have the opportunity to participate in movement and listening games that illustrate the concepts being taught. Children in Level 3 will be invited to join the school’s performing groups.

**Art**
The focus this term is Collage. The students will explore the attributes and limitations of a wide variety of papers and fabrics. They will create their art works using techniques of twisting, shaping, cutting, pasting and pulling. They will also add decorative elements to their work with a variety of materials. Topics will compliment the classroom Integrated Units of Study where relevant

**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 22nd 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 8th February  New Families Barbeque
- Monday 11th February  Year 3-5 Swimming Program commences
- Thursday 14th February  No Swimming
- Monday 18th February  Information Evening
- Friday 22nd February  Year 3 - 5 Swimming Program concludes
- Monday 25th February  “Getting To Know You” Parent Teacher Interviews
- Friday 29th February  Clean Up Australia Day
- Monday 10th March  Labour Day Holiday
- Thursday 20th March  End of Term 1, 2:30 dismissal

**VELS Level 3 Team Teachers:**
Laraine Clacher, Scott Zachariassen, Anne Davies, Colm Feeney and Sue La’Brooy.