What’s Happening in the Classroom:

**Literacy:**
- Reading sessions will be linked to our Integrated Studies unit on “Disasters”. 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 frequency of their home reading on their weekly homework sheet. Regular home reading is an important component of each student’s homework commitment.
- Writing tasks will involve personal reflections, response to a text and practise with writing different types of text. Weekly grammar focuses include tenses, apostrophes, speech marks, homonyms, synonyms, antonyms, plurals, adjectives, nouns and verbs. 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. 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 regular 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 ability level.
  - The letter blends for Term 2 are in order as follows:
  - Please ensure that the children practise their words on a daily basis and write them in their contract books.
- 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.

**Numeracy:** All students work as a whole class, in small groups and independently, depending on the focus of each session. This term’s focus areas will include:
- using the four processes (+, -, x, ÷) when working with numbers up to 5 digits (99 999 – Year 4).
- fractions- halves, quarters, common fractions, equivalent fractions and decimal fractions.
- adding and subtracting tenths (Year 4).
- recognizing, naming and labelling 3-D shapes.
- identifying lines of symmetry.
- measuring – Area, Perimeter, Capacity, Mass and Length; choosing appropriate units of measurement.
- using Analogue and Digital times.
- collecting data for a range of purposes and presenting results using a variety of graphs.
- collating data using tallying.
- using a variety of strategies to solve problems.

**Integrated Studies:** The Integrated Unit of Inquiry during Term 2 is ‘Disasters’. The children will investigate natural disasters and those caused by humans. They will find out how these disasters are caused, and how they affect the natural environment and the people who live in disaster prone areas. The students will learn about the ways different agencies respond to these natural events and will reflect on their responsibilities in relation to these disasters, considering practical ways to help reduce the impact of disasters both locally and world wide. We will be watching the Imax movie ‘Blue Planet’ at school. Children will be encouraged to search for newspaper articles about current world wide natural disasters. The children will also have to complete a project about a natural disaster of their choice.

**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 copying, cutting and pasting, and creating tables and borders will be developed. The children will further their understanding of file management and saving their work to the School’s Network. Children will be encouraged to use the digital camera to record important events.

‘You Can Do It’ and Values Program: The foundation for Term 2 is Organisation. This encourages the children to develop a feeling of ‘I can do it’ by practising behaviours such as setting goals, recording dates in a diary, planning ahead, handing homework in on time. The weekly Values Program will continue, with a different value introduced at Monday morning assemblies. The weekly values of Responsibility, Orderliness, Cleanliness, Flexibility, Reliability, Self-Discipline, Consideration and Moderation 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. During these sessions there will be a focus on literature appreciation as well as information gathering skills. Please ensure that your child has a library bag.

Recorder Sessions: These will begin for both Year 3 and 4 students this term. Please ensure that books and recorders are at school to allow for planned lessons.

Specialist’s Program:

Physical Education: Term 2 will begin with a continuation of Athletics skills, leading up to House Athletics (in April). Later in the term will begin a focus on striking skills, including modified sports for cricket, rounders & teeball. There will be a continued focus on fitness, up to and after the House Cross Country (in May), to maintain general health.

Indonesian: The children in Year 3 will learn words for animals and animal body part words. The children in Year 4 will learn the terms for different members of the family.

Music: Recorder is the main instrumental focus for Year 3 and 4. Year 3 will begin recorder and should be able to recognise and play ‘d, c, b, a, & g’ by the end of the term. Year 4 will continue their recorder experience adding the low notes ‘f, f#, e and d’ to their repertoire. Once a melody is learnt, children will be selected to accompany the class on other instruments. All recorder lessons require children to sing, clap and say rhythm. Aural awareness of melody will be focussed on, with games dealing with melodic movement and echo singing and playing. Music reading games will be a regular feature of lessons, helping children to read and interpret rhythm and pitched notes.

Art: This term the focus in the Art Room will be continuing collage then modeling and clay. Modeling materials may include wire, beads, cane, wood and foil. In our clay lessons students will revise basic skills such as pinch pot construction. They will practise using slip as a method of joining clay and make a model to be painted. Some topics will complement the work the students are doing on their Integrated Unit in the classroom.

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

Tissues for Children Use in the Classroom: Could you please provide a large box of tissues if you have not already done so. We will then have a supply for the remainder of the year.

Dates to Remember:

**APRIL**
- Thursday 30th March: School Photos
- Friday 7th April: School Disco
- Wednesday 12th April: Circus Maximus
- Thursday 13th April: Year 6 Egg Drop
- Thursday 13th April: Easter Raffle Drawn
- Friday 14th April: Good Friday Public Holiday
- Monday 17th April: Easter Monday Public Holiday
- Thursday 20th April: Family Life
- Friday 21st April: Yr 3-6 House Athletics
- Monday 24th April: Family Life
- Tuesday 25th April: Anzac Day Public Holiday
- Wednesday 26th – 28th April: Kidz Bodz Incursion

**MAY**
- Wednesday 3rd May: UNSW Science Competition
- Thursday 4th May: Family Life
- Monday 8th to 12th May: Education Week
- Tuesday 9th May: Mother’s Day Stall
- Wednesday 10th May: Open Night
- Thursday 11th May: UNSW Maths Competition
- Friday 12th May: House Cross Country
- Friday 26th May: Curriculum Day (students not required at school)
- Tuesday 30th May: UNSW Spelling Competition

**JUNE**
- Monday 12th June: Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
- TBC: Parent Teacher Interviews – from 3:45 pm
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- Thursday 15th June: UNSW English Competition
- Friday 16th June: End of Term 2 – student departure 2:30 pm

Every Wednesday is a Rubbish Free Lunch Day for JPPS!!!!

Year 3 & 4 staff
Heather Cook, Rebecca Davy, Sue La’Brooy and Shari LoPresti