What’s Happening in the Classroom:

**English**
- Reading sessions will be linked to our Integrated Studies unit “Disasters”. 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. Weekly grammar focuses include tenses, apostrophes, speech marks, homonyms, synonyms, antonyms, plurals, adjectives, nouns and verbs. The students engage in regular Spelling activities based on The Most Common 100 to 500 Spelling Word Lists, word families and ‘Disaster’ topic words.
- 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.
- **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.

**Mathematics**
Maths 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. Aspects include:
- Using the four processes (+, -, x, ÷) when working with numbers up to 5 digits-(99 999).
- Learning and revising the 2, 5 and 10 times tables extending to the 3, 4, 6 and 7 times tables.
- Fractions - halves, quarters, common fractions, equivalent fractions and decimal fractions.
- Skip counting by a range of numbers.
- Recognizing, naming and labelling 3-D shapes.
- Using and drawing maps with a focus on directions and grid references.
- Measuring – Volume, Capacity and Length; choosing appropriate units of measurement.
- Using analogue and digital times.
- Graphing a variety of results to compare and analyse data.
- 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 as well as considering practical ways to help reduce the impact of disasters both locally and world wide. Their studies will also be supported by an excursion to the Imax Theatre. Children will be encouraged to search for newspaper articles about current world wide natural disasters. The children will also 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 creating tables and borders, excel spreadsheets and a variety of 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. The children will be encouraged to use the digital camera and video 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 Values Program will continue, with a different value introduced at Monday morning assemblies which will be followed up in the classroom and also referred to incidentally during the week.

Aspects of the Specialists’ Programs to note include:
**Physical Education**
Term 2 will begin with a continuation of Athletics skills, leading up to House Athletics (on April 18). Later in the term the focus will move to striking skills using tennis raquets, hockey sticks, softball and cricket bats and including modified sports for cricket, rounders & teeball. The throwing, pitching and bowling skills of each sport will be covered as well as the catching skills with and without the gloves. There will be a continued focus on fitness, up to and after the House Cross Country (in May), to maintain general health and develop the skills of endurance for longer distance running.
Mandarin
The Grade 3’s and 4’s will be introduced to words and phrases for introducing self and different members of the family. They will work in groups to create a simple conversation using the words and phrases they have learnt. They will individually mention the names of each family member.

Music
Grade Three and Four will play recorder. Year Three will be starting from the beginning and will learn BAG and E in Term Two. Year Four will be concentrating on learning the lower notes and will play some music from the Jazz genre. We will learn to improvise over a small group of notes using the recorder. Children will develop their skills through group work and perform for the class. We will record our finished pieces.

Art
This term the focus in the Art Room will be continuing collage then modeling and clay. Modeling materials may include modroc, cane, wire 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’s Use in the Classroom
To assist with a ready supply of tissues, all children are requested to please bring a box of tissues, if you have not already done so, for use during the year. We will then have a supply for the remainder of the year.

Whilst this is an outline of the general curriculum for Term 2, all students are assessed individually and are taught at their appropriate level.

Dates to Remember:
Thursday 17th April School Photos
Friday 18th April House Athletics
Tuesday 22nd April Cartoon Workshop Incursion 3C
Wednesday 23rd April EMR Choir Rehearsal
Cartoon Workshop Incursion 3D, 3Z, 4F, 4L
Thursday 24th April Year 4 Melbourne Victory Soccer Day
Friday 25th April ANZAC Day – no school
Wednesday 30th April EMR Choir Rehearsal
Monday 5th May Curriculum Day – children not required at school
Wednesday 7th May EMR Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 8th May Mother’s Day Stall
Friday 9th May Cross Country- Years 3-6
Monday 12th May EMR Choir Rehearsal
13th - 15th May Year 3 National Testing
Friday 16th May EMR Choir Performance
Monday 19th May Education Week
Tuesday 20th May Open Night
Wednesday 21st May Grandparents and Special Friends visit
Friday 30th May Excursion to Imax
Monday 9th June Queen's Birthday – no school
Friday 20th June Reports and Portfolios go home
Monday 23rd June 3D’s Assembly
Tuesday 24th June Parent Teacher Interviews – from 3:45 pm
Wednesday 25th June Parent Teacher Interviews – from 3:45 pm
Friday 27th June End of Term 2 – student departure 2:30 pm

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