What’s happening in the Classroom?

English

• Reading sessions will be linked to our Integrated Inquiry unit on “Energy and Its Uses”. A range of text-based activity sessions will further develop the students’ level of reading comprehension. All children should continue to read at home on a daily basis. The children are required to record the regularity of their home reading on their weekly homework sheet, as well as on their cumulative Reading Log. Regular home reading continues to be an important component of each student’s homework commitment.

• Writing tasks regularly will involve personal reflections, response to a text and practice with writing different types of text. Children will practise strategies for planning and editing their own writing. A number of children in Year Four will begin writing with a pen this term, while Year Three students will continue to practise the joining of letters. Legible handwriting continues to be a focus for each writing session. Weekly grammar focuses include conjunctions, suffixes and prefixes, prepositions, correct usage of questions marks and exclamation marks, direct speech, comparatives and superlatives, paragraphing, similes, verbs and adverbs.

• 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 3 are in order as follows:


Please ensure that children practise these words on a daily basis and write them in their Contract Books.

• All students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and oral activities. Speaking and Listening is incorporated in all Literacy sessions. The children are encouraged to speak with clarity and confidence at all times.

Mathematics

Mathematics at this level is taught on a daily basis, organised into five standards: Number, Space, Measurement, Chance and Data, Working Mathematically and Structure. During Numeracy sessions, all students will be functioning in cross-graded ability groups that are specifically structured to cater for a wide range of mathematical abilities. Students are provided with the opportunity to work as a whole class, in small groups and independently, depending on the focus of each session. This term’s focus areas will include:

Number - the children will:

• use the four processes (+,-, x,÷) when working with numbers up to and beyond 4 digits.
• continue to work with multiplication tables.
• be introduced to division.
• explore decimals.
• revisit money.

Space - the children will:

• focus on recognising and describing symmetry, asymmetry, and congruence in shapes and objects.
• apply simple transformations to shapes, in order to produce simple tessellations and puzzles such as tangrams.

Measurement, chance and data - the children will:

• measure objects using area and perimeter.
• use uniform, informal units and formal units for estimating and measuring mass.
• compare and order the likelihood of outcomes of simple chance experiments and of everyday events.
• use language relating to Chance and Data.

Working Mathematically - the children will:

• be regularly required to reflect upon and explain the strategies used to solve problems.
• identify, investigate and explain the relationships between mathematical ideas and use these to test conjectures.

Structure-

• Students will be identifying, categorising and comparing data using various forms of representation.
**Integrated Inquiry Studies**
The Integrated Inquiry Unit during Term 3 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 be supported by an excursion to CERES Energy Farm in Brunswick, as well as an incursion entitled ‘Lab on Legs’ conducted by the CSIRO. The children will also be required to design and create a model that demonstrates a form of energy.

**ICT**
The children will continue to use a wide range of computer programs. General word processing skills will continue to be developed. Skills in copying and pasting graphics, switching between programs, using two open hands, centre and left alignment and using the spell checker and thesaurus will be further developed. The children will save all of their work into their individual files onto the school’s network.

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

**‘You Can Do It’ and Values Programs**
The You Can Do It focus for Term 3 is Confidence. This encourages the children to develop a feeling of ‘I can do it’ by practising behaviours such as trying something new, talking with a strong voice, answering difficult questions, expressing an opinion and taking risks. 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.

**Aspects of the Specialists’ Program to Note:**

**Physical Education**
Term 3 will begin with (re)testing of the AFEA Fitness Program and an opportunity to compare with last year’s results. This will be followed by activities with Gymnastics and involvement in the Jump Rope for Heart Program at the end of the term. The focus on fitness will be continued to build on the regular activity of students so far this year.

**Indonesian**
The children in Grade 3 will learn words for different activities and about hobbies. The Grade 4’s will learn words used to describe position and direction. E.g. on, in, into, under, above, beside, etc.

**Music**
Year 3 & 4 will continue to learn and play recorder. We will be extending our theory knowledge and aural perception. We will perform some short musical plays in class and learn some dances in circles with partners. Students will continue to learn tuned and untuned percussion ensembles. We will be rehearsing the whole school item for the annual concert. Year 4 will be making and playing instruments made from recycled materials.

**Art**
This terms theme is Painting and Drawing. The children will revise Primary Colours, shades and begin mixing to get Secondary Colours. They will also study Warm and Cool Colours. Their topics will relate to their Classroom Integrated Unit of Study where relevant.

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

**Dates to Remember:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1st August</td>
<td>AIM – Maths Central Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd August</td>
<td>AIM – English Central Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th August</td>
<td>Excursion to CERES Energy Farm in Brunswick.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th August</td>
<td>Incursion - Shadow Masters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28th August</td>
<td>Curriculum Day - students not required at school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th August</td>
<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th September</td>
<td>Yr 3/4 Hooptime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 15th September</td>
<td>Term 3 ends – 2.30 dismissal</td>
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**CSF Level 3 Team**
Year 3 and 4 Teachers:
Sue La’Brooy, Heather Cook, Rebecca Davy, Shari LoPresti