What’s happening in the Classroom?

English

• Reading sessions will be linked to our Integrated Inquiry unit on “Pulling Strings”. 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 will regularly involve personal reflections, responses to a text and practice with writing different types of text. A major focus this term will be on script writing. Children will engage in script writing within small groups to accompany their puppet performances. They will also 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 prepositions, conjunctions, correct usage of question marks and exclamation marks, comparatives and superlatives, adverbs, paragraphing, plurals, apostrophes for contractions, apostrophes for possession and homonyms.

• Regular spelling activities are regularly employed within the classroom. 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.
- money.

Space - the children will:
- explore the concept of angle as turn (for example, using clock hands).
- recognise and describe the directions of lines as vertical, horizontal or diagonal.

Measurement, chance and data - the children will:
- interpret timetables and calendars in relation to familiar events.
- compare and order the likelihood of outcomes of simple chance experiments and of everyday events.
- use language relating to Chance and Data.
- measure the attributes of everyday objects and events using formal and informal units.

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- the children will:
- identify, categorise and compare data using various forms of representation.

Integrated Inquiry Studies

The Integrated Inquiry Unit during Term 3 is ‘Pulling Strings’. In this unit, students investigate forms of puppetry used in contemporary and historical cultures in order to provide understanding of the contexts in which puppets and puppetry occur. Students develop skills in and knowledge about designing puppets in response to a design brief. They develop and communicate ideas about a puppet design appropriate for an intended performance and explain why the design option they have chosen addresses the purpose better than other options. They plan and make their puppet following the design brief and drawing on knowledge of simple mechanical production. They reflect on the progress of the puppet and the processes used. As a concluding activity, students present a puppet show, in small groups, using ideas and scripts developed during the unit. Their studies will be supported by an incursion from John Evan’s Puppet Theatre where they will be able to view a puppet show and learn how to make their own puppets.
ICT
Students will continue to use a wide range of computer programs to further develop their general word processing skills and present information graphically. 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.

‘You Can Do It’ and Values Programs
The You Can Do It focus for Term 3 is Persistence. This encourages students to try hard and not give up easily when doing schoolwork and other tasks they find frustrating and do not feel like doing. When students are completing a task, rather than becoming distracted, they demonstrate Persistence. 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 Orienteering and Dancing 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
Year 3 students will learn words for family members and words for activities done at home. Year 4 students will learn words for clothes and learn to construct 3-4 word sentences.

Music
Year 3 and 4 students will use computer technology to compose a short musical piece and be presented with the opportunity of entering a national song writing competition. Year 3 students will continue their recorder programme and gain an increased knowledge of notes and rhythm through playing pieces from their Cool Cats Book. The Year 3 Choral Programme will also commence.

Drama
Grade 4 will experiment with ideas and explore feelings to planned tasks. They are given opportunities to shape their own ideas through characterisation, improvisation, mime, storytelling, puppetry, reader’s theatre, self-devised dramas and short scripted plays. The Grade 4s will concentrate on voice and movement skills to rehearse, refine and present drama to various audiences. 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 children will continue to work on 3D constructions and modelling this term. They will design and make puppets to tie in with their Integrated Units of Study. They will then work with clay.

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>Thursday 19th July</td>
<td>Incursion – John Evan’s Puppet Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd July</td>
<td>AIM - Teacher assessed Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th July</td>
<td>AIM - Teacher assessed Literacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th July</td>
<td>Life Ed begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th July</td>
<td>National Tree Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31st July</td>
<td>AIM – Maths Central Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st August</td>
<td>AIM – English Central Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6th August</td>
<td>Year 4 assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17th August</td>
<td>Curriculum Day - students not required at school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29th August</td>
<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 3rd September</td>
<td>Grade 3D assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th September</td>
<td>Yr 3/4 Hooptime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21st September</td>
<td>Term 3 ends – 2.30 dismissal</td>
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The School Newsletter website is at [www.jpps.vic.edu.au](http://www.jpps.vic.edu.au). The publication dates are as follows: Thursday 19th July, Thursday 2nd August, Thursday 16th August, Thursday 30th August and Thursday 13th September.

CSF Level 3 Team
Year 3 and 4 Teachers:
Sue La’Brooy, Colm Feeny, Rebecca Davy, Scott Zachariassen