What’s Happening in the Classroom:

**English**

Throughout this term the students will be reading a variety of texts and the focus will be on generating comprehension of the material read. One of the main genres we will be looking at will be non-fictional reports focussing on our Integrated Studies topic of ‘Exploring Australia’s Past’. We will also look at texts that focus specifically on Aboriginals and the Stolen Generation. Later on in the term a focus will be on reading narrative stories and chapter books.

The students will be involved in writing a learning log, which will be used to reflect and share their thoughts as we progress through our Integrated Studies topic. Interview questioning and persuasive writing will also be a focus for this term, as will the writing of reports and the use of talking marks in narrative pieces.

For spelling in Term 2, we will look at silent letters, contractions, double letters, formal speech, spelling rules and word families (especially prefixes and suffixes) in addition to our Integrated Studies topic words.

**Mathematics**

This term all Level 4 students will be involved in Maths Rotations amongst the five Level 4 classes. These sessions will be held once a week with a particular emphasis on providing tasks at the appropriate level for each group of students. Some of the topics that will be looked at during these sessions will include: Place Value and the characteristics of numbers- such as factors; using the four processes to solve tasks that involve fractions, decimals and numbers up to 10,000,000; Algebra and equivalent statements, and problem solving.

On all of the other days of the week, the students will be working at their level within their class on the topics of:
- Probability
- Symmetry
- Capacity and Volume
- Calendars and diaries
- Measurement
- Money
- 12 hour and 24 hour time
- Counting patterns with decimals and fractions
- Rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000.

**Integrated Studies**

The Unit of Inquiry for Term 2 is ‘Exploring Australia’s Past’ linked with our Integrated Inquiry platform – ‘Australia and the World around Us’. The Unit explores key aspects of Australia’s rich history, considering the impact of events on our Indigenous people and looking at major events from 18th Century early settlement to the time of Federation. Year 6 students will be incorporating a study of the significant sites in Canberra, linking aspects of History with Civics and Citizenship.

**Learning Technologies**

Level 4 students will be utilising their ICT skills to work with digital photos and video. They will be using programs such as Microsoft Photostory and Windows Movie Maker to edit this footage to make a finished product. Students will also be working with Microsoft Powerpoint to make slideshows, with an emphasis placed on movement and transitions.

**‘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.
Sessions will be conducted each week with children having the opportunity to borrow books – a library bag is essential.

Aspects of the Specialists’ Programs to note include:

**Physical Education**
Term 2 will focus specifically on development of strategic ‘game play’ in a variety of ball related sports. We will spend time on Soccer, Netball, Basketball, Handball and Volleyball over the term. There will be a continued focus on fitness, up to and after the House Cross Country (in May), to maintain general health.

**Indonesian**
The Grade 5’s will learn words for different places and learn to make and write sentences about a particular place. The Grade 6’s will learn questions and phrases used when going shopping. They will make use of the dictionary to translate sentences.

**Music**
Year five and six children will play instrumental ensembles using all of the instruments available in the music room. We will continue to work on theory and aural perception activities and games. All students will take part in a group composition activity, which they will prepare, perform and record.

**Drama**
Grade 5 and 6 will experiment with ideas and explore feelings to proposed tasks. They are given opportunities to shape and structure their ideas, manipulating drama elements with a range of skills, techniques and processes. These include characterisation, improvisation, mime, storytelling, puppetry, reader’s theatre, self-devised dramas and short scripted plays. These students 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**
This term’s theme in the Art Room is painting and drawing. The children will study a variety of painting and drawing techniques using, pencil, fine liners, dry pastels, highlighters, metallic textas and charcoal. Year 6 will paint onto a glass item. They will study some famous Australian artists to tie in with their Integrated Unit. The Year 6 students have started work on their Year 6 Event. This year’s activity is to create ‘action’ shapes that will be displayed on the basketball court fences. One of our talented parents, Paul Schuman, is helping us with this project.

**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**
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:**
- Thursday 26th April  Aboriginal Workshop Incursion
- Monday 30th April  Start of Year 5 Coonawarra Camp
- Tuesday 1st May Curriculum Day
- Monday 7th May Education week
- Tuesday 8th May Mother’s Day Stall
- Wednesday 9th May Open Night
- Thursday 10th May Grandparents and Special Friends Day
- Friday 11th May House Cross Country
- Monday 14th May Start of Year 6 Canberra Camp
- Wednesday 23rd May NSW Maths Competition
- Tuesday 5th June NSW Spelling Competition
- Monday 11th June Queen’s Birthday
- Tuesday 19th June NSW English Competition
- Friday 29th June Last day of School Finish at 2:30

**VELS Level 4 Team Teachers:**
Andrew Farmer, Sue Ward, Justin Butler, Melissa McLeod and Narelle Smith