What’s happening in the Classroom?

English

• Reading sessions will be linked to our Integrated Studies unit “Marvellous Melbourne”. 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 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.

• The students engage in regular Spelling activities. The Most Common 100 to 500 Spelling Word Lists are used to assist in the acquisition of spelling accuracy. 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 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 current level. The basic letter blends for Term 4, are:
Please ensure that children practise these 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 Literacy sessions. The children are expected to speak with clarity and confidence at all times.

Mathematics

Maths at this level 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.

This term the tasks include:

• Revision of using the four processes (+,-, x,÷) when working with numbers up to 5 digits-(99 999).
• Learning and revising the 3 and 4 times tables extending to the 8 and 9 times tables
• Understanding how to identify and use money units correctly in terms of calculation and value.
• Graphing a variety of results to compare and analyse data.
• In location the students will use coordinates in mapping exercises and understand the features of map construction.
• Recognising, naming and labelling 2D and 3D shapes
• Introducing the concepts of mass, volume and capacity.
• Understanding how to calculate the mass, volume and capacity of a series of objects using the correct terminology.
• Recognising and decoding mathematical patterns.
• Using mathematical strategies to solve real life problems.

Integrated Studies

The Integrated Unit of Inquiry is ‘Marvellous Melbourne’. In this unit the students will be learning about the many aspects of Melbourne, including its features and attractions allowing students to become familiar with their city. Aspects of this unit will include food, leisure, culture, entertainment and industry. Students will appreciate that Melbourne is a multicultural, democratic city that has many unique facets that are enjoyed and appreciated by both its local community and tourists. To enhance the students’ understandings of Melbourne, an excursion to the city will take place.

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 publishing techniques will be extended. An emphasis will be placed on techniques for using the internet effectively for research. 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 4 is ‘Confidence’. This encourages 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

Science:
School science education lays the foundation for a scientifically literate society. Our children will need to operate in work and leisure environments that increasingly utilise science and technology. Our students will have a weekly exposure to science education harnessing their natural curiosity and sense of wonder. The lessons are “hands on” and we are planning to investigate a continuation of human difference, the concept of a “fair test” and how a cylinder can roll up instead of down a hill.

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.

Aspects of the Specialists’ Programs to note include:

Physical Education
Term 4 will address the Fundamental Motor Skills of Bounce, Throw and Catch with larger balls, leading into playing and understanding the games of Basketball and Netball. At the end of term we will spend some time on transferring to specific games, with particular focus on Grade 5/6 Interschool Sports that require ball handling. 3/4 Sport will continue on Wednesday’s, again with some focus on the games likely to be played in Interschool Sport next year.

Indonesian
The Grade Three’s will learn words for hobbies and outdoor activities. They will conduct a survey for favourite hobbies. The Grade 4’s will learn words for different places. E.g. pasar (market), school (sekolah), etc.

Music
Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 are preparing to perform the musical “The Sign of the Seahorse” written by Graeme Base. Children have been preparing for auditions for solo, main ensemble, solo dance and narration parts. Class levels will be assigned a character and will form the ensemble for each scene. Children will be developing their singing, dancing, moving and acting skills. They will learn about stage craft, discussing and helping to plan stage entry and exit, moving of props, the importance of silence in the wings and levels of energy when on stage, keeping in mind their responsibility to the audience to communicate the story with conviction. This is a beautiful story with some powerful messages about preserving our environment and anti bullying, having courage to keep trying and believing in yourself. Classes will be encouraged to develop the themes throughout their curriculum in term four. Year Four: Creatures of the Deep, Sludge, Blizzard.

Art
The children will work on clay, threads and textiles, design, drawing and painting this term. Topics will be related to the classroom Integrated Units of Study where relevant.

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday 16th October Zone Athletics
Wednesday 17th October CyberSafety Presentation Evening
Monday-Wednesday 29th-31st October Year 4 Camp
Monday 5th November Curriculum Day – Report Writing
Tuesday 6th November Melbourne Cup Day
Thursday-Friday 15th-16th November Year 3 Camp
Tuesday 11th December Whole School Full Dress Rehearsal for School Concert
Wednesday – Thursday 12th-13th December School Concert
Friday 14th December Curriculum Day
Friday 21st December Last day of term; school finishes at 1.00pm

VELS Level 3 Team Teachers: Rebecca Davy, Scott Zachariassen, Colm Feeney and Sue La’Brooy.