What’s Happening in the Classroom:

English

- Literacy sessions are held everyday and where possible the students are cross-grouped among the grade levels. This provides the best opportunity for them to work at their own level with children who have similar learning needs.
- Reading sessions will be linked to our Integrated Studies unit “Wetlands”. Activity sessions will further develop the students’ level of reading comprehension. All children should be reading at home on a daily basis. 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 Jells Park Spelling Steps Lists will be used to assist in the acquisition of spelling accuracy. In addition, each week a new letter blend is revised or introduced. 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 individual levels.
- 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.

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 and where possible the students are cross-grouped among the grade levels. All students work as a whole class, in small groups and independently, depending on the focus of each session. This term we will focus on:

- Addition and subtraction involving carrying, place value and patterns
- Learning and/or revising the 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and10 times tables
- Using and drawing maps, with a focus on directions and grid references.
- Measuring and comparing perimeter and area using a variety of units.
- Collecting and graphing data then comparing and analysing the results

Integrated Studies

The Integrated Unit of Inquiry is ‘Wetlands’. This unit involves the students learning about the different types of wetland environments and the plant and animal habitats they support. The children develop their understanding that living things need certain conditions to survive. Life Cycles and food chains will also be explored, as well as how Wetlands and similar environments can be preserved and cared for by people.

Learning Technologies

The children will continue to use a wide range of computer programs in the classroom, on the Smartboards and in the new Computer Lab. General word processing skills will continue to be developed, as will the use of the Excel, Kahootz, Inspiration, Puzzlemaker and Publisher programs. The students will research ‘Wetlands’ using the internet and Google Earth.

‘You Can Do It’ and Values Program

The Foundation for Term 1 is ‘Getting Along’. This encourages the students to practise behaviours such as friendliness, helpfulness, sharing, following school rules, tolerance and respect. 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.

Library

Sessions will be conducted each week with children having the opportunity to borrow books – a library bag is essential. During these times 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 1 will begin with an introduction to Athletics skills (sprints, hurdles, throws and jumps) in a lead up to House Athletics in early Term 2. Students will be taught the techniques of throwing, jumping and running events and allowed to practice them in a modified way. The focus on fitness will be greater in Level 3, with each class starting with a fitness component and a stretching session. Level 3 students will enjoy Sport games every Wednesday afternoon in Grade 3 and 4 Sport sessions with their class teachers.

Mandarin
The Grade 3’s will revise the Mandarin phrases they have been taught and words for numbers, colours and body parts. They will learn the Mandarin words for different countries of the world. They will be introduced to the Chinese zodiac. The Grade 4’s will revise words for numbers, colours, hobbies and countries of the world. They will learn the words for different sports. They will also learn about the Chinese zodiac.

Music
The Year 3 and 4 program will focus on singing, rhythm reading, movement and listening games. Students in Level 3 will be learning to play the recorder. In Year 3 the notes B, A, G, C and D will be covered as well as correct finger posture, breath control, semibreves, minims, crotchets, quavers, rests, repeats, 4/4, 2/4 and 3/4 time signatures. In Year 4 the notes Low E, Low D, F# and F will be covered as well as upbeats, rounds, D.C., fine, ties, slurs, D pentatonic scale and improvisation.

Art
The focus this term is Threads and Textiles. The students will explore the attributes and limitations of a wide variety of fabrics and threads. They will create their art works using techniques of twisting, shaping, cutting, sewing, pasting and pulling. They will add decorative elements with buttons, sequins and beads. Topics will compliment classroom themes where appropriate.

Classroom Helpers
We love to have your assistance in our classrooms, especially during Literacy and Numeracy sessions. A timetable will be sent home shortly for you to fill in to let us know when you are available. It is a requirement that all parents wishing to help in the classroom or attend excursions obtain a Working with Children Check from any Post Office. This check is free and lasts for 5 years.

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 for use during the year. It will be helpful if these could be brought to school by Friday 21st February. We will then have a supply for the remainder of the year.

Whilst this is an outline of the general curriculum for Term 1, all students are assessed individually and are taught at their appropriate level.

Dates to Remember:
- Tuesday 10th February “Getting to Know You” Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Monday 16th February 3D’s Assembly
- Thursday 19th February New Families Welcome Barbecue (6pm – 7:30pm)
- Thursday 26th February Whole School Incursion – The Human Race
- Monday 2nd March Swimming Program begins Maths Talent Quest information evening 4-5pm
- Tuesday 3rd March Parent Information Evening 7:00pm
- Monday 9th March Labour Day Public Holiday
- Friday 13th March Swimming Program concludes
- Monday 16th March 4C’s Assembly
- Friday 3rd April End of Term 1- 2:30 dismissal

VELS Level 3 Team Teachers:
Anne Davies, Colm Feeney, Kate Gunther, Sue La’Brooy, Gillian Dodd and Stephen Coughlan.