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 “Whispers in Space”. 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 include a continuation of the emphasis on generating interesting and entertaining narratives. Our students will also explore other types of writing such as explanations, reports and expositions. 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:
- Multiplication and division, including double digit by single digit multiplication
- Learning and/or revising the 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 10, 11 and 12 times tables
- Collecting and organising data using tables and representing that data graphically.
- 2D and 3D shapes: investigating the features and properties of polygons.
- Fractions: Comparing and ordering fractions; adding and subtracting simple fractions; understanding equivalence.

**Integrated Studies**
The Integrated Unit of Inquiry is ‘Whispers in Space’. In this unit students will be learning about space and the Solar System, in particular. They will understand how the planets, earth, the moon are a part of our galaxy. Mankind’s desire to explore space has played an integral part in the advancement of communications technology. Students will be introduced to communication methods which have changed over time and continue to evolve. In this unit, the children will discover that technology has helped us communicate faster and over extended distances on earth and in space.

**Learning Technologies**
The children will continue to use a wide range of computer programs in the classroom, on the Smart boards 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 ‘Whispers in Spaces’ using the internet and Google Earth.

‘You Can Do It’ and Values Program
The Foundation for Term 2 is ‘Organisation’. This encourages the students to practise behaviours such as honesty, orderliness, flexibility, self discipline, responsibility and cleanliness. 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
BALLS, BALLS, BALLS!! Term 2 will focus on a variety of ball skills, extending the basic skills of kicking, throwing and catching for modified sports of soccer, netball, basketball and football. Students will spend approximately two weeks on each of these sports playing modified games. There will be a continued focus on fitness, up to and after the House Cross Country (in May), to maintain general health and establish the students in conducting good warm-up sessions.

Mandarin
The Grade 3’s will learn words for animals. They will also learn animal body part words. They will learn to make simple Mandarin sentences with the aid of substitution tables. The Grade 3’s and Grade 4’s will learn to recognise Mandarin classroom instruction phrases. The Grade 4’s will be introduced to words for different hobbies and leisure activities. They will write and say sentences about activities they enjoy.

Music
In second term, the Year 3 and 4 program will focus on singing, rhythm reading, movement and listening games that illustrate the concepts being taught. Children in Grade 3 and 4 will be continuing to learn to play the recorder. In Grade 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 Grade 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 in the Art room this term is drawing/ painting and then clay. The children will experiment with different drawing techniques used for still life pictures, landscapes and observing fine detail. They will be using a variety of media such as charcoal, portfolio pastels and aquarelles. Topics will be related to the classroom Integrated Units where relevant.

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
To assist with a ready supply of tissues, all children are requested to please bring a box of tissues, if you have not already done so, for use during the year. We will then have a supply for the remainder of the year.

Whilst this is an outline of the general curriculum for Term 2, all students are assessed individually and are taught at their appropriate level.

Dates to Remember:
Friday 1st May Year 4-6 House Athletics
Friday 1st May School Disco – Grades 3-6 7.45-9.15pm
Friday 8th May Level 3 excursion to IMAX and Melbourne Museum
Tuesday 12th May Year 3 NAPLAN test – Reading
Wednesday 13th May Year 3 NAPLAN test – Language conventions
Thursday 14th May Year 3 NAPLAN test – Numeracy
Monday 25th May 3G’s Assembly
Monday 1st June Education Week Open Night
Thursday 4th June Grandparents and Special Friends Afternoon
Monday 8th June - Queen’s Birthday – no school
Tuesday 9th June - Incursion ‘Chinese Jugglers’
Thursday 11th June Parent/Teacher interviews
Friday 12th June Parent/Teacher interviews
Tuesday 23rd June School photographs
Friday 26th June End of term 2 - student departure 2:30 pm

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