What’s Happening in the Classroom?

**English:**
- Reading sessions will involve different forms of narratives and a variety of informational texts, particularly linked to our Integrated Curriculum (Mother Earth) where possible. Children will be encouraged to further develop their level of comprehension of the material read through discussion groups and a range of text-based activity sessions, using a program called Reciprocal Reading. Regular at-home reading for enjoyment from a variety of texts continues to be strongly encouraged for all children.
- Writing tasks regularly will involve personal writing, summarising information listened to and/or read about into relevant paragraphs and developing a balanced structure for imaginative stories. Spelling and vocabulary activities will be based on personal spelling words taken from core spelling lists and topic words. Strategies to be covered this term include common word endings; prefixes & suffixes eg: ex-, -ful; antonyms, synonyms and over-used words. Punctuation and grammar conventions to be focussed on will include paragraphing and use of the apostrophe of possession. Focus will also be given to the descriptive nature of the written language.
- Development of student leadership skills includes the delivery of and listening to speeches. Specific listening and questioning skills for one-to-one, small group and larger audience situations will be a focus. Children will learn strategies for and will practise delivering impromptu speeches lasting approximately thirty seconds to a minute.

**Mathematics:**
- Number using the four processes, including money and problem solving
- Place value: ordering larger numbers, decimals and fractions
- Graphing and tallying results and using the mean, median and mode
- Measurement and units of measurement: perimeter, area, length, kilogram, metre
- Space: 2D and 3D shapes and their properties
- Space: map, directions and scale
- Angles: acute, obtuse, reflex, right
- Time: 24 hour clock
- Strengthening skills through the use of the Mathletics Program.

**Integrated Curriculum:**
- The Unit of Inquiry ‘Mother Earth’ has a focus on the importance of conserving our resources and an awareness of the environmental implications and issues associated with conservation and sustainability.
- Understandings to be developed include:
  - The Earth’s resources are finite
  - Future survival of the human race depends on sustainable use of natural resources
  - Individuals can make a difference, environmentally, every day

**Aspects of the Specialist Programs to note include:**

**Art**
This term the theme in the Art room is Threads and Textiles. The students will be developing their skill in sewing, fabric painting, beading and sequins, dyeing and cutting fabrics. The students will be designing their own calico bag with an environment theme.

**LOTE (Mandarin):**
The Grade 5 children will revise Mandarin phrases they have been taught and practise introducing themselves in Mandarin. They will also revise words for different sport, hobbies and countries of the world. They will learn words for colours and body parts. The Grade 6’s will revise the Mandarin phrases they have been taught and introduce themselves in Mandarin. They will also revise words for sport and hobbies. They will learn the words for animals and be introduced to the Chinese zodiac.
**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. The focus on fitness will continue with each class starting with a warm-up session and Level 4 students being asked to design their own suitable warm up activity. Interschool Sport will be conducted on Friday mornings, with students participating in Softball, T-ball, Cricket, Volleystars, Bat Tennis and Kickball games against other schools in the Waverley East District. Students will be asked to reflect, evaluate and improve their own performance and the performance of others during and after the games played.

**Music:**
The Year 5 and 6 students will be revising theory and aural perception concepts taught in previous years and will complete written and composition activities to develop their skills further. Singing, body percussion, playing untuned and tuned percussion instruments such as the marimba will be an important part of the program. We will also perform simple drumming pieces to develop rhythm skills.

**Learning Technologies:**
The classroom computers will be utilised by children as part of their everyday classroom work. Additional Learning Technologies sessions will take place in the Library or Senior ICT Lab. Word processing skills will be developed, with a particular emphasis on correct keyboarding skills and the changing of font (sizes and styles), data sorting and editing skills. Children will be working with spreadsheets, learning simple formulas and how to enter information into tables. Students will be working on computer graphics tasks this term, which will further enhance their publishing skills. They will be introduced to photo and video editing software such as Window’s Movie Maker and Microsoft Photostory. 2009 will see the introduction of Digital Portfolios for Level 4 students, which will also strengthen the LT skills of the students.

**Tissues for Children’s Use in the Classroom:**
To assist with a ready supply of tissues, all children are requested to please send along a box of tissues for use during the year. It will be helpful if these could be brought to school by Friday 13th February. Thanks to families who have already supplied tissues.

**Parent Helpers:**
If you are able to assist on a regular basis with our interschool sport activities – Fridays usually between 9am and 11am, please contact your child’s class teacher. (No specific umpiring or coaching skills are essential – just a willingness to help out!). If you are able to assist at any other time in the classroom, please approach the relevant teacher.

**Dates to Remember:**
- **Monday 9th February:** Year 6 Badge Presentation
- **Tuesday 10th February:** Getting To Know You Interviews
- **Friday 13th February:** Year 5 and 6 Swimming Trials
- **Thursday 19th February:** New Families BBQ
- **Friday 20th February:** Interschool Sport Begins
- **Wednesday 25th February:** District Swimming Carnival
- **Thursday 26th February:** ‘Human Race’ Incursion
- **Mon 2nd March:** Information Evening
- **Mon 2nd – Fri 13th March:** Year 5 Swimming Program
- **Friday 3rd April:** Last day Term 1

*Sue Ward, Scott Zachariassen, Melissa McLeod and Kevin Oakey*  
*Level 4 Team*