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 ‘Australia! Who, What and Where Are We?’ 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.

Asian Literacy
This term, we will begin studies about some of the countries and cultures near Australia to develop some knowledge and understanding of such communities.

The following countries will be studied: 4D Thailand, 4C Singapore, 4M Japan, 3-4W Pacific Islands, 3A Timor and 3D Malaysia.

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 and 10 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 Inquiry unit for Term 1 is ‘Australia! Who, What and Where Are We?’ During this unit, students will investigate what it means to be an Australian by looking at the contribution of different cultural groups who have migrated to Australia since 1788, such as convicts, free settlers, those seeking their fortune at the Goldfields as well as post-war migrants and refugees from Europe and Asia. They also come to understand how the composition of the Australian population has changed over time and how this has changed our way of life and national identity. The history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders will be explored. When completing their term project, students will further consolidate their understanding of the journey undertaken by migrant families when they conduct an interview with someone who has migrated to Australia from another country.

Learning Technologies
The children will continue to use a wide range of computer programs in the classroom, on the Smartboards and in the 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 ‘Australia! Who, What and Where Are We’ 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.
Aspects of the Specialists’ Programs to note include:

Physical Education
The focus on fitness will be greater in Level 3, with each class starting with a fitness component and a stretching session. Grade 3 will be having an introduction to basic cricket skills and will look at batting, bowling and fielding skills in rotation. Grade 4 will begin with an introduction to Athletics skills (sprints, hurdles, throws and jumps) in a lead up to House Athletics in early Term 2. Level 3 students will enjoy Sport games every Wednesday afternoon, starting with Cricket, Kickball, Netball, Rounders and Hockey. Students will be asked to reflect and improve on their own performance.

Mandarin
The Grade 3’s will revise the words for numbers, colours and body parts. They will learn the Mandarin words for different countries of the world. They will revise the Mandarin phrases they have learnt and do role plays. The Grade 4’s will revise the Mandarin phrases they have learnt and practice conversing in Mandarin in role plays. They will learn words for hobbies.

Music
Level 3 students are developing music notation and pitch using tuned instruments such as Recorder. Through recorder the children will learn the skills involved with playing an instrument and enhance their music literacy skills. Children will experience a variety of music styles through listening and playing music from other lands.

Art
The focus this term is Collage. The students will explore the attributes and limitations of a wide variety of papers and fabrics. They will create their art works using techniques of twisting, shaping, cutting, pasting and pulling. They will also add decorative elements to their work with a variety of materials. Topics will compliment the classroom Integrated Units of Study where relevant.

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 19th 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:
- Thursday 11th February New families welcome barbecue (6.00pm – 7.30pm)
- Monday 15th February Parent Helpers Training (7.00pm-8.00pm)
- Tuesday 16th February School Photos
- Tuesday 16th February “Getting to Know You” Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Monday 1st to Friday 12th March Swimming Program
- Friday 26th March End of Term 1- 2:30 dismissal

VELS Level 3 Team Teachers:
Melissa McLeod, Anne Davies, Gillian Dodd, Stephen Coughlan, Sue Ward, Brad Arundale, Pattie Walker, Jillian Bobinac, Jo Hague.