Year Three/Four Parent Information Session 2015

Teachers: Sandra James, Jess Bannister, Aaron Catalan and Zoe Richey
Integration Aide: Nicole Rowe

School Vision
To provide a collaborative and dynamic learning environment where students will develop literacy, numeracy and life skills that will assist them in becoming valued and active participants of the Global Community.

Home Learning – as per Policy – see below
Year 3 and 4 home learning will:
- generally not exceed 20 minutes, five nights a week - includes number activities, tables and spelling words.
- encourage independent reading, for extended periods, on a daily basis.
- sometimes enable the extension of class work by practising skills, or gathering extra information or materials.
- not be set during school holidays.

- All students are expected to complete basic home learning.
- Parents/caregivers are encouraged to support their child to be organised to complete their home learning.
- In the event of students consistently not completing home learning activities, parents will be contacted to discuss home learning issues.
- Reports will include a statement about completion of home learning.

Booklist/Supplies:
Pencil cases and coloured pencils were left off the booklist to allow families to make their own choice. We encourage students to buy the hard cover pencil case as this helps them to keep their pencils, glue, rubbers, and scissors organised and easy to access. Textas were left off the booklist as we don’t often use them. Students are welcome to bring them if they really want them. Pens were left off the booklist so that students gaining their pen licence can choose the type of pen that suits them – we encourage students to buy pens that are erasable – can be purchased from Woolworths.

Reading at home: Students are expected to read at home; we have many books available in each home base for them to choose from. We encourage students to choose Just Right books. They are also encouraged to read library books and other favourite books from home. Students will be required to keep a ‘reading log’ to record daily reading at home and at school - this will be introduced at school and kept in their Reading Journal.

Spelling at home: Students should follow the LSNCWC process (taught at school – see below) to help them learn to spell their words. Their words will be selected from words studied by the class, individual words from their daily writing, or some words from the Oxford Word List.

Students will be taught the following strategy to learn words:
- LOOK at the word, so that you have a picture of it in your head
- SAY the word
- NAME the letters/sounds/chunks of the word
- COVER the word
- WRITE the word
- CHECK the word, letter by letter
Maths at home:
We encourage students to learn the times tables at home; this work has been started at school. We aim to make learning of the times tables fun and exciting.
Other weekly activities will be designed to support the work being done in their point of need groupings.

Home Learning Books:
- Taken home every Friday with new work
- Returned on Fridays with completed tasks – checked by teachers
- Pages to be ruled up and dated
- Writing on the lines, neat and legible – NO TEXTA.

Weekly Previews
You should have already noticed a weekly preview page stuck into your child’s home learning book. Each week we discuss this page with the students – it highlights the focus of study for the classroom and provides the main home learning tasks. We encourage you to read this each week.

Classroom Helpers – please talk with your own teacher about this. There will be a Parent Helpers training session – see the Term Calendar for dates and times. We would love parents/grandparents to come up and listen to students read or to help out with Maths or Writing. The more the merrier.

Instrumental Music – as we have a considerable number of children participating in this program and lesson times vary from week to week, we need parents to help their children develop ways of knowing the time to attend their sessions. It is really difficult and impracticable for teachers to remember each time, for each child each week, when they are teaching. We would like your support in this area please.

Asthma & other Medical Concerns – good to talk to teachers individually about your child’s needs so that we get up to date firsthand information. Please remember to update medical records at the office.

Sunsmart – hats to be worn from September to April. Please have the school hat, not a cap – NO HAT NO GO!
Hats are to be worn on all school excursions and camps.

Handwriting – focus on correct starting points, correct size and spacing, and correct pencil grip as this enables children to concentrate on the ideas they want to write. All students will be working towards gaining their pen licence. Some Year 4 students already have their pen licence, earned in Year 3.

Maths - involves hands on material where possible. The curriculum revolves around the areas of Number, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability.

Correcting of student writing:
There are times when writing is corrected and times when it is not. We provide feedback to students verbally and in written form, in relation to their writing goal. Correcting every word or every bit of punctuation can detract from the purpose for the writing and cause the student to see writing as simply a matter of spelling and punctuation rather than communicating ideas, thoughts and opinions.

Library Borrowing – will be weekly on Tuesday afternoons; children can also borrow before school at 8.45am. We encourage students to borrow books for classroom reading.

Weekly News Reporters (something new)
We have introduced classroom reporters. Each week two students from each home base will take on the role of being News Reporters. They have access to digital cameras with which they are expected to photograph students at work and play. The following week, these reporters will be provided with time to create their news report – in a format of their choice. Reporters will present their news on Fridays to the 3/4 team. Reporters are allowed to dress up for the week – still in school uniform, but with added extras – to look like reporters.
**Choir** – students are encouraged to join the choir; this happens every Thursday at 12.30.

**Sustainable Schools Program** – Lenka Brereton (our Art teacher), has developed a whole school program aimed at developing a Sustainable School. The Year 3/4 focus is Waste. We have a number of students who have volunteered to take care of our composting program.

**Waste Wise Lunch Program** – this program continues as per last year, encouraging students not to use plastic wrappers in particular. Tin foil and paper are recyclable. Nude food is highly recommended. Students are encouraged to take all rubbish home as there are no bins in the playground.

**3/4 Sport** – we often look for parents to come up and help with coaching and joining in the fun.

**Absences** - it is important that children are punctual. That means being in their class and ready to learn by 9am. When a child arrives late they interrupt the learning of others and have missed out on key instructions. This often causes anxiety and worries for the student. We do understand that, at times, certain events mean a delay to the start of the school day, but we ask that these be kept to a minimum. Our school target is to have a punctuality rate of 100% for all students.

All absences need to be reported. The school has to report absences to the Department of Education and Training. It is our target to reduce our student absences to below ten per student per year.

Please phone the office by 9.10am on the day of absence or use the absence forms. Advance warning of long term holidays is helpful to our planning and ensuring continuity of student learning. Please complete the Family Holiday Note well in advance. These are available from the office.

**Late Arrivals** – **Students must report to the office to sign in**, pick up a Late Arrival card, then go to class. If students arrive at class after the bell, they are deemed to be late to school.

**Early Departures** – **Parents must report to the office to sign students out**, pick up an Early Departure card, take this to the classroom to collect the child.

**Parent Helpers** – Must sign in and out at the office please.

**Camp** - this year we are going to Ace Hi Camp - Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th, Wednesday 29th April.

More details later in the term.

If you have any concerns regarding your child please make an appointment with:

1. The classroom teacher. If you require additional support with the issue please see:
2. The team leader for 3/4 (Sandra James). If the issue is still not resolved contact:
3. Sue Wearne or if she is not available, Meg Dallas.

Teachers will be in their classrooms from 8:50am each morning and will be in the playground for five minutes at 3:30pm most days.