Level 3 ON TRRAC!

It is hard to believe we are already at the start of Term 2. How time flies! All classes are on TRRAC and we are already back into our routines. Students (and teachers) had a well deserved, relaxing holidays after working hard in Term 1.

We are always willing to talk to you about your child’s progress and want to ensure that the link between home and school remains strong. We know that at times it is hard to get to school to talk to us but if you have any concerns, questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us. A suitable time to meet can be arranged by phone, email or a note in the School Diary.

We hope you and your family have had a great term.

Adam (3A), Kym (3K), Suellen (3S), Jacinta (3/4J), Ewan (4E) and Shari (4S).

HAPPENING THIS TERM

Monday 15th April—Term 2 Starts
Thursday 25th April—ANZAC Day Holiday
Friday 26th April—Sanctuary ‘Lake Life’ Excursion (3/4J, 3K and 3S)
Friday 3rd May—Sanctuary ‘Lake Life’ Excursion (3A, 3K and 3S)
Friday 10th May—BPS House Cross Country
Tuesday 14th—Thursday 16th May—NAPLAN (Year 3)
Friday 26th June—Sanctuary ‘Lake Life’ Excursion
Friday 26th June—Term 2 Ends

TIMETABLES

Knowing the times tables is essential for children to advance in their mathematical schooling. The Year 3s focus on the 1-6 tables while the Year 4s focus on the 7-12 tables.

To assist your child, additional practice at home is a must. You can write them out, have a tables chart on display and go onto www.honorpoint.com.

HOME READING

All students should be reading for at least 15 minutes each day. At Level 3, students move away from ‘take home readers’ in the classroom as they become more independent readers. We encourage students to start choosing age appropriate reading material from the school library or from home themselves.

As students advance with their reading, they should be doing a mixture of personal reading (to themselves) and shared reading (with a parent / guardian / older sibling) at home. Through the week they might alternate the different types of reading. Even for top readers, you should still be listening to them read, to check their fluency and comprehension.

Reading comprehension is very important; without understanding reading has no purpose or enjoyment. Parents can assist in developing reading comprehension by talking to your child about the story and asking questions using information from the text and pictures. Occasionally pause through the story and ask your child to predict what they think may happen next.

Another good way is to ask your child to find words or phrases that demonstrates their understanding of the story. For example: ‘Find the words that tell you Tom was feeling tired (weary)’, or ‘How could you tell it was a hot day? (The sweat poured off his face).’

ENRICH MATHS

Starting in Term 2, all the Year 3s and Year 4s will be doing an ‘Enrich Maths’ session once a week. This maths program will involve the students working in near like ability groups with students in the same year level. These sessions allow teachers to focus in on key areas of need.
PREP BUDDIES and PEER SUPPORT

Every second Monday afternoon students participate in the wellbeing ‘Buddies’ program. The Year 4s had been having an exciting time helping their ‘Better Buddies’ settle into the school. The Year 3s gained Year 6 mentors, who through Peer Support, are teaching them leadership, cooperative and social skills by completing engaging activities with their mentors.

INTEGRATED: ‘OUR LIVING PLANET’

Students will learn how all living things form a part of the Earth’s ecosystems. They will investigate and describe the structure and functionality of various plants and animals and how they operate within food chains and webs. They will examine the positive and negative impact that humans have upon these structures and formulate how we need to care for them in the future.

LEVEL 3 INCURSIONS / EXCURSION

Throughout the year, all students across the Level 3 participate in a variety of incursions and excursions to enhance the fantastic learning that goes on within the classrooms. Below is a list what has been planned so far for this year.

TERM 1
- The First Australians
  - Mathletics Levy
  - Spellodrome Levy
  - CERES ‘Aboriginal Studies’ Excursion
  - Bully Busters incursion

TERM 2
- Our Living Planet
  - Melbourne Zoo ‘Habitat Heroes’ Excursion
  - Sanctuary ‘Lake Life’ Excursion
  - Insects in the Classroom Incursion

TERM 3
- Communication through Stories
  - ‘Cartoon Learning’ incursion

TERM 4
- Landmarks and Structures
  - Italian Day
  - Art ‘Puppetry’ incursion

BOUNCE BACK

Weekly focuses in Term 2 include:

- Life has ups and downs, but you can bounce back
- Unhelpful thinking makes you feel more upset
- Nobody is perfect - not you and not others
- Keeping things in perspective
- Positive Tracking

CONTACT DETAILS

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**SPECIALISTS:**
At Blackburn Lake Primary School, your child has the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist classes.

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**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
Phil Lumsden - lumsden.philip.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

PE in Level 3 this term will involve fitness and fundamental motor skills. Initially students will performing the “Beep” test and distance running to prepare for the cross country.

Throughout the term we will be working on our badminton and basketball skills to develop the fundamental motor skills of striking (forehand/backhand), ball bounce (basketball dribbling), dodging, catching, leaping and jumping.

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**ITALIAN**
Vincey Montesalvo - montesalvo.vincenza.v@edumail.vic.gov.au

In term 2 students in Level 3 will be studying ecology, that is the relationships between living organisms and their environment.

Students will examine ecology in Italy and Australia and will be encouraged to become ecologically aware of habitats, interactions, (how plants and animals work together) food chains, and endangered animals in both countries.

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**MUSIC**
Jo Myers - myers.joanne.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

In Music the Grade 3 & 4’s are developing their skills at playing on the tuned instruments including the Marimbas and xylophones. They will be concentrating also on developing their note reading skills in the treble clef and having fun playing music house games such as twister and bingo. They are also working towards earning their different ‘recorder belts’.

In week 5 the students will be exploring different instruments with the Unit involving building our own instruments from recycled materials.

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**VISUAL ARTS**
Johanna McPhail - mcphail.johanna.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

The main focus of the first half of the term is the Annual Art Show. Students will prepare and display their work as part of their understanding of Art appreciation. The finished products have taken months to complete and they all enjoy the chance to show off their achievements.

As part of the Level 3 Unit on Sustainability the students will be studying the art of John Dahlsen with his beautiful totems and Ha Schult’s upcycled people. These artists use everyday household materials to create beautiful artworks.

We will get busy with a carload (or two) of recycled goods from Reverse Recycle in Bayswater North. The art forms we will be focussing on this term are construction and textiles.

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**REMINDERS:**
- Art Smock
- Recorder & display folder
- Runners

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