WELCOME

We would like to extend a huge welcome to students in the 3/4 area for 2013. We have all made a wonderful start to the year, learning about the school values of Thinking, Respect, Responsibility, Attitude and Caring (TRRAC). Every class is currently working on the ‘Linking TRRAC’s’ start up program, which establishes classroom routines and focuses on teaching the school values to foster positive relationships between all members of our school community.

As the year progresses we will be creating opportunities for the students in all six classes to work together for academic and social activities. The teachers in the 3/4 team will work closely together in all aspects of the curriculum.

One of our aims in the Level 3 area is to provide a classroom environment that is stimulating, relevant and interesting, catering for different learning styles. The classrooms are an ongoing reflection of the work under study, and showcase the hard work of all our students.

We hope you and your children enjoy working with us in a productive and harmonious partnership.

Adam Marchesi (3A), Kym Morgan (3K), Suellen Hall (3S), Jacinta Gibson (3/4J), Ewan McAllister (4E) and Shari Lo Presti (4S)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 22nd February—Whole School Photos
Wednesday 27th February—Getting to Know You Interviews
Monday 11th March—Labour Day Public Holiday
Thursday 7th March—Level 3 CERES Excursion
Thursday 28th March—Term 1 Concludes (early dismissal at 2:30pm)

TRANSITION

Preparing your child for Year 3 and 4.

As students become older they are required to become more independent and remember more things. Children need to develop their independence in a variety of ways. These can include being responsible for their own things, packing their bag each morning, making their lunch, and ensuring they bring their library books, hats, red folder and homework to school.

Now is a good time to talk to your child about the transition they have had to Year 3 or Year 4. Talk to them about what they think is going to happen, and answer any questions that they might have.

If you have not yet arranged the following items, we would appreciate if you could do so as soon as possible.

⇒ Labelled Art smock
⇒ Labelled wide-brimmed or legionnaire style hat
⇒ Box of tissues
⇒ Recorder and Recorder folder (Year 4 only)

UNITS OF WORK

The teaching of the learning outcomes is enhanced when the different curriculum subjects are integrated in a theme or topic. Our topics this year are:

TERM 1: (IDENTITY)
The First Australians

TERM 2: (SUSTAINABILITY)
Our Living Planet

TERM 3: (COMMUNICATION)
Communication through Stories

TERM 4: (INVENTIONS)
Landmarks and Structures
The English program aims to provide meaningful opportunities for students to become confident, competent and voluntary readers, writers, speakers and listeners. Oral language provides the basis for all language development.

The Level 3 Literacy Program’s essential features are:-

- a daily balanced classroom program
- ongoing monitoring and assessment of all students which assists the classroom teacher to plan a classroom program that meets the needs of individuals
- case management of students who require additional assistance

In Years 3 and 4 children will be exposed to a wide variety of text types. Students will be explicitly taught strategies that will further develop their reading comprehension skills.

The Writer’s Notebook program will be continued in the middle school in 2013. Through this program students are encouraged to: explore the writing process; write about a variety of topics; study and produce a variety of text types; develop their grammar, spelling, proofreading and drafting skills. Students will also listen to, and offer advice on, other students’ writing.

Activities at this level are designed to promote understanding of the mathematical concepts underlying processes and procedures. Basic concepts will be specifically taught where appropriate and practice given to applying these in as many practical ways as possible. A range of concrete materials is available to enable the children to explore new mathematical concepts. Open-ended investigation and problem solving form an integral part of the mathematics program.

During Years 3/4 a range of number facts, multiplication and measurement will be taught. Ultimately, automatic recall of this information is essential for accurate and efficient computation. Time spent on learning these facts at this level will allow the children to apply their knowledge in subsequent levels of their schooling.

This unit provides opportunities for students to develop historical understandings particularly focused on the key concepts of sources, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy and significance.

Students will examine what life was like for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their connectedness to the land, sea, waterways and skies in daily life prior to a European presence.

Students also will explore the reasons for exploration across land and sea. They investigate the establishment of an early colony in Australia and examine the impact it had on the inhabitants.
**SUNSMART**

During term one and term four it is a requirement that all students wear a school hat when outside. Please ensure your child has their name clearly labelled inside their hat and brings it to school each day. Some parents may choose to put sunscreen on their child in the morning to further protect them from the sun or others may send a roll on sunscreen to school. This is allowed, however it is the child’s responsibility to apply it each day.

**STUDENT WELFARE**

Students from Year 3 will be involved with the Year 6 students in the Peer Support program and the Year 4’s will run the Better Buddies program with the Preps throughout the year.

Both programs will run every second Monday afternoon from 2:30 – 3:30pm. The alternative Monday session will be a Bounce Back session. In Term 1, students will be focusing on the school values (T.R.R.A.C.) and positive behaviour in the classroom and yard.

**BRAIN FOOD AND WATER**

Obviously with the hot weather children can get dehydrated. Please be assured we are more than happy for your child to have a water drink-bottle in their class or go to the drinking taps throughout the day. It is not just limited to play times.

We all know that the foods we eat affect the body. But they may have even more of an influence on how the brain works—its general tone and level of energy and how it handles its tasks. Mood, motivation and mental performance are powerfully influenced by diet.

We encourage students to have ‘brain food’ during class time to keep the motivation and performance going throughout the whole day. Students may eat fresh fruit and vegetables at designated times, normally 10:00am and 12:30pm. (Where possible, please send fruit and vegetables pre-cut in containers to save time and mess.)

**HOMEWORK**

Homework is an opportunity for parents or carers to participate in their child’s education. Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning, and fosters good lifelong study habits.

Parents can help children by:

⇒ encouraging a regular daily session to examine and complete homework
⇒ discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with homework
⇒ helping to balance the amount of time spent between homework and recreational activities such as watching television or playing computer games
⇒ talking to teachers to discuss problems with homework

Remember, parents are at all times encouraged to help and support their children with homework, helping them to become organised and to learn effective study habits.

However, ultimately it is the child’s own responsibility to complete homework and to hand it in by the due date. We do realise the busy lives that many children live today and we try to take these diverse interests into consideration, giving ample time for homework to be completed.

More information will be handed out on homework when it begins this term.

**YEAR 4 CAMP**

The Year 4 camp will be held in the first week on Term 4 from Wednesday 9th October to Friday 11th October.

We have once again booked Mt Morton Lodge in Belgrave. More information will come on this in term 3.
At Blackburn Lake Primary School, your child has the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist classes.

**ITALIAN**

This term in Italian the Level 3 students will study The Hunter Gatherer Society of Australia (Aborigines).

They will explore their religion, art, music, food and their Totems.

**MUSIC**

In Music the Grade 3 & 4’s are going to be focusing on playing the recorder. They will be introduced to the recorder belt system and will have the opportunity to work towards the different ‘recorder belts’.

The children will be developing their note reading skills on the treble clef and also extending their knowledge of rhythmic notation. They will be introduced to a number of Kodaly singing games also.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

This term in PE Level 3 students will be revising their fundamental motor skills. To do this they will play a variety of minor games. The various skills will be introduced and practised and then students will begin to play modified versions of these games.

Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed on the day they have PE.

**VISUAL ARTS**

In Art the grade three students will be exploring modelling and bass relief through the medium of plasticine. These lessons will also explore the concepts of foreground, middle ground and back ground though the study of paintings. Students will extend their understanding of form and space when making small sculptures from Styrofoam.

Grade four students will study the art of John Olsen and create images in response to their experiences. They will also be working with wire and a sculptural medium to produce weird and wacky faces.

**REMINDERS:**

⇒ Art Smock
⇒ Tissues
⇒ Recorder & display folder
The Level 3 students participate in weekly specialist sessions with the following teachers:

- Jo Myers: Music
- Vincey Montesalvo: Italian
- Johanna McPhail: Visual Arts
- Phil Lumsden: Physical Education
- Classroom Teacher: Library

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Talking to Teachers

Communication with school regarding your child’s education is important and we certainly value your interest and involvement in your child’s education. We are always willing to talk to you about your child and want to ensure that the link between home and school remains strong. If you have any concerns or comments, we ask that you speak initially to your child’s classroom teacher. The class teachers know your child in detail and can address your concerns and queries in a professional and caring manner.

Teachers are usually available to talk briefly before or after school, except on Monday and Tuesday afternoons when we have Level meetings and Staff Meetings respectively. We ask that you do not interrupt the classroom teacher and class program between 9am and 3.30pm.

It is often most efficient if you can arrange an appointment with your child’s teacher if you have an issue or concern. A suitable time can be arranged by phone, email or a note.

Level 3 Coordinator (Kym Morgan), Assistant Principal (Loisia Steed) or Principal (Jason Walker) are also available to discuss concerns or issues pertaining to your child. It would be appreciated if you could arrange an appointment with these personnel at a mutually convenient time.

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