**WELCOME**

We would like to extend a huge welcome to our students in the 3/4 area. We are enjoying a wonderful start to the year! Every class is currently working through our **Linking TRRACs** program, which not only explores our whole school values, but also assists in establishing classroom routines and building positive relationships between all members of our school community.

As the year progresses, we will be creating opportunities for students across the five classes to work together during academic and social activities. The teachers in our team will work closely together across all aspects of the curriculum and ensure each student receives a rich and engaging classroom program.

One of our key aims is to provide classroom environments that are stimulating, challenging, supportive and tailored to suit a variety of learning needs and styles. Our classrooms reflect the learning taking place and showcase the students’ hard work.

We are looking forward to enjoying a fantastic year with your children in a positive and productive school environment.

Natasha Rodigues, Emma Maguinness and Annie Susanto (Level 3)
David Dowson and Shari Lo Presti (Level 4)

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**TRANSITION**

Preparing your child for Level 3 and 4

Children develop 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 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 Level 3 or 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 Blackburn Lake hat**
- **Box of tissues for shared classroom use**

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Tuesday 17th February**
‘Getting To Know You’ Interviews

**Monday 9th March**
Labour Day Public Holiday

**Tuesday 10th March**
The First Australians Urban Experience Excursion (Grade 3)

**Thursday 12th March**
The First Australians Urban Experience Excursion (Grade 4)

**Friday 28th March**
House Cross Country

Term 1 concludes (2:30pm early)

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**INTEGRATED UNITS**

Our teaching and learning is enhanced through the implantation of a varied integrated curriculum. Our topics this year are:

**TERM 1**
*The First Australians*

**TERM 2**
*Our Living Planet*

**TERM 3**
*Communication Through Story*

**TERM 4**
*Living in a Material World*
**COMMUNICATION**

Communication with school regarding your child’s education is important and we certainly value your interest and involvement. Staff are always willing to talk with you about your child, with a desire to ensure that the link between home and school remains strong.

Teachers are usually available to talk briefly before or after school, with the exception of Monday and Tuesday afternoons when staff partake in team and whole staff meetings. We kindly ask that you do not interrupt the class program between 9:00am and 3:30pm.

It is most efficient if you can arrange an appointment with your child’s teacher, should you have an issue or concern you’d like to discuss in detail. A suitable time can be arrange by phone, email or note.

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**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.

**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.
LEVEL 4 CAMP
The Level 4 camp will be held during our third term from **Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st August.**
In keeping with recent years, we have once again booked **Mt Morton Lodge** in Belgrave Heights.
More information regarding camp will be sent out to Level 4 classes later in the year.

PREP BUDDIES AND PEER SUPPORT
Students from Level 3 will be involved with the Level 6 students in the Peer Support program throughout 2014.

The Level 4 students will participate as big buddies for our Prep students through the Better Buddies program.

Both programs will run every second week on Thursday afternoons.

SPECIALISTS
At Blackburn Lake Primary School, your child has the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist classes. See below for your child’s specialist class times. Please note that our timetable may change occasionally to accommodate other school events/incursions.

**Grade 3A**
- Art – Tuesday 9:00 – 10:00
- Italian – Tuesday 12:10 – 12:50
- Library – Thursday 9:00 – 9:40
- Music – Monday 9:40 – 10:20
- PE – Monday 10:20 – 11:00

**Grade 3E**
- Art – Monday 10:00 – 11:00
- Italian – Tuesday 11:30 – 12:10
- Library – Thursday 9:40 – 10:20
- Music – Monday 9:00 – 9:40
- PE – Monday 9:40 – 10:20

**Grade 3N**
- Art – Tuesday 11:30 – 12:30
- Italian – Tuesday 10:20 – 11:00
- Library – Thursday 10:20 – 11:00
- Music – Monday 10:20 – 11:00
- PE – Monday 9:00 – 9:40

**Grade 4D**
- Art – Monday 12:30 – 1:30
- Italian – Tuesday 9:00 – 9:40
- Library – Friday 9:00 – 9:40
- Music – Thursday 9:00 – 9:40
- PE – Tuesday 9:40 – 10:20

**Grade 4S**
- Art – Monday 2:30 – 3:30
- Italian – Tuesday 9:40 – 10:20
- Library – Monday 9:00 – 9:40
- Music – Thursday 9:40 – 10:20
- PE – Tuesday 9:00 – 9:40
**SPECIALISTS:**
At Blackburn Lake Primary School, your child has the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist classes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td>Phil Lumsden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lumsden.philip.a@edumail.vic.gov.au">lumsden.philip.a@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ITALIAN</strong></td>
<td>Vincey Montesalvo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:montesalvo.vincenza.v@edumail.vic.gov.au">montesalvo.vincenza.v@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<td><strong>VISUAL ARTS</strong></td>
<td>Johanna McPhail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcphail.johanna.j@edumail.vic.gov.au">mcphail.johanna.j@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<td><strong>MUSIC</strong></td>
<td>Sam Collins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:collins.samantha.s@edumail.vic.gov.au">collins.samantha.s@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
Phil Lumsden - lumsden.philip.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

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.

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

In Italian this term the students in Levels 3 and 4 will be studying the geography of Italy. They will be looking at the mountains the rivers, and the seas that surround the peninsula.

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

Level three students will be working creating sculptures inspired by the work of Miro. Followed by a textile unit creating satin cushions.

Level 4 will be learning about water colour techniques when making a beautiful aquatic animals. Later large scale group artworks will be made to decorate the hall for the Art Show in May.

**MUSIC**
Sam Collins – collins.samantha.s@edumail.vic.gov.au

In Music this term Level 3 will be investigating the music of Johann Strauss (senior). They will be learning his most famous piece - the Radestsky March. Grade 4 will be investigating Latin Music.

Through these pieces of music, the students will be using concepts of singing, movement and the use of instruments. They will also be involved in consolidating their ability to read music and understand symbols associated with this.