

PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL **GRADE 3 INFORMATION HANDOUT – 2017**

Class teachers:	Classroom aides:
Nerida McKenzie (co-ordinator) Katharine Tsoucalas Michelle Pieters Nathan James	Trish McCarthy

2016 TERM DATES
TERM 1: 31 st January to 31 st March
TERM 2: 18 th April to 30 th June
TERM 3: 17 th July to 22 nd September
TERM 4: 9 th October to 22 nd December

SCHOOL TIMES	
9am	SCHOOL STARTS *fruit break in morning session
11:30am – 12:00	RECESS
1:40pm – 1:50pm	EAT LUNCH (in classroom)
1:50pm – 2:40pm	LUNCH BREAK
3:30pm	SCHOOL FINISHES

Curriculum

The Grade 3 curriculum is covered in Victorian Curriculum Level 3. All students will be working towards proficiency in all curriculum areas against these standards.

English

Literacy encompasses 3 dimensions: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. During every week, we will be planning activities in all areas. Literacy sessions are taught each morning (depending on the specialist timetable). Spelling, punctuation and grammar are all formally taught.

CAFÉ

CAFÉ reading is a whole school program which underpins our literacy sessions. CAFÉ is an acronym for the four major components of reading. They are:

- C for Comprehension (I understand what I read)
- A for Accuracy (I can read the words)
- F for Fluency (I can read smoothly with few errors)
- E for Expanding Vocabulary (I know, find and use interesting words)

The children will learn reading strategies within each category. These strategies will become tools for the children to use to help them become better readers and writers. We will keep you informed when new strategies are introduced. Then, when you read with your child at home, you will be able to reinforce these concepts.

Reading

In Year 3, reading takes place within the classroom each day and is encouraged as much as possible at home, ideally every night or morning. At school, the children will practise their reading with a partner, a parent helper, independently, as well as with their teacher for regular monitoring and assessment. Reading time is also known as 'The Daily 3.' 'The Daily 3' gives children the opportunity to choose to read to self, read with partner, or, listen to reading (on the computer). During this time, we encourage you to come along and listen to the children read. Reading times will change from class to class due to the specialist

timetable so please keep up to date with 'What's Happening in Grade 3' to find out when this will begin. ***All parent helpers need a current Working with Children Check. Please show this to the office staff and your child's teacher so you can help out in and around the school.**

R.O.A.R reading (Reach Out and Read)

On Tuesday mornings in 3T and 3M and Thursday mornings in 3J and 3P, we will invite parents to come into the classroom to read with small groups of children from 9:00 until approximately 9:30. The purpose of this program is two-fold – engaging students through the enjoyment of literature with parents, and focussing on improving the quality of oral fluency and expression. This program will commence in March; keep up to date with 'What's Happening in Grade 3' to find out when this will begin. Please remember, you do need to have a current *Working with Children's Check*.

AR Reading

The AR Reading Program allows children to read at their own pace and at their own level. Students read books from within a range established by their on-line assessment task. When they finish their books, students complete a multiple choice quiz on the computer to assess their reading comprehension and are awarded points which they accumulate towards certificates. It is an expectation that children read between 15 and 20 minutes per each day at home. If your child is reading books from home, you can check to see if they are on the A.R. list at using the following site: www.arbookfind.com.au



Your child can then complete an assessment on their home A.R. book when they return to school.

Mathematics

Mathematics has three dimensions: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. The children are mixed with grade 4s and are placed in like ability groups. They attend these sessions four times a week. To determine these groups, children are pre-tested on each specific topic being covered. This allows for movement across the groups and enables us to plan lessons that best suit each student's learning needs. At the end of each unit, the students complete a post-test to ascertain learning growth. In maths, we will utilise the 7 teachers across the grade 3 and 4 areas to enable us to fully extend and support the students at their individual point of need. The year 4 teachers who will also be involved in our math's program are:

Miss Audrey Ulrich

Mr. Casey Blacklaw

Mr. Dillon Hendricks

Mrs Clare Tyers

Our math's program has commenced this week, so do ask your child who their math's teacher is for this semester.

Rotations

Every Wednesday afternoon, the children work in mixed groupings with different grade 3 teachers in "rotations" sessions. These sessions aim to build students team work and social skills as well as enabling us to cover a broader range of the curriculum. Activities include: science, higher thinking skills, Play is the Way, Resilience Project and technology.

Grade 3 Sport

All students participate in sport between 12:00 and 1:40 on Fridays. During these sessions the children build upon the skills covered in formal P.E. sessions. If your child is unable to participate for injury or health reasons, a signed note must be sent to your child's teacher excusing them from participation. Hats and water bottles must be brought to school on sports days. Children are also asked to wear house coloured polo-shirts. We are aware that in years 1 and 2 t-shirts were worn to sport sessions. Once your child outgrows their coloured t-shirt, please replace with a coloured, collared polo-shirt to best protect from the sun. It is advised that a small tube of sunscreen be packed as well.



Diaries

Diaries are an effective means of communication between the school and home. Children should have their diaries in their bags each day and will be asked to show any important entries to you. The diary is there for parents to write in too – so please feel free to use it. Children will also use their diaries to record their daily reading (book title & pages read) and parents are asked to sign it each week.

Homework

Homework is a part of our Level 3 program. The purposes of homework are to reinforce concepts taught in class, to encourage development of appropriate research skills and recording techniques and to encourage the development of a regular commitment to further study out of school hours.

- **Reading:** All children are expected to practise independent reading for a minimum of 15 - 20 minutes every night and record the book title and pages read in their diary. Parents are requested to sign their child's diary and children return it each Friday along with homework.
- **Spelling:** The children will focus on a group of spelling words each week and learning these will be part of their homework requirements. Students will be tested on their weekly spelling words every Friday.
- **Maths:** Every Monday, your child's teacher will set specific Mathletics tasks which need to be completed within the week. Revision sheets will also come home on a regular basis.

Sometimes children will be required to complete aspects of work not completed during the normal lesson time. Students are expected to complete the weekly set of tasks (handed out each Monday) and return them to the class teacher each Friday. Neatness is encouraged.

Absence Notes, Early Leaving and Late Passes

If your child is absent from school for any reason please send a note or email as this is a requirement for auditing. If your child is late to school or is leaving early, you must go to the main office to receive a late or early leaving pass prior to collecting or delivering your child to their classroom.

Newsletter - Each week the school publishes a Newsletter online. Please ensure you subscribe. It not only contains our "What's Happening in Grade 3" section, but valuable information and dates. <http://www.parkdaleps.vic.edu.au>

Skoolbag app – This is a fantastic app that the school uses to send out notifications. Please ensure you have it downloaded to your smart phone.

NAPLAN

Students all over Australia will sit the NAPLAN tests from **9th – 11th May 2017**. Testing is for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy.



Camp

This year, grade 3 students will head off for a three day camp and we would love all children to attend. We are looking forward to another very successful and fun time with your children. This year's camp is being held at **Forest Edge**. The camp will be held over three days from **Wednesday 7th June to Friday 9th June**.

Inquiry Themes

The themes for this year are as follows:

- ★ Term 1 – 'Learning how to Learn' / 'Feathers, Fur, Fins and Frills' (Australian animal focus)
- ★ Term 2 – 'Dreaming – A Study of Indigenous Culture'
- ★ Term 3 – 'First Contact'- European settlement
- ★ Term 4 – 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'

If you have any books, posters or items relating to our themes we would greatly appreciate it if these could be sent into school with your child to share with the grade at the relevant time.

Excursions

Our Inquiry topic this term is "Feather, Fur, Fins and Frills". We have planned an excursion to Moonlit Sanctuary, Pearcedale. Grade 3 will attend this excursion on **Wednesday March 8th**. The children will have a hands on lesson with reptiles and small mammals, as well as the opportunity to hand feed the marsupials and wander through the Sanctuary learning more about our native fauna. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

School Rules

These are the school rules from our School Welfare and Discipline Policy. We are constantly reinforcing these and would appreciate a uniform approach from parents.

- Be kind, friendly & fair
- Act safely
- Stay in the correct areas
- Show respect for others and property
- Follow instructions
- Take responsibility for your own actions



Super Six Values

The Super Six Values were created last year as teachers worked with students to identify the key morals that embody Parkdale Primary School. The values that were chosen are Responsibility, Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Cooperation and Excellence. These values will be embedded into our learning culture throughout the year and will beautifully integrate with The Resilience Project, which will run across the school in 2017. Keep an eye out for our Super Six signage that will be displayed around the school this year!

MYTERN

MYTERN, (Take Emotional Responsibility Now) focuses on creating emotional intelligence, health and resilience from everyday situations. It encourages us all reflect on our own behaviour and think about how we respond to situations. All classrooms have a red and green road on display and the children are free to move their personalised vehicle from road to road depending on how they feel. We encourage you to use the MYTERN language at home and to discuss the power of being responsible for our own emotions.

Whole School Assembly

Whole school assemblies are held every Friday afternoon at approximately 3:10 outside in the central quadrangle. 'You're a Star' awards are presented at this assembly and published in Focus. Students will be dismissed from their classrooms after assembly at the end of the day.

Lunchtime Clubs

Lunchtime clubs will continue to run this year. The clubs include: choir, Gerry Green play, Lego, coding and Green Scene garden.

Photos and social media

Parents are reminded that you are not permitted to take photographs of other people's Children without explicit permission from that child's parent. Under no circumstances can photos of children other than your own be uploaded to social media or published otherwise.

Specialist Classes:

Music/Performing Arts – Dianne Meek

In Music, the focus is on learning how to play the recorder and some basic music reading skills, they will continue to sing appropriate songs in tune and participate in some solo or partner singing. In Drama, students learn how to follow scripts such as readers' theatre and begin to portray different characters using appropriate style of voice. They also learn to create simple acting scenes in groups to perform for the class. In Dance, students focus on learning more complicated dance steps, and perform different styles of dances. Students begin to make comments on their final performances and have discussions as a class for assessment.

Choir – Friday lunchtime

All are welcome and it is best if students can commit to a whole term and then if they wish to have a break to ask. It is important that choir is seen as a team effort and that you need to go to the training sessions not just perform!!!

Please see me if you are interested in starting your child on an instrument or have any issues regarding the class program.



Japanese – Mami Sherwood

Grade 3 students now believe that they have a super-power called “bilingual” as they learned all *hiragana* letters last year. This year, they will learn to use linguistic tools to modify these *hiragana* letters and further extend their knowledge of the sound system. The focus for this year is to understand that *hiragana* symbols can be connected to represent words. They will practise reading words and phrases in context and develop reading strategies, and they will learn to write with the correct stroke orders. Students will work on communication skills in Japanese with teachers and peers to exchange information about themselves and things around them.

P.E - Cliff Anderson

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 50 minute P.E. lesson with Mr. Anderson and Grade 3 sport. P.E. lessons focus on improving children's fundamental motor skills and fitness level. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear, a hat and drink bottle on sport days.

Swimming dates: Term 2 – Week 2 and 3: 24th April – 5th May



Digital Technologies – Andrea Smith

Digital technologies at this level concentrates on the reinforcement of and introduction of a variety of computer skills, while building on the use of software within Microsoft Office. They use the internet for research activities and focus on selected suitable sites and cyber safety. Students use game making software to develop an understanding of simple computer programming.

Premiers Reading Challenge

Students will have the opportunity to participate in the Premiers Reading Challenge and hope that they will enjoy completing it.

Art – Sharon Clough

The PPS Art & Craft Exhibition will be in Term 4! See attached sheet for further information about Art.

First Aid Issues

Please remember to inform your child's teacher a.s.a.p. of any medical issues that they may have to enable us to best care for your child while they are at school.



We are currently in the process of updating the anaphylaxis, allergy and asthma management plans of students at Parkdale Primary School as per Department of Education and Training guidelines. If your child has an anaphylaxis, allergy or asthma management plan that has not been given to the school and/or updated since February 2016, could you please make arrangements for the plan to be updated, including a recent colour photo of your child, and handed in to the school office as soon as possible.

If your child has an anaphylaxis management plan, their class teacher and other staff will be creating an Individual Management plan for your child relating to both school and extra-curricular activities. This plan will be developed in consultation with the child's parents/guardian. Should you have any queries regarding the above information, please contact Casey Blacklaw (Grade 4B).

Punctuality

It is imperative to students' wellbeing that they are punctual to school. Our learning begins at 9:00 and students not only miss important instruction time but often feel unsettled when they arrive late to class. Punctuality also sets good learning behaviours and is an expectation in working life. Please support us and your child by ensuring that punctuality is a priority in your daily morning routine. 

Teacher Appointments

A strong home/school partnership is essential to students' learning and wellbeing. We do encourage you to communicate with us when the need arises. For quick information sharing, a brief unscheduled chat is fine, but if more time is needed, we recommend that you schedule a longer appointment time so we can address your concerns adequately. This meeting time can be arranged via email, telephone or in person. Please do be respectful of our teaching time. Bell time is never an ideal time to discuss concerns as we are ready for instruction. All staff are also in scheduled meetings on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and at 8:30am every morning. Thanks for your understanding on this matter.

We are all looking forward to getting to know your children and supporting them in their learning and growth this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to pop in after school and speak to us or contact us via our email addresses:

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We look forward to a fabulous year ahead! 😊