A warm welcome back to all students and families in the grade 4 area. We hope you had a relaxing break and are ready for a productive year ahead.

This year sees a change in class structure from previous years as we now have 3 straight grade 4 classes. The teachers in this area are:

4 M Ms. Nerida McKenzie (co-ordinator)
4 B Mr. Casey Blacklaw
4 H Mr. Dillon Hendricks

Intervention and support: Ms. Rebecca Taylor

Ms Taylor will be supporting our students for both intervention and extension in the literacy area.

Maths program

Our math’s program is an exception to this as 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 3 teachers who will be involved in our math’s program are:

Ms. Emma Bourke
Ms Audrey Ulrich
Ms Katharine Tsoucalas
Mr. Nathan James

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

Excursions

Our Inquiry topic this term is “Marvellous Melbourne”. We have planned an excursion into the city on in late February to further engage the students and allow them to better understand the landmarks and layout of the city in which we live. We will be travelling by train on this day which is another exciting experience for the students.
In March, we are also going on an excursion to ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image), where students will learn about the history of Melbourne and be involved in movie making to recapture “The Olden Days”. This excursion will occur over 3 days with different classes attending on each day.

We will need parent helpers on these days, so please let us know if you are able to attend once notices come home.

More information about these excursions and permission notices will be sent home shortly.

**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. Up-to-date action plans and recent photographs for severe health issues are required.

**Independence**

Now that your child is in the middle of their primary school years, we do encourage them to be more independent and accountable for their own belongings. You can support this by encouraging your child to:

- Pack and unpack their school bag
- Help choose food and pack their lunchbox
- Check their home diary daily and record homework and reading tasks
- Carry their own bag into the bag area, as well as permission notes etc

We also strongly recommend that parents clearly name student’s belongings including school uniform items. It is amazing how many un-named items end up in lost property.

**AR Reading**

The main reading program that we follow in the grade 4 area is the Accelerated Reading online program. We are currently assessing children to ascertain their AR starting level. Children will be bringing their AR readers home shortly, and are expected to spend a minimum of 15 minutes per day reading these books. Do take time to listen to your child read aloud from time to time. We ask that children record their daily reading in their diaries as a record for our information.
Diaries

You will notice that your children are bringing home their diaries each night. Please have children take responsibility to record any daily reading, (book title and pages read). Parents please check teacher notes and homework tasks and have children return diaries to school daily. You may also record quick communication in these diaries for teachers as well.

Punctuality

It is also 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 8:30 am 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.

Warm regards

Nerida, Casey, Dillon and Rebecca
Email addresses:

mckenzie.nerida.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
blacklaw.casey.b@edumail.vic.gov.au
hendricks.dillon.d@edumail.vic.gov.au

Maths

bourke.emma.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
ulrich.audrey.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Ms Tsoucalis and Mr James to be advised.

Specialist emails:

ICT    smith.rosalie.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
       wilkins.denise.g@edumail.vic.gov.au

P.E.   anderson.clifton.f@edumail.vic.gov.au

ART    clough.sharon.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

Music  meek.dianne.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Japanese  ishikawa.mami.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Principal:  bradney.leanne.n@edumail.vic.gov.au

Ass. Prin:  richards.tracy.t@edumail.vic.gov.au