

PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

GRADE 3 INFORMATION HANDOUT – 2021

Class teachers:

Brent Rafferty (co-ordinator)
Sophie Durnan
Liam Grimwade
Emily Hibberd
Melanie Johnson

Michelle Cole & Tess Arnold (Maths group / Support and Intervention/ Extension)

2021 TERM DATES

TERM 1: 27th January to 1st April

TERM 2: 19th April to 25th June

TERM 3: 12th July to 17th September

TERM 4: 4th October to 17th December

SCHOOL TIMES

9am	SCHOOL START
11:15am – 11:45am	RECESS
11:45am-1.50pm	MIDDLE SESSION *fruit break in middle session
1:50pm – 2:00pm	EAT LUNCH (in classroom)
2:00pm – 2:45pm	LUNCH BREAK
3:30pm	SCHOOL FINISHES

Curriculum

The Grade 3 curriculum is covered in the Victorian Curriculum Level 3. All students will be working toward 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.

CARS Online

CARS & STARS is a comprehensive reading program consisting of ten levels (P-H) that allows teachers to identify and teach twelve reading and comprehension strategies to improve literacy results. Using the program, teachers will be able to provide differentiated instruction, create structure and continuity, and facilitate instructional planning. In grade three, students will make use of the online version of the program to learn each of the twelve comprehension skills.

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. Currently, parents are unable to enter the classroom, however, we look forward to inviting parents back into the room when possible!

***All parent helpers will need a current Working with Children Check when classrooms are again accessible. Please show this to the office staff and your child's teacher so you can help out in and around the school.** You will also need to sign in at your child's classroom as you arrive.

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

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. 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*. We will send out an expression of interest form and put together a timetable for those parents available to help.

A.R. Reading (Accelerated Reader)

The A.R. 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 will complete a book review to demonstrate their reading comprehension and are awarded points which they accumulate towards a reading goal. It is an expectation that children read between 15 and 20 minutes each day at home. The A.R. program will start next week once we receive our class laptops. For more information about how this program, please speak to your classroom teacher.

Spelling

This year, the grade 3s will continue to learn MSL – Multi-sensory Structured Learning. It is based on scientific reading research and uses explicit teaching to inform students of common spelling rules and patterns. The multisensory component is what makes MSL stand out from other traditional reading and spelling programs. It uses auditory (hearing), visual (seeing) and kinaesthetic (movement/writing) when teaching spelling to form neural pathways in the brain. Students will all participate in three MSL lessons per week and use the Sound Pack on a regular basis.

Mathematics

Mathematics has three dimensions: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. The children are placed in like ability groups. They attend these sessions five 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. This year, there will be six maths classes including Tess Arnold and Michelle Cole. Our math's program commenced this week, so ask your child who their maths teacher is for this semester. Students will remain in their classroom when working through Applied topics.



Grade 3 Sport

All students participate in sport between 2.45pm – 3.20pm on Wednesday afternoons. 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 their sports uniform or school uniform and sports shoes on this day.

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. Tasks will be completed and recorded in their homework book.

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.

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 and return them to the class teacher. Neatness is strongly encouraged.

Absence Notes, Early Leaving and Late Passes

If your child is absent from school for any reason please notify the school via your COMPASS portal. 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 - The school publishes a Newsletter on COMPASS which comes out fortnightly. Please ensure you login using your unique code. It not only contains our "What's Happening in Grade 3" section, but valuable information and dates.

Seesaw

All grade 3 classes will be using the SEESAW app to share classroom work between school and home. You have already been sent an invitation to join your child's class; please let your child's teacher know if you cannot access Seesaw. This portal allows you to connect with what happens on a weekly basis in your child's classroom and to make positive, supportive comments about their work.

NAPLAN

Students all over Australia will sit the NAPLAN tests. Testing is for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. This year, testing will take place online between 11th– 21st May.



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 **Phillip Island Adventure Resort** in Phillip Island. The camp will be held over three days from 22nd to 24th November. Permission slips, payment schedules and other information will be sent out during term 3.

Inquiry Themes

The themes for this year are as follows:

- ★ Term 1 – “Look At What We've Got” (Sustainability focus)
- ★ Term 2 – “We are One” – (History and Community focus)
- ★ Term 3 – “Forces and Functions” – (Science focus)
- ★ Term 4 – “Amazing Australia” – (Geography and History focus)

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.

Super Six Values

The Super Six Values were created 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* and *Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships*, which will run across the school in 2021.

Whole School Assembly

Whole school assemblies are held every Friday afternoon at approximately 3:00 outside in the central quadrangle. ‘You're a Star’ and ‘Values’ 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

At this stage lunchtime clubs will be on hold until further notice. When the clubs are up and running they include include: Gerry Green play, choir, coding, games/chess/drawing/Lego, catch up club and Green Scene garden. We will notify parents once clubs are able to commence.

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.

Swimming

Swimming will be taking place in term one from March 2nd to March 12th. More information regarding swimming will be coming out in the near future so ensure you stay up to date via compass.

Specialist Classes:



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)/ Environmental Studies:

The grade 3 students will attend STEM/ Environmental Specialist with Miss Beglau for a 45 minute session in the STEM classroom weekly. Each student will experience gardening classes and will get the opportunity to explore the 'Garden to Plate Philosophy' where they will harvest vegetables and cook their own food. Students will also be participating in hands-on activities involving STEM challenges, using the Makerspace to create a project and completing Science experiments where they are exposed to the Scientific Method and learn the importance of a fair test. The Grade 3's will continue to build their knowledge about sustainability and learn about more ways to help the environment. Miss Beglau is thrilled to be teaching the Grade 3 students this year! 😊

*Please ensure your child brings in gardening gloves they can keep at school to use in the garden. It would be helpful if the gloves are labelled with their first and last name and are stored in a Ziploc bag that is labelled as well. Thank you for your support!

JAPANESE: Naoko Nishikawa

Grade 3 students will extend the reading and writing skills of *hiragana* this year. They will learn to use linguistic tools to modify these *hiragana* letters and further extend their knowledge of the sound system. They will practise reading words and phrases in context and develop reading strategies. Students will work on communication skills in Japanese with teachers and peers to exchange information about themselves and things around them.

PERFORMING ARTS: Ms Dianne Meek

In Year 3 students participate in lessons which incorporate **music, dance** and **drama**. While many lessons involve all three aspects of Performing Arts, each area has a separate learning focus.

In Music the focus is on learning how to play their recorders in a musical style. They sing appropriate songs in tune and continue to learn to sing in rounds (canons). Students will listen to and recognize instruments from Western and Non-western music as well as Indigenous Australian music.

In Drama students develop their ability to dramatize characters of short stories, using appropriate actions and voices. They continue to learn how to use body language to express feelings and moods, and participate in improvisation activities.

In Dance the focus is on learning and copying dance moves (choreography) and, in groups, create their own sequences of moves to accompany known music.

Concert

The school presents an Annual Concert in which all students are involved. This may be a Christmas Concert held at school or a larger scale performance at a hired venue. In 2021 we will be holding our Whole School Concert (TBC).

ART:

Grade 3 students will attend a session weekly in our specialised Art room with our new 2021 art teacher, Mrs. Munnikhuis (Money-kiss).

Students will design and create art inspired by artworks they experience during class. They will use materials, visual conventions, techniques and processes as their inspiration to express their ideas in their work. These activities throughout the year will incorporate exploring the various Art areas (Drawing, painting, printing, modelling, collage, construction, threads and textiles) and elements (Line, shape, form, colour, value, texture and space). Students will work towards becoming more confident in discussing how artists express ideas and use materials, techniques and visual conventions from a range of places, times and cultures. We will discuss and evaluate the art making processes, materials and techniques they use to express their ideas.

Please be sure to have purchased an Art smock to protect clothing. Art smocks will need to be brought to every art class. Art donations would also be greatly appreciated. Donations of newspapers, shoe boxes and thoroughly cleaned containers such as meat trays, yoghurt, ice cream, and margarine.

Mrs. Munnikhuis looks forward to getting to know our Parkdale Primary School students and seeing their creative artworks.

SPORT:

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 45 minute P.E. lesson with Mr. Anderson and Mami Sensei and a 45 minute Grade 3 sport session. 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.

Year 3/4 Intensive Swim Program at Mentone Aquatic Centre – Term 1: 2nd till 12th March (excluding Labour Day 8th March)

Premiers Reading Challenge

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

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.



If your child has an anaphylaxis, allergy or asthma management plan that has not already been given to the school and/or updated, 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 5/6C) or Jarrod Bainbridge (office).

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 or COMPASS.

Teacher / Parent 'Meet and Greet' – Monday 8th February 4pm-7pm

Please make a 5 minute appointment on Compass.

Email:

brenton.rafferty@education.vic.gov.au

emily.hibberd@education.vic.gov.au

melanie.johnson@education.vic.gov.au

liam.grimwade@education.vic.gov.au

sophie.durnan@education.vic.gov.au

leanne.bradney@education.vic.gov.au

tracy.richards@education.vic.gov.au

jarrod.bainbridge@education.vic.gov.au

COMPASS - <https://parkdaleps-vic.compass.education/>