

# **PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL** **GRADE 3 INFORMATION HANDOUT – 2024**

## ***Class teachers:***

Sally Murphy (Co-ordinator)  
Mel Johnson (Literacy Learning Specialist)  
Brianna Beglau  
Ryan Hubbard

## **2024 TERM DATES**

<b>TERM 1:</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> January to 28 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>TERM 2:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> April to 28 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>TERM 3:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> July to 20 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>TERM 4:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> October to 20 <sup>th</sup> December

## **SCHOOL TIMES**

9:00am	SCHOOL STARTS <small>*fruit break before recess</small>
11:30am – 12:00pm	RECESS – outside play
1:40pm – 1:50pm	EAT LUNCH - in classroom
1:50pm – 2:40pm	LUNCH – outside play
3:30pm	SCHOOL FINISHES

## **Curriculum**

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 sets out what every student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling. The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development, and active and informed citizenship. The Victorian Curriculum F–10 incorporates the Australian Curriculum and reflects Victorian priorities and standards.



## **Literacy**

The English curriculum encompasses three language modes: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.

## **Reading**

Successful reading requires two abilities - correctly identifying words (decoding) and understanding their meaning (comprehension). There are five essential skills required for proficient reading, these skills being: Phonological/Phonemic Awareness; Phonics; Vocabulary; Fluency; and Comprehension. These skills, often referred to as 'The Big Five', underpin the reading instruction from Foundation to Grade 6 at Parkdale Primary.

In Grade 3, our reading program focuses heavily on the skills; fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Reading takes place within the classroom each day either as a whole grade, with a partner or independently. Students read aloud with a 'buddy' to become increasingly faster, smoother, more accurate and expressive readers. They engage in whole class read-alouds coupled with partner and independent reading of rich picture story books, non-fiction texts, short reads and novels, exploring themes, characters and plot development through classroom discussion and written response activities. New vocabulary is taught explicitly and students are given opportunities to use new words in various contexts.

Texts used in class are chosen based on their ability to grow the knowledge of our students, both from a literary and a general knowledge perspective. Students are encouraged and supported to ask questions, make predictions, connect old information with new, infer

meaning, summarise and interpret vocabulary in order to fully comprehend what they are reading.

### **Take Home Readers**

In Grade 3, students are assigned a 'reading range' from which they can choose their take home readers. They will also read with their teacher for regular monitoring and assessment and are awarded points which they accumulate towards a reading goal.

Reading for at least 15 – 20 minutes each morning or evening forms part of our homework program and is highly encouraged.

### **Writing**

Writing is explicitly taught in Grade 3 from the sentence level through to the production of a whole text. Students will work with many different genres including recount, narrative, persuasive, poetry, procedural and explanation. The specific structure of each genre is looked at carefully and students are given time to practise writing the different components in isolation before linking it all together. Students are taught to edit for punctuation and spelling mistakes and are encouraged to revise their written work to enhance it further by adding extra detail or using a 'great' vocabulary word.

### **Spelling**

This year, the Grade 3s will continue to use a structured literacy approach for spelling. This approach is based on scientific reading research and uses explicit teaching to inform students of common spelling rules and patterns, syllable types and prefixes, base words and suffixes. There is a multisensory component to the approach utilising the auditory (hearing), visual (seeing) and kinaesthetic (movement/writing) neural pathways to the brain. Students will all participate in two spelling lessons per week.

### **Mathematics**

In 2024, the structure of Numeracy across F - 6 is changing slightly and improving from the small adjustments our teams made in 2023. Our goal is to continually provide the best, most targeted learning experience for each individual student. Through pre and post testing and analysing the data presented, our teaching teams will create groups to ensure specific learning needs are targeted and students are adequately challenged at their level. With this in mind, our groupings in Grade 3 have become much more fluid, meaning that students at times move into different Maths groups with different teachers to suit their individual needs. The groups will potentially have different starting and end points and speed at which they move through content but the lesson scope and sequence and content will be the same.

We as a school are determined to give every student the opportunity to succeed and be challenged and our staff are meticulous in preparing lessons and learning that allow your children to experience success.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss further please contact your child's classroom teacher.

### **Grade 3 Sport**

All students will participate in Grade 3 sport between 2.40pm – 3.30pm on Monday afternoons. During these sessions the children build upon the skills taught in formal P.E. sessions. If your child is unable to participate due to injury or for 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 full sports uniform or their school uniform with sports shoes on this day.



## **Diaries**

Diaries are an effective means of communication between the school and home. Students 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. Students will also use their diaries to record their daily reading (book title & pages read) and parents are asked to sign it once a week.

## **Homework**

Homework is a part of our Grade 3 program. The purpose of homework is 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 sent to the students via Seesaw every Friday or students may bring home tasks on paper. All work is due the following Friday.

All students 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 once a week before it is returned each Friday to the classroom teacher for checking.

At times, students may 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 and to complete their weekly homework. You will be 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 between Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

## Camp

This year, Grade 3 students will head off to **Phillip Island Adventure Resort** in Phillip Island for a three-day camp. It is a great experience for all students and we encourage everyone to attend. This year the camp will run from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 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, Geography and Community focus)
- ★ Term 3 – “Forces and Functions” – (Science focus)
- ★ Term 4 – “Earth Science” – (Science and Geography focus)

## 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, Rights and Respectful Relationships Program*, which will run across the school in 2024.

## 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.

## 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 four from November 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. More information regarding swimming will be coming out in the near future so ensure you stay up to date via compass.

## Specialist Classes



### JAPANESE: Mackenzie Sensei

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. They will learn

about various Japanese festivals and discuss life in Japan and how it compares to our lives in Australia.

### **PERFORMING ARTS: Leah Willis**

In Year 3, students participate in weekly 50min lessons incorporating **music, dance** and **drama**. Each area of Performing Arts has a separate learning focus.

**In Music**, the focus is on learning how to play the recorder and the djembe drums in a musical style. They sing songs in tune and continue to learn to sing in canon. Students will listen to, and audibly recognize, instruments from Western and Non-western music, as well as Indigenous Australian music.

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

**In Dance**, the focus is on experiencing a range of specific cultural dances, in addition to creating dance choreography with their peers to selected songs.

### **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 2024 we will be holding our biannual Christmas concert (TBC).

### **ART: Michelle Richard**

Grade 3 students will attend a session weekly in our specialised Art room.

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.

### **SPORT: Cliff Anderson**

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 50 minute P.E. lesson with Mr. Anderson or Ms Holland. P.E. lessons will focus on improving children's fundamental motor skills and fitness level. In addition, there is a 50 minute Grade 3 Sport session that focuses on team games and sportsmanship. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear, a hat and drink bottle on sport days.

District Swimming Trials: 13th February

House Cross Country: 22nd March

Grade 3 Swimming : Term 3

## **WELLBEING & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: Jarrod Sing**

In Grade 3, each week consists of one 50 minute Wellbeing and Digital Technology lesson. The first 5 weeks of term will focus on Wellbeing with the second 5 weeks focussing on Digital Technologies.

In Wellbeing we will focus on learning how to communicate and collaborate as a team, recognise emotions, resolve conflict, learn about positive strategies surrounding mental health, being able to soothe our emotions as well as learning strategies to deal with bullying.

In Digital Technology, students will be taught how to use iPad's safely, being cybersafe about what is appropriate to post and what isn't as well as learning about new processing programs and coding applications.

Students will work towards becoming resilient, happy, kind and digitally safe for the coming years.

### **Premiers Reading Challenge**

Students will have the opportunity to participate in the Premiers Reading Challenge later in the year if they wish to do so. Keep an eye out for information regarding this later in the year.

### **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 extracurricular 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).

### **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 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 contact us via our email address or COMPASS.

**Teacher / Parent 'Meet and Greet' – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 3.45pm-6.15pm**

Please make a 5 minute appointment on Compass.

Email:

[sally.murphy@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:sally.murphy@education.vic.gov.au)  
[melanie.johnson@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:melanie.johnson@education.vic.gov.au)  
[brianna.beglau@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:brianna.beglau@education.vic.gov.au)  
[david.hubbard@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:david.hubbard@education.vic.gov.au)

[leanne.bradney@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:leanne.bradney@education.vic.gov.au)  
[tracy.richards@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:tracy.richards@education.vic.gov.au)

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