

PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

GRADE 3 INFORMATION HANDOUT – 2023

Class teachers:

Mel Johnson (co-ordinator)
Emily Hibberd
Brianna Beglau
Ryan Hubbard

2023 TERM DATES

TERM 1: 30th January to 6th April

TERM 2: 24th April to 23rd June

TERM 3: 10th July to 15th September

TERM 4: 2nd October to 20th December

SCHOOL TIMES

9am – 11.30am	SCHOOL STARTS *fruit break before recess
11:30am – 12:00pm	RECESS
12:00pm-1.40pm	MIDDLE SESSION
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.

'The Big Five' underpins our reading instruction from Foundation to Grade 6. We believe the five pillars of Phonological/Phonemic Awareness; Phonics; Vocabulary; Fluency; and Comprehension are the essentials for reading success.

We use a structured literacy approach incorporating MSL/OG and a range of effective programs under 'The Big Five' umbrella.

Students participate in regular 'Word Study' sessions, which build their knowledge and skills across all three language modes.

They learn about the structure and features of a range of genres, and receive explicit instruction in writing, beginning at the sentence level.

At Parkdale Primary School, we research and implement evidence-based practice, reflect on what works best for our students, and adjust accordingly.

Reading

In Year 3, students complete an online assessment to determine a 'reading range' from which they can choose their take home readers. Reading takes place within the classroom each day either with a partner or independently. Students will also read with their teacher for regular monitoring and assessment.

At the completion of a take home reader, students will complete a comprehension task to demonstrate their understanding of what they have just read. They 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.

CARS Online

CARS & STARS is a comprehensive reading program consisting of ten levels that allows teachers to identify and teach twelve reading and comprehension skills to improve literacy results. In grade three, students will make use of the online version of the program to learn each of the twelve comprehension skills.

Writing

Writing is explicitly taught in Grade 3 from the sentence level right 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

Mathematics has three dimensions: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. The children are placed in like ability groups and attend these sessions four times a week. Every Friday the students will complete a review of concepts covered that week. To determine the maths 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.

Grade 3 Sport

All students participate in sport between 12.50pm – 1.40pm on Thursday 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 on a Friday and are submitted 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 15th and Monday 27th 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 13th to 15th 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)

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 2022.

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 one from February 27th to March 3rd. More information regarding swimming will be coming out in the near future so ensure you stay up to date via compass.

Specialist Classes



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:

In Year 3 students participate in weekly 50min lessons which incorporate **music, dance** and **drama**. Each area of Performing Arts 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 2023 we will be holding our Whole School Concert (TBC).

ART:

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:

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 50 minute P.E. lesson with Mr. Anderson or Ms Cunningham. 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: 14th February

Year 3 Intensive Swim Program at Mentone Aquatic Centre – Term 1 Feb 27 – March 3

House Cross Country: 30th March

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 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 contact us via our email address or COMPASS.

Teacher / Parent 'Meet and Greet' – Monday 6th February 3.45pm-6.15pm

Please make a 5 minute appointment on Compass.

Email:

melanie.johnson@education.vic.gov.au

emily.hibberd@education.vic.gov.au

brianna.beglau@education.vic.gov.au

david.hubbard@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/>