



# Grade 4 Term 1 Information Handout

A warm welcome back to all Parkdale Primary families! We sincerely hope you all had a relaxing break and are ready for a productive year ahead in Grade 4. We thoroughly look forward to meeting the learning needs of all students and encourage all families to support us in this journey by giving your child adequate opportunities to develop their independence, organisation and time management.

## Class Teachers

Mrs. Michelle Pieters  
(Coordinator)

Miss Tara Bickham  
Mr Ryan Hubbard  
Miss Ash Muir  
Mr Gareth Snow

## SCHOOL TIMES

9am	SCHOOL STARTS
11:15am – 11:45am	RECESS
1:50pm – 2:45pm	LUNCH BREAK
3:30pm	SCHOOL FINISHES

## Curriculum:

The Grade 4 curriculum is covered in Victorian Curriculum Level 4. All students will be working towards proficiency in all curriculum areas against these standards and beyond.

## English:

The Grade 4 English program is made up of Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening, and is in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum. Our English program also incorporates the explicit teaching of word study, punctuation and grammar. Grade 4 Teachers will plan and deliver a range of engaging, meaningful and differentiated literacy sessions covering these areas.

## 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 4, students will make use of the online version of the program to learn each of the twelve comprehension skills.



## Homework

In Grade 4, homework allows students to consolidate their understanding of concepts covered within class and also provide them with an opportunity to develop their organisation, time management and responsibility.

Compulsory homework for Grade 4 students during the year will consist of:

- **Minimum 20 minutes** of reading **5x a week (recorded in diary)**
- Word Study activity (to begin Week 5)
- Numeracy Tasks
- We also strongly encourage all students to **practice their times tables consistently.**

All homework tasks are written into students diaries on a weekly basis and requirements are published in the Grade 4 What's Happening. Tasks will usually be explained and distributed on the Monday of each week.

Please see our Homework Expectations in your child's homework book.

Neatness and effort is expected.

## Term 1 Important Dates:

### February

7th - Meet and Greet

### March

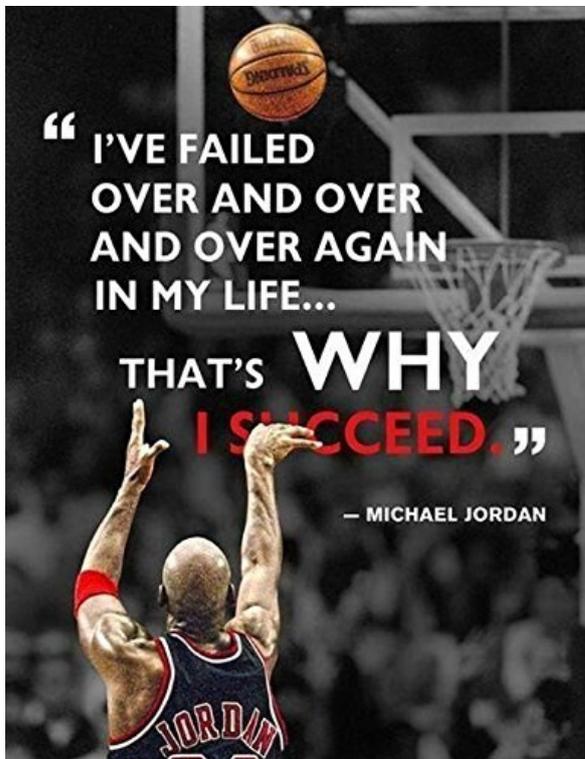
14th - Labour Day

15th- Gr 4 Swimming begins  
(2 Weeks)

## Super 6 Values

Respect  
Responsibility  
Resilience  
Integrity  
Co-operation  
Excellence

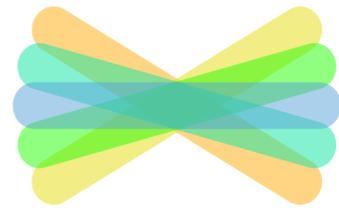




#### Grade 4 Sport:

Students will participate in Grade 4 Sport every Thursday between 2:45pm and 3:25pm. Through a variety of games and sports, students will be given the opportunity to build on fundamental skills taught in PE and also develop a deeper understanding of the rules and tactics of sports they may encounter in upper primary school.

If your child is unable to participate in Sport, please let classroom teachers know in advance. As with all curriculum areas, we expect students to give their **personal best** during all sessions.



# Seesaw

#### SeeSaw

For new families, Seesaw is one of the ways we share what the Grade 4 students are learning at school. Our classroom Seesaw blogs gives the students a place and opportunity to document their own learning, be creative and develop the skills necessary to use technology effectively and safely. Each child gets their own journal and classroom teachers, specialist teachers and the students themselves will add things to it such as photos, videos, drawings, voice recordings and published writing pieces. Seesaw will also be used for Homework tasks so students will have their own Home Learning login details.

Parent sign up and login details will be distributed shortly. Once you've downloaded the Seesaw app and are connected to your child's classroom Seesaw, you'll be notified as soon as a new item is added.

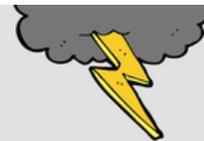
All student content is safe and secure.

#### Rotations

Each week, there will be an allocated block of time for the children to work with different Grade 4 teachers. These sessions aim to build students team work and social skills as well as enable us to cover a broader range of the curriculum.

This Term, rotation topics include:

- **SMART Games (Problem Solving)**
- **Play is the Way (Wellbeing)**
- **STEM**
- **Higher Order Thinking**
- **Digital Technology** - (Students will also be participating in DT classes throughout the year that focus on cyber safety, word processing/formatting and coding)



SUCCESS IS NOT AN  
ACCIDENT, SUCCESS  
IS A CHOICE.

Stephen Curry

## Camp: Monday 12th - Wednesday 14th September

This year, we will be attending Camp Forest Edge in Neerim South. The camp is set in a forest environment. The children will be participating in a range of exciting and challenging activities such as hut building, flying fox, camp cooking etc.

Camp is a fantastic opportunity for the children to mix and get to know all the children in their year level in a more relaxed and fun environment, as well as the teachers. It provides challenges and new experiences that build confidence, resilience, cooperation, team building and persistence.



### Diaries:

Diaries are an effective means of communication between the school and home. Children will write down homework requirements and any important dates into their diaries and will be encouraged to keep them in their blue folder, safe in their bags. 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**. Also, 2022 Diaries will include many fantastic Resilience Project activities that focus on Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness.

We encourage all students to get into the habit of completing these activities on a daily basis. Diaries will be checked and signed by the class teacher on **Monday of every week**.



### Inquiry Themes

The themes for this year are as follows:

**Term 1** – Our Island Home (Geography)

**Term 2** – Into the Unknown (History)

**Term 3** – May the Best Party Win! (Civics and Citizenship)

**Term 4** – Game of Life (Health)

### 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 leaver's pass prior to collecting or delivering your child to their classroom.



### Super Six Values

The Super Six Values will continue to be embedded into our learning culture throughout the year and will be integrated with Resilient and Respectful Relationship Curriculum and the Resilience Project, which we will again be using to develop the **gratitude, empathy and mindfulness** of all students.

### MSL

The Grade 4s will continue implementing 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 classes will begin to use the Sound Pack on a regular basis.



# Term 1 Mathematics Newsletter

## Mathematics

Mathematics has three dimensions: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. The children are placed in like ability Number and Applied groups based on their point of need. Essential Assessment will be comprehensively used this year. To assist us in determining these groups, children are pre-tested on each specific topic being covered. This allows for some 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 determine learning growth. Students will attend 4 x 1 hour Maths sessions with their Maths teacher each week and every Friday, students will review their maths learning by completing a My Numeracy Task set by their Maths teacher using Essential Assessment. This maths session will also incorporate problem solving activities.

In Term 1, Grade 4 students will focus on the following concepts in Mathematics:

### Number and Place Value

Numbers into the Thousands, Hundreds of Thousands and Millions  
Comparing and Ordering Values  
Decimals  
Fractions and Decimals on a Number Line

### Measurement

Estimating and measuring with various units of weight, length, area and volume  
Perimeter  
Area  
Mass  
Volume

### Addition Concepts and Strategies

Addition of Larger Numbers  
Diagrams for Adding  
Mental Maths  
Models for Adding  
Rounding

### Subtraction Concepts and Strategies

Models and Hundreds Charts  
Subtracting Two and Three Digit Numbers  
Word and Money based Problems  
Subtracting with Zeroes



*The Grade 4 Team feel extremely fortunate to be able to get to know your children and look forward to supporting them in their learning journey this year.*

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## **SPECIALISTS**

### **JAPANESE: Naoko Nishikawa**

Grade 4 students will extend their language skills in reading and writing hiragana as well as some kanji characters. By the end of Grade 4, all basic systems will be introduced to the students. They will practise writing sentences and further develop their reading skills with correct pronunciation and fluency. They will create a short story utilising their language skills on an iPad and experience sharing it with peers.

### **SPORT:**

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 45 minute P.E. lesson with Mr. Anderson or Miss Cunningham. P.E. lessons will focus on improving children's fundamental motor skills and fitness level. In addition there is a 45 minute Grade 4 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: 18th February**

**Year 4 Intensive Swim Program at Mentone Aquatic Centre – Term 1: March 15-25**

**House Cross Country: 31st March**

## **PERFORMING ARTS: Ms Dianne Meek**

In Year 4, students participate in weekly 45min 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 will 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** students focus 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 2022 we will be holding our Whole School Christmas Concert (TBC).

## **ART: Mrs. Michelle Richards**

Grade 4 students will attend a session weekly in our specialised Art room with our new 2021 art teacher, Mrs. Richard.

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

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

In Grade 4, each week consists of one 45 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.