



# Grade 4 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)

Mr Darcy Brown  
Miss Perri Davies  
Mr Gareth Snow

SCHOOL TIMES	
8.45—9am	STUDENTS GO TO THEIR CLASS.
9am	SCHOOL STARTS
11:30am – 12pm	RECESS
1:40pm – 2:40pm	LUNCH BREAK
3:30pm	SCHOOL FINISHES

## Term 1 Important Dates:

### February

12th - Meet and Greet

### March

26th Feb.—1st March

Gr 4 Swimming begins

15th—House cross country

## 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.

### Writing & Grammar.

Different text types are taught throughout the year in Grade 4 & often compliment our Inquiry units *eg. Information report writing involves research and writing about early explorers of Australia which compliments our History based Inquiry, 'Into the Unknown'*. Students are explicitly taught the structure and language features of texts such as information reports, explanation texts, procedures, persuasive texts, narratives, descriptive writing and poetry. Students are introduced to 'WAGOLL' texts (what a good one looks like) so they have a quality example to study. Modelled writing as a class, partner writes and individual writing are completed throughout the year.

Grammar is explicitly taught throughout the year & is linked to specific language features of certain text types to make it as relevant and authentic as possible for the students.

### Reading

Our Grade 4 reading program focuses on the skills, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension which follows on well from what is also covered in Grade 3.

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.

## Super 6 Values

Respect  
Responsibility  
Resilience  
Integrity  
Co-operation  
Excellence

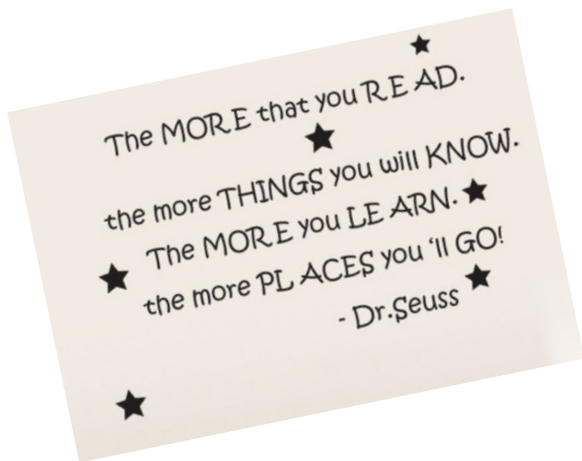


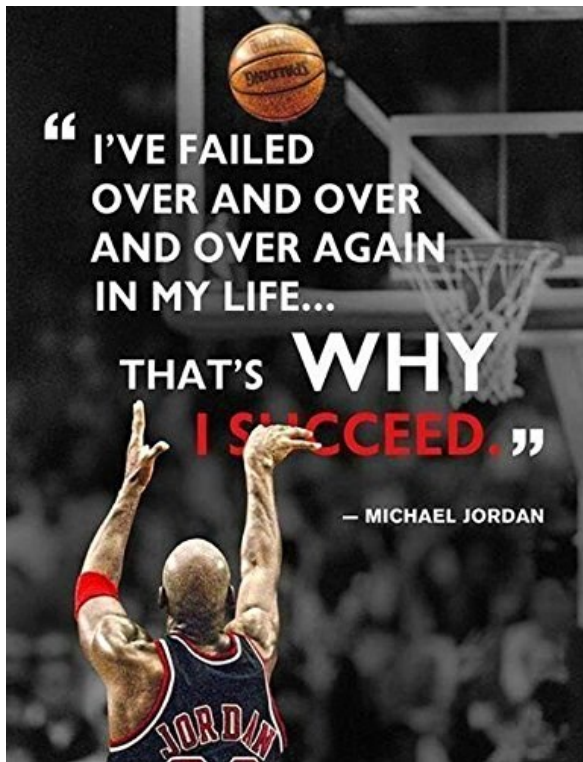
## Reading cont.

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.

## 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. Lessons will also incorporate morphology work too.





#### Grade 4 Sport:

Students will participate in Grade 4 Sport every **Wednesday between 2.40—3.30m**. 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

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.

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. Please contact your child's teacher if you need a Parent sign up and login details.

#### 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.

Rotation focuses change throughout the year. Some of the areas that we cover include:

- **Geography**
- **Wellbeing**
- **Health**
- **Higher Order Thinking**
- **STEM**
- **Digital Technology** - (Students will focus on cyber safety, word processing/ PowerPoint, formatting, and coding)



## Mathematics

Mathematics has three strands: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. The children are placed in like ability groups based on their point of need. Essential Assessment will be comprehensively used again this year for pre and post assessments as well as My Numeracy tasks. To assist us in determining these groups, children are pre-tested on each specific concept 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 determine learning growth. Students will attend 4 x 70 minute sessions of Maths 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. Students will also complete problem solving tasks during this time using bar modelling.

We strongly encourage regular practice of multiplication facts (times tables up to x10) each week & more information regarding strategies and useful online and fun websites to assist with this will be sent via COMPASS early in Term 1.

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

### Whole Number and Place Value

Numbers into the Thousands, Hundreds of Thousands and Millions  
Comparing and Ordering Values  
Partitioning numbers  
Rounding numbers to the nearest thousand, hundred or ten.

### Measurement & Geometry — Location & Transformation

Symmetry  
Grid co-ordinates  
Translation, reflection & rotation of objects and shapes  
Compass points  
Map reading

### 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, three & four-digit numbers  
Word and Money based Problems  
Subtracting with Zeroes





## Camp: Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th September

This year, we will be attending Forest Edge Camp 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**. 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 each week.

### Inquiry Themes

The themes for this year are as follows:

**Term 1** – Into the Unknown (History)

**Term 2** – Friends or Foes (Biological Science) & Melting Moments (Chemical Science)

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

**Term 4** – Our Island Home & Beyond (Geography)



### 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 the Respectful Relationship Curriculum .

### 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 based on Mentor Text
- Numeracy Tasks
- We also strongly encourage all students to **practice their times tables consistently**.

Occasionally, students will have a project to work on at home (such as their Passion Project) & this will take place of other set homework tasks. **Most homework tasks are completed on SeeSaw or can be printed to be completed on paper**. Please see our Homework Expectations in your child's homework book. Neatness and effort is expected.



*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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**Miss Perri Davies 4D**

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**Mr. Gareth Snow 4S**

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## **SPECIALISTS**

### **JAPANESE: Michelle Mackenzie (Sensei)**

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: Mr. Cliff Anderson**

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 50 minute P.E. lesson with Mr. Anderson. P.E. lessons will focus on improving children's fundamental motor skills and fitness level. In addition there is a 50 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.***



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

In Year 4, students participate in weekly 50 minute lessons incorporating music, drama and dance. Each area of Performing Arts has a separate learning focus.

**In Music**, Year 4 students continue to learn to play the recorder and begin learning to play the keyboard. They continue to learn to sing songs in tune, view the playing of a range of instruments and recognise instrument sounds through listening to musical pieces. They also experience Indigenous Australian music.

**In Drama**, students develop their ability to create characters using expressive skills such as movement, gesture, facial expression and voice. They develop plays in collaborative peer groups and explore stagecraft such as costume and set in order to perform for an audience.

**In Dance**, the focus is on experiencing and learning 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: Mrs Michelle Richard (4S, 4P) and Ms Maddy Holland (4D, 4B)**

Grade 4 students will attend a session weekly in our specialised Art room Mrs. Michelle Richard or Ms Holland.



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.

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



In Grade 4, 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.