



Grade 3/4 Newsletter February 2020

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IMPORTANT TERM 1 DATES

- **School Banking**
Every Wednesday
- **Athletics Day**
Thursday 19th March
(weather permitted)
- **Labour Day P.H**
Monday 9th March
- **Cupcake fundraiser**
Thursday 12th March
- **Close the Gap Day**
Saturday 21st March
- **Last Day Term 1**
Friday 27th March 2.30pm
- **First Day Term 2**
Tuesday 14th of April
- **School Photos**
Wednesday 22nd of April

Future dates:

- **NAPLAN**
12th – 14th of May
- **Grade 3/4 Camp**
24th 25th 26th August

The first weeks of Year 3 and 4 are sometimes difficult ones for students. They have transitioned from the Early Years classroom and are faced with greater expectations and challenges. The role of the Year 3/4 teacher is to encourage and support independent work habits and the appreciation of school procedures and rules. Students are encouraged to solve age appropriate problems by themselves and understand the need for consequences for unacceptable behaviour. If your child is experiencing difficulties with this transition, you can help by:

- Reinforcing positive behaviour with praise and small rewards
- Raising expectations in terms of self-care, i.e. packing school bags, making lunches, bringing diaries to school
- Understanding that learning is sometimes difficult and persistence is required to succeed
- Encouraging your child to recognise their role in solving relationship issues.

Regards from the 3/4 team.

What we are learning.....

Literacy

So far this year we have been working on our Writer's Notebook, writing stories, then editing, revising and sometimes even publishing them. In reading we have been using sticky notes to track our thinking and write questions and connections. We had a spelling test last week and our spelling words will follow soon.

Numeracy

In numeracy we have been working on place value and counting patterns. We have been playing lots of games and we are working hard on numbers up to the trillions and specifically up to the 100 000's. We are also working on time, Students have added important dates to their diaries. Look at those clocks at home and talk about the time that elapses between our activities.

Integrated Studies

We have done lots of work on rules and consequences. We have worked out why we need rules and which rules our classes will abide by. We have agreed on fair consequences. We have also looked at our resilience plans and dealing with stress. We have also been participating in lessons from the "Respectful Relationships" program.

STEM

In STEM we are investigating heat, and the absence of heat - cold. We will do a range of hands-on investigations to explore heat sources, heat transfer and changes of state caused by heat. I encourage students to look for examples of heat in the world around them. – Nina

P.E

This Term in P.E we are looking at being healthy and active in our everyday lives. Our main focus is on Athletics, where students will practice running, throwing and jumping events before our Senior Athletics Carnival on the 19th of March. If you would like to help marshal on the day, please send Haley an email.

Toys

We understand that toys at school can be a comfort and can make getting to school easier. They can help children at playtime and be really beneficial. Please remember that if your child brings anything to school it is their own responsibility and it comes to school at their own risk. If the toys are distracting they will be put into "bag cubby day care" to ensure that your child is engaged in learning.

Tissues

All grades are **in need of tissue boxes** in the classroom! We would really appreciate it if you could send along a box and save our class funds for more interesting things.

If you could pop an extra box of tissues in your shopping this week and send it along to school, it would be greatly appreciated.

Drink Bottles and Lunches

- Drink bottles are great in the classroom at school. Kids need constant hydration throughout the day and it is more convenient if they don't have to leave the classroom when they want a drink.
- Could you please consider involving your children in making their own lunches? Not only is it encouraging their skills in independence but it also means that they will be happy with what they have. It is difficult for us when children complain about not liking their sandwich and there is not much we can do about it.
- We would also appreciate it if you refrained from putting lollies and chocolates in the lunches. The sugar highs don't work well with focused learning.

Hats

Students need a broad brimmed hat that protects their face, ears and back of the neck for playtime and P.E. lessons for all of term 1 and 4. Please ensure hats, along with jumpers and other belongings, are labelled with their name to ensure quick return in case they go missing.

This Term in specialists:

Philosophy:

This term we have talked about what Philosophy is, what we like and don't like about it and the rules we need to follow. We have thought about how to link onto other people's comments in a positive way during a discussion. We are going to watch "Inside Out" as a prompt for discussion about understanding ourselves. Please let me know if you DO NOT want your child to watch this movie prompt. From Pauleen.

Japanese

Minasan Konnichiwa! Hello everyone!

This term in grade 3/4, students are revising Japanese greetings, hiragana, days of the week, weather and number up to 100. For the past two weeks students have been writing their own greeting songs, using correct terms and pronunciation. We will be introducing "hiragana karate" over the next few weeks, where students will focus in 10 hiragana characters at a time, as a means to earn their next karate belt. We will also work on self-introductions including name, age, school and family members. Feel free to drop by the Japanese room before or after school to have a chat about what we're doing. - Yale, Japanese specialist.



Art

To begin Art this year across the whole school we have been exploring 'belonging', what it looks like, feels like and sounds like.

Students shared and discussed what belonging means to them such as being accepted for who you are, having gratitude in your life, family and friends, community, cultural foods, having faith and hope. The most consistent feedback seemed to be the students' connection to nature.

Students participated in a creative visualisation, whereby they flew in a cloud to the place where they feel they truly belong and feel free to be their true selves. Students were given the opportunity to explore and express their personal Nature Connections through:

- Sharing past experiences
- Reflecting on their feelings and emotions
- Re-creating their favourite places through drawing

Students sat independently in a favourite place in the school grounds and expressed how the environment influenced and supported their ability to identify how they feel within themselves and their ability to learn. Students coloured in feather designs outside in nature, choosing colours that reflect how being in that space made them feel and then added words to describe their feelings.

There will be a display in the main building of all the students of The Patch Primary Schools feathers making a beautiful set of wings.

Next in Art students will be exploring a unit on threads and textiles. Grade 3's will be creating a recorder bag to be used in music sessions with Leanne out of hessian and wool. Grade 4's will be scrap quilting to create four sports house banners to be used at school athletics days or any school sporting events. Our school house colours are named after the Wurundjeri colour names, which are Merwool - yellow, Namin - blue, Yetta - green, Jalwick - red. Any parents with skills who are interested in assisting please let me know.

Sophia Walsh - Art Teacher

Are you using QKR and Tiqbiz?

**Download the QKR for paperless cashless payments!
(Including lunch orders)**

**Download Tiqbiz to have your newsletters and reminders sent
straight to your phone or computer!**

Terracycle Update:

Our school is currently involved in three Terracycle programs:

1) Colgate oral care products

Any brand of toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, floss containers, electric toothbrush heads.

Please note - bamboo tooth brushes should not be included in the program. With these, remove the bristles at home (place in landfill) and then reuse or compost the stick

2) Bread bag tags

As the name says, hard plastic bag clips, as you would normally find on a bread bag or similar. No twist ties.

3) Dish and air care products:

Any brand of dish care and air care packaging, including:

- Dishwashing liquid bottles (including caps)
- Dishwashing tablets flexible packaging (including snap locks and zip locks)
- Air freshener aerosol cans and spray bottles (including spray and trigger heads)
- Plug-in air fresheners and refills (including plastic outer packaging)
- Clip-on car fresheners and refills (including plastic outer packaging)

The **Terracycle collection bins** are located near the library entrance, near Tania's prep classroom. Please place bag tags inside the plastic bag in the labelled bin.



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