YEAR 4 TERM 1 OVERVIEW

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome everyone to Term 1. Another exciting year has begun, with many great learning opportunities for our Year 4 students.

In Term One, Reading sessions will focus on developing a range of key comprehension strategies concentrating on ‘about’, ‘beyond’ and ‘within’ the text. These will include making inferences, predictions and connections. Students will continue to read self-selected text known as ‘just right books.’ This is a process devised with the students to guide them in their selection of books that are an appropriate level and of interest to them. The CAFE (Comprehension – I understand what I read, Accuracy – I can read the words, Fluency – I can read accurately, with expression and understand what I read, Expanding Vocabulary – I know, find and use interesting words) system will be used to provide the structure and processes for individual conferring and goal setting with teachers during Independent Reading. The focus for Writing sessions will be on becoming familiar with the concept of the Writer’s Notebook. Students will be encouraged to apply their imagination and creativity to write narratives. Planning, revising and editing skills will continue to be an integral part of the writing process. In Handwriting we will continue to develop joining skills as students strive to get their pen license. Many opportunities exist for furthering Speaking and Listening skills this term, including speeches, JSC elections and short oral presentations and performances. A particular focus will be on voice projection, body position and eye contact with the audience.

MATHS

In Number and Algebra we will be focusing on counting patterns, place value, addition and subtraction fact families and multiplication and division facts. We will be practising a number of strategies to support addition and subtraction skills – building to 10, near doubles, etc and using the vertical algorithm to solve equations. Activities will also include counting practise. In Measurement and Geometry we will be focussing on time, for example creating a timetable, telling the time on an analogue clock and measuring the duration of events, such as the length of a movie, will also be investigated this term. In Statistics and Probability, students will be reading and creating a small range of graphs from collected data.

PHYSICAL, PERSONAL and SOCIAL LEARNING

The Physical, Personal and Social Learning curriculum includes: Health knowledge and promotion, building social relationships, working in teams and managing personal learning.

These aspects are the focus of the Quality Beginning program that is designed to promote a smooth transition from Year 3 to 4 and reaffirm the school values. Embedded in the Quality Beginning program are the You Can Do It capabilities – ORGANISATION, GETTING ALONG, PERSISTENCE and CONFIDENCE with RESILIENCE. It also includes school events such as the Family Life Program. Children can participate in the FAMILY LIFE Program, which runs over 3 sessions at school and covers topics such as: Families - a place to belong (differences and relationships), Bodies - the names of body parts (how boys and girls are different) and Babies - how a person is created. The Family Life information session will be held in the Library on Wednesday the 11th of February from 7-8pm.

BIKE EDUCATION

This is not a “Learn to ride” program; students need to have a basic riding proficiency. The Bike Education program focuses on developing skills the students can use to stay safe when riding their bikes.

SPECIALIST/CLASS TIMETABLE FOR TERM 1

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<td>Music</td>
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<td>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</td>
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<td>THE ARTS – Visual Art</td>
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11th of February – Family Life Parent Information Night
13th of February – Curriculum Day (Student Free Day)
16th of February – Chris Daicos Parent Information session at 7pm
24th of February – School Photos
25th of February – Family Life Begins
26th of February – Bike Safety Check Day for Bike Ed
9th of March – Labour Day
12th of March – Family Fun Night
26th of March – 3 way conference
20th of March – National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
27th of March – End of term
Bike Ed day to be confirmed with Victoria Police (late March).

YEAR 4 TEAM
Clint Lowes 4-30 (Curriculum Improvement Leader and Year 4 Student Welfare)
lowes.clinton ls@edumail.vic.gov.au
Katrina Gouramanis 4-29 (Unit Manager) gouramanis.katrina mj@edumail.vic.gov.au
Ineke van Vliet 4-31 email TBA
Jeremy Matheson 4-32 matheson.jeremy j@edumail.vic.gov.au
Alison Devereux (Assistant Principal Year 4 Student Welfare) devereux.alison mj@edumail.vic.gov.au
SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

MUSIC In Year 4 Music this term, lots of rhythms, rhymes and funky feelings will give us some style. In fact, syncopation will make us tune in to the beat, but we may need to learn what syncopation actually is first!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION Mr. Sebastian Scanu can’t wait to discover the next Cathy Freeman, Yana Pittman or Matt Shirvington in the year 4 unit. During term 1, students will be given the opportunity to demonstrate more advanced components of the motor skills of running, jumping and throwing within an athletics setting. As skills are developed, the students will have an opportunity to work towards representing PPPS at the annual BASSA Athletics Carnival. Students will participate in the Multi Age Fitness Test (Beep Test) to assess their aerobic fitness level. Health Related Fitness is also incorporated into games with the students discussing the importance of being in a team.

ART During this term students will be focusing on painting, experimenting with colour mixing, pattern and texture of different paints using Australian Indigenous artists as a source of inspiration. Collage and paper construction will also be a focus in term one. Students will develop their knowledge of the different qualities of papers and learn a range of joining techniques when creating a realistic collage. Students will also record their work will a digital camera.

INDONESIAN In Languages (Indonesian) this term, students will continue to be immersed in a structured language environment using content drawn from their experiences on topics such as ‘their home’, ‘their classroom’ and ‘their school’. They will be involved in role plays using the Indonesian language, participate in a range of language activities, use the Languages Online program to improve their language skills and play Indonesian games.

YOU CAN DO IT In the YCDI Program this term, students will be revisiting their understanding of the general program and concepts of Getting Along. This will include discussion around Habits of the Mind referring to Being Tolerant of Others, Thinking First and Playing by the Rules. Main lesson areas will be Problem Busters, Standing Tall and Chill Out. They will also be broadening their emotional vocabulary. They will be encouraged to participate in a range of activities to reflect their understanding.

eLearning The term 1 focus in eLearning will be file management (creating folders and sub folders), correct file saving procedures and expanding their skills in the use of a variety of ICT information products. Cybersafety will be a major focus and will cover the areas of online behaviours, peer and personal safety and creating strong passwords. Students have access to netbooks in the classroom.

HOME LEARNING As per our homework policy, year 4 students are to spend an average of 30 minutes a night on home learning. A notice will be sent home shortly outlining the expectations for home learning including 15 minutes minimum of reading and the other fifteen minutes to be split between maths tasks and spelling activities from a spelling matrix. In addition, students will record their progress in their school diary. Occasionally unfinished classroom work may be sent home during the week. Homework is your child’s responsibility. If home learning becomes a problem, please speak to the appropriate teacher immediately.

TRANSITION Transition from Year 3 to Year 4 has been extremely successful over the past week. A number of Quality Tools have been used to develop the student’s confidence and resilience in their new year level. Well done to all students on a great start to 2015.

STUDENT WELFARE Our approach to student management reflects the things we value at PPPS. Students, as stakeholders, are expected to behave in a way that reflects their commitment to our school values. We use Quality tools to monitor student behaviour. By ‘living our values’, and through positive reinforcement of appropriate behaviour, coupled with an awareness of logical behavioural consequences, we achieve the most powerful strategy for the development of students accepting responsibility for their behaviour. Student Welfare is also supported by services from a DEECD Speech Pathologist and an Educational Psychologist, a school funded First Aid Officer and our own student welfare coordinators. Alison Devereux and Clinton Lowes are the welfare coordinators for year 4. If you have any concerns please contact your child’s home group teacher or welfare coordinators.

LIBRARY During Library sessions research skills will be developed using reference material. Students can borrow up to two books for a period of 2 weeks. For most students these books will form the basis of the home reading program. Students must have a bag to carry and protect library books.

Absences and Lateness

IT’S NOT OK TO STAY AWAY unless you are sick or there is a family crisis
Research has proven that a high number of absences from school have a negative impact on student learning. It is essential that students have regular attendance and are punctual. If your child is unable to attend school, it is a legal requirement that a note is sent the first day they return explaining their absence. If they have an extended period of absence, please inform the school of your child’s situation as soon as possible. These notes are filed for reference. Absences and lateness will be noted on your child’s reports.

NEWSLETTERS
The newsletter is available online at www.plentyparklands-ps.vic.edu.au and becomes available at 9.30 am each Thursday of a school term. When you register on line you will receive a reminder email each week. Some families have requested that a paper copy be sent home and this, along with most notices, is sent home on Thursdays with the youngest child. It is most important that you access the newsletter to keep up to date with what is happening at school.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF ANY NOTES ARE LOST OR MISPLACED, THEY CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE.