



Westgarth  
Primary School  
Safe, Fair & Friendly

# Year level news

Welcome to Term 4!

We hope that you have had a relaxing and refreshing break and are ready to dive into learning for our final term of 2017.

Term 3 had a number of exciting highlights. The students enthusiastically performed in our 'Raiders of the Lost Decades' school musical. Our camp to Phillip Island was a great success, with students challenging themselves to try new activities and strengthen their social skills and friendships. It has been great to see our students showing positive attitudes through all areas of school life. They are following our school values and demonstrating that they are excellent ambassadors for Westgarth Primary School.

In the classroom last term students worked hard on using figurative language in their poetry writing, and began planning and drafting their creative narrative texts. They practised strategies for solving multiplication problems and explored the use of angles. The students also built on their ICT coding skills to create animations and programs using Scratch and to program robotics.

Term 4 will bring the chance to practise and re-enforce skills and knowledge gained throughout the year, as well as some new learning opportunities. The students will attend an excursion to Healesville Sanctuary on October 25<sup>th</sup> to support their learning during our inquiry unit on sustainability and environment.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the year. We appreciate the time many of you have taken to volunteer in learning programs through classroom activities, sporting and special events, the Kitchen Garden program and excursions. Your assistance has been greatly appreciated.

The Year 4 teaching team: Brenda, Dorothy, Glenn, Aimee and Tom.

## Term 4 Diary Dates

Tuesday, 10 October	Division Athletics
Wednesday, 18 October	Regional Athletics
Sunday, 22 October	Whopping Great Fete
Monday, 23 October	State Athletics
Wednesday, 25 October	Excursion to Healesville Sanctuary
Monday, 30 October	Book Week begins
Tuesday, 31 October	Active Travel Day
Monday, 6 November	Curriculum Day
Tuesday, 7 November	Melbourne Cup Day
Friday, 24 November	Year 3-5 swim trials

## What we are learning this term in the classroom

### Reading

In term 4 students will be focusing on comprehension strategies such as comparing and contrasting information, drawing conclusions and making inferences, identifying cause and effect relationships, distinguishing between facts and opinions and paraphrasing. Once again, Literature Circles will enable the students to respond to an unfamiliar texts through a variety of activities. Students will take on roles such as the discussion director, the summariser or the connector to facilitate comprehension of various fiction texts.

### Writing

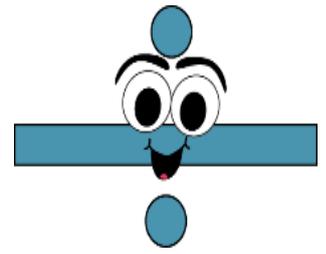
We will be looking at the structure and language features of explanation and procedural texts. Students will be encouraged to edit and proof read their work checking for spelling, punctuation and improved word choices. This will continue to be supported through our VCOP program.

### Speaking and Listening

In term 4 students will be consolidating all that they have learned this year and utilising our newfound skills through the camp and the musical. Speaking and listening is an integral part of our school day that comes throughout all aspects of our learning. Term 4 is an ideal time to practise these skills as our confidence with our class is likely to be at an all-time high. Learning tasks will include reading aloud, inquiry presentations and sharing to the whole cohort and in small groups, as well as regular activities like literature circles.

## Mathematics

Term 4 provides a great opportunity for year four students to consolidate the conceptual understanding that they have been building throughout the year, as they seek to apply their understanding in related mathematical areas. Students will begin by focusing on **division**, the fifth and final “big idea” in Number, following on from Addition, Subtraction, Fractions & Decimals and Multiplication. While investigating Division, students will be provided with opportunities to demonstrate the knowledge they’ve established throughout the year, including subtraction and fractions, as well as – of course – their multiplication and related division facts!



Students will then explore the properties of **two-dimensional shapes** and **three-dimensional objects**, drawing upon the knowledge of angles they have developed in term 3, before investigating the **area** of both **regular** and **irregular two-dimensional shapes**, and **volume** and **capacity**.

Students will finish the year by investigating the concept of **chance**; sequencing events from least to most likely – a concept closely related to the understanding of fractions developed in term 2 - as well as developing their conceptual understanding of conditional **probability**, by exploring different conditions that will and will not affect subsequent trials of a chance event.

## Inquiry

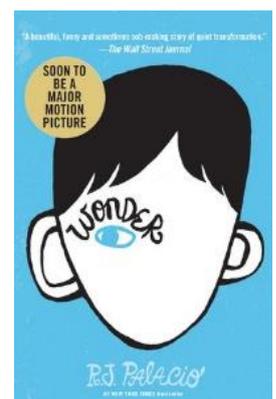


Our inquiry focus this term will be on **Endangered Species**. Throughout the term students will explore a range of questions through a variety of activities. They will consider what makes a species endangered, how species are interdependent and why our understanding of endangered species is so valuable for the environment. As a highlight of our inquiry this term, we are off to Healesville Sanctuary where students will be introduced to real life conservation issues and discover what makes Australian animals so unique and worth protecting for the future. To reflect on the knowledge we have gained, year 4 students will be asked to think about how their actions can make a difference to endangered species in the environment. As you may have realised, this inquiry provides wonderful opportunities to expose the students to global issues such as deforestation and climate change. Heavy stuff, we know!

## Student Wellbeing

Students’ social and emotional learning will continue through the schools, **Resilience, Rights & Respectful Relationships** program. Through this program students have been building a shared vocabulary for emotions increasing emotional literacy as well as building self-awareness and empathy for others. This program will be supported by our class novel, *Wonder* written by R.J. Palacio. Students will explore many themes presented in this book through a range of activities such as friendship, reliance, empathy, courage, forgiveness and kindness.

In term 4 as part of our curriculum, students will participate in a Sexual Education program which will be taught by their classroom teacher. The program will be modelled off *Catching on Early*, which is the Department’s recommended resource. For more information, please see the Department’s [website](#).



Specialist timetable					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Physical Education		4G (Aimee)		4T (Rushe) 4AD (Rushe)	4B (Josie F)
Music	4G (John) 4T (John)	4B (John)			4AD (John)
Science/Spanish		4B (Esmi) 4G(Esmi) 4AD (Pilar)			4T (Pilar)
Art/Spanish		4T	4AD	4B	4G
Kitchen Garden		4AD	4T		4B 4G
Library		4T 4B		4AD 4G	

## What we are learning this term in specialist classes

### Physical Education

This term is full with fun skill based activities. The year 4s will be completing units on gymnastics, orienteering, netball and outdoor ball sports. Westgarth offers many extra-curricular sporting events for interested students to sign up to. This term we have a district team triathlon event (date TBA) and swimming trials for our 2018 Westgarth team on Friday, 24 November. Both events will be held at the Northcote pool. These events are optional but lots of fun!

### Music

In term 4 the main focus for year 4 students will be using the iPad app 'GarageBand' to create a piece of music based on the 12 bar blues chord progression. Student will also working on different ways to document their compositions so that they can play them using instruments that we have in the music room. We will continue to focus on some of the musical elements (tempo, dynamics, pitch, structure) and how composers use them to communicate ideas and moods. Listening to music of different genres and discussing their similarities and differences will also form part of the curriculum in term 4.

### Spanish Science

Students in Year 4 will do different hands on experiences to explore how forces can be used to help objects move. They will also explore the effect of different sized forces, gravity's effect on an object and observe what friction is. While conducting different investigations, students will expand their knowledge of the Spanish language.

## **Spanish Art**

In term four we are going to be very busy in the art room finishing up projects and making a collaborative mural for the entrance of the school. We will be working with clay and mosaic for this project, which will involve students from all year levels. Students in year 4 are going to make a mixed media map combining different materials such as oil pastels, watercolours or salt and experiment with different techniques such as 'gelly printing', collage and rubber printing. Along the way students are going to learn how to describe landscape features using the verbs to be (there is/there are), to give directions and describe location.

To find out more about what we are doing in the Spanish classrooms you can visit the Spanish website

<http://wgpspanish.wix.com/westgarthspanish>