

Year 3 Teaching and Learning – Term 1

A warm welcome back to everyone for 2017, which promises to be another fantastic year at Westgarth! This year we have four straight year 3 classes. We are fortunate to have a great team of teaching staff that includes some new faces. Josie Anzemi, Yolanda Stephenson and Andy Ashton return to Westgarth. Gaye Wilde and Sarah Taylor join the team. Sarah has joined us from Kangaroo Ground Primary School and Gaye joins us from Merri Creek Primary School.

By now we hope you would have heard about some of the things that the students have learnt in their classrooms already this year. The aim of the year 3 team is to strive to be great teachers, in order to give your students the opportunities that they need to be their best both academically and socially.

The KidsMatter framework is a mental health and well-being initiative that Westgarth has embraced. This has involved a Quality Beginnings program that has enabled us to establish a positive year 3 community by getting to know the students, developing classroom processes and determining our rights and responsibilities both within the class and in the playground. We have also continued to promote our school values – Respect, Integrity, Being Your Best (Excellence), Working Together and Responsibility.

We would like to thank you so much for your support already to begin 2017. If you haven't met your child's teacher yet, please pop in and have a chat to us as our doors are always open! We look forward to sharing and celebrating the many successes that your child experiences as the year progresses.

The Year 3 Team

Important dates /Upcoming events

13 th of March	Labour Day Public Holiday
17 th of February	Welcome Picnic 6pm-8pm
21 st of March	Photographs
31 st of March	Last day of term
17 th -30 th of March	Swimming at Northcote Pool



How can you help at home?

- Please make sure your child is at school on time every day. This is particularly important on a Monday for our whole-school assemblies on Brooke Street. Late arrivals do require a late pass from the office
- Please ensure that absences are communicated to your child's teacher
- Continue to encourage your child to read at home and record the texts that they read in their homework books
- Please check that your child's belongings are clearly labelled
- Please be mindful of students that have anaphylaxis and allergies in your child's class when packing food in lunchboxes and when sending any treats for birthdays
- Please ensure your child comes to school with a drink bottle and hat everyday.

What we are learning this term in the classroom

ENGLISH

Reading and Viewing

Reading in year 3 emphasises the importance of quick and accurate recognition of words and phrases to improve fluency and comprehension. Students will engage in daily Shared and Modelled Reading opportunities, where text is visible and students can focus on specific reading strategies to make them better readers. Guided Reading is used to scaffold students as they read, to talk and think their way through a text that is at their instructional level.

There will be an explicit focus this term for students to get their knowledge ready prior to reading texts. This will include teachers supporting students in creating pictures in their mind and brainstorming what they already know about a topic.

Writing

This term, Year 3 students will learning about the features of a range of narratives, including personal recounts and creative stories. They will be taught to use simple planning techniques to organise their ideas and will write a number of recounts on personal and imaginative themes. Editing skills will be part of our writing lessons. Students will be encouraged to improve their work by adding interesting vocabulary, carefully re-read their work to ensure that their sentences make sense, and correct spelling and punctuation errors.

Spelling is an important part of the writing program. We will be focussing on initial and final blends, (eg.bl, scr, nd, nk) short and long vowel sounds and the role of the silent 'e'. Spelling rules that apply to adding 'ing' and 'ed' will be covered and chunking strategies (breaking words into syllables) will be taught.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics we will be focusing on place value, counting patterns and number strategies. Tasks will be differentiated to cater for the learning needs of each student, while connecting with real life experiences whenever possible.

Number and Algebra

This year students will be building on their knowledge of place value, which will involve working with numbers into the tens of thousands. Students will aim to develop effective strategies for addition and subtraction. We will be investigating number patterns, times tables 2's, 3's, 5's, 10's and skip counting.

Measurement and Geometry

Students will investigate location by using simple maps and grid references. Activities will include analysing real examples of both simple and more complicated maps, and creating original maps of familiar areas.

Statistics and Probability

Students will be posing questions to collect data. This data will be used to create various graphs in order for the students to learn about data representation and interpretation.

INQUIRY

The key understanding guiding our inquiry unit this term is: *People from diverse cultures and backgrounds have positively contributed to our history and identity as a nation.* The unit will explore various types of groups in our community and how people participate in these groups. Students will develop an understanding of the role that people of diverse backgrounds have played in the development and character of the local community and/or other societies. They will also investigate various traditions, significant events and days commemorated by groups in our society. They will explore their own sense of identity through learning about their backgrounds, groups and events that are significant in their own lives.

Specialist timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Physical Education			3Y, 3S		3G, 3AJ
Music		3Y, 3G	3AJ		3S
Science/Spanish			3S, 3G	3Y	3AJ
Art/Spanish			3S	3AJ	3Y

What we are learning this term in specialist classes

Physical Education - This term the Grade 3s will be participating in lots of new games while working on being a good sport. The units of work we will cover are cricket, bat tennis and tee ball. All these sports have an emphasis on 'striking' a ball. Students will be learning new skills and consolidating ones already learnt. We will be setting PE goals to reach by the end of the year.

Music-This term in music, grade 3 students will be focussing on some of the different elements of music (tempo, dynamics, texture and structure). Students will use tuned and untuned instruments combined with the elements to create a soundscape to accompany a picture storybook. Students will also embark upon learning some basic guitar and ukulele chords as well as playing chords on keyboards and tuned percussion instruments. We will use these skills to play some simple songs as a class ensemble. Singing, listening and responding to music will also be a feature of the music program.

Science/Spanish- Students in Year 3 will expand their knowledge of the Spanish language by investigating how different materials respond to changes in temperature. By completing hands on activities, students will explore how matter can change state. While exploring these changes, they will learn more Spanish words to name different foods, items to cook and actions for cooking as well as phrases to express their opinion in Spanish.

Art/Spanish - In term one students in grades 3 and 4 will explore the art concepts of line, colour, shape, texture and composition through a multi-media collage. We are going to explore different materials and techniques to create a travel sketchbook, building up skills to support students in creating a sketchbook in their own time. Along the way students will continue to develop their Spanish vocabulary to be able to communicate in the Spanish/Art classroom. To find out more about what we are doing in the Spanish classrooms you can visit the Spanish website <http://wgpspanish.wix.com/westgarthspanish>.