

Year 4 Teaching and Learning News – Term 1

Welcome

Welcome back to 2017. We hope that you enjoyed a restful holiday period with family and are looking forward to the year ahead as we are. We'd like to extend a warm welcome to those families who are commencing at WPS for the first time, or returning after time away.

This year, the Year Four teaching team welcomes Aimee Deacon to the school who will work with Dorothy in 4AD. The rest of the team includes some familiar faces such as Tom and Glenn and welcomes Brenda who has worked in year 6 to the team.

It has been really pleasing to observe students actively contributing to the development of shared classroom values and behaviours, contributing to their class' code of cooperation and generally settling in to the routines of their new learning spaces and forming relationships with their classmates.

We'd also like to thank those parents who were able to attend our Year Four Parent Information Evening last week. We hope that it was informative and would like to reinforce the message that our classroom doors are always open. If you have any concern about your child's academic or social / emotional development please come and speak to us.

Teachers are preparing students for a very busy year ahead as you will notice from the diary dates below. We look forward to a very exciting term 1 and can't wait to start the learning journey with both students and parents on board.

Year Four Teaching team: Aimee, Tom, Brenda, Glenn & Dorothy (Dotty)



Important dates /Upcoming events

TERM 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1		31-Jan First Day of 2017	1-Jan	2-Jan	3-Jan
WEEK 2	6-Jan	7-Jan	8-Jan MAT Skills 1 Parent Information Night	9-Jan	10-Jan
WEEK 3	13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan MAT Skills 2	16-Jan	17-Jan Welcome Picnic
WEEK 4	20-Jan	21-Jan	22-Jan MAT Skills 3	23-Jan Footy Clinic	24-Jan
WEEK 5	27-Jan	28-Jan District Swimming	1-Mar MAT Skills 4	2-Mar Footy Clinic	3-Mar
WEEK 6	6-Mar	7-Mar Division Swimming	8-Mar MAT Skills 5	9-Mar Footy Clinic	10-Mar
WEEK 7	13-Mar Labour Day Holiday	14-Mar	15-Mar MAT Skills 6 (final) Regional Swimming	16-Mar	17-Mar 3-6 Swimming Starts
WEEK 8	20-Mar 3-6 Swimming	21-Mar School Photos	22-Mar 3-6 Swimming	23-Mar 3-6 Swimming	24-Mar 3-6 Swimming
WEEK 9	27-Mar 3-6 Swimming	28-Mar 3-6 Swimming	29-Mar 3-6 Swimming	30-Mar 3-6 Swimming	31-Mar Last Day Term 1

What we are learning this term in the classroom

Literacy

Reading and Viewing

Our focus for reading comprehension will centre on John Munro's High-Reliability Literacy Teaching Procedures (HRLTPs). Each week for the remainder of term will be spent revisiting each of the seven HRLTPs – **Getting Knowledge Ready, Vocabulary, Reading Aloud, Paraphrasing, Saying Questions the Text Answers, Summarising and Reviewing**. These behaviours underpin the comprehension of students at all reading levels and which, in fact, can support student learning in all areas of the curriculum.

Writing

Our writing foci for term one are the text types **letter** and **information reports**. Students have published letters replying to letters from their teachers, as well as letters addressed to their future selves – outlining their hopes and expectations for 2017. These will be placed in class time capsules and opened at the end of the year. For the remainder of the term, students will focus on writing information reports, adopting the appropriate structure and text features for the text type, including **technical vocabulary, single present tense** and **passive** (third person) **voice**.

We will also be implementing 'VCOP / Big Write' at year four level in 2017. This teaching methodology is being employed at Westgarth Primary School to raise the standard in writing for students at all levels. The method is based on fun, fast and lively teaching of the 'writing voice' through oral communication.

Students will focus on developing four main aspects of their writing – **Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation**. These are four important elements of writing which students can learn and develop their skills in, in order to become more confident and competent writers. *More information will follow in term two.*

In spelling, students will participate in a new spelling program in 2017 titled *Words Their Way*. They will undertake weekly word study activities using phonics, vocabulary and explicit spelling instruction, differentiated to your child's immediate learning need. Learning in grammar will focus upon the different parts of speech, including **nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs** and **pronouns**.

Speaking & Listening

As mentioned above in writing, the idea of Big Write is; *'if the children can't say it, they can't write it'*. As part of the preparation for this session, which is known as 'Big Write and VCOP', students may be given 'Talk Homework'. 'Talk Homework' is an approach developed through 'Big Write' that promotes the development of such conversations and provides students with the content of their writing the following day. Further opportunities to develop students' speaking and listening skills will arise through participation in pair, group and informal class conversations, discussions and presentations.

Mathematics

Number and Algebra

At this beginning stage of grade four, we are focusing on some of the foundational elements of number, including a consolidation of strategies for multiplication and addition facts, an understanding of place value and addition of larger numbers using different techniques.

Measurement & Geometry

We are easing into measurement and geometry, mainly using the skills in day to day contexts, such as Kitchen Garden or measuring our hand spans to create data about our class. This will be explicitly built upon in coming terms.

Statistics & Probability

We are off to a hot start already in maths this term. We have been asking each other questions and collecting data about each other, which we have been representing as bar graphs and pie charts and then interpreting. One thing that is very apparent is that ice-cream is a very popular treat and that milky flavours are more popular than icy gelato.



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.



Student Wellbeing

Throughout 2017, students will continue to focus on their social and emotional wellbeing by engaging in activities which align with the KidsMatter framework. During term 1, students will revisit ideas and concepts explored in late 2016, focusing on the mind- body connection with a particular emphasis on parts of the brain such as the amygdala. They will discuss the use of calming 'glitter jars' to simulate how the amygdala responds under stressful situations and practise mindful breathing techniques to prepare for learning. Students will continue to reflect on their relationships by exploring bullying behaviours in real life contexts as well as online through a series of eSmart lessons during the first few weeks of school. As always, we encourage you to please come and see us if anything is concerning you about your child's wellbeing.

<https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary>

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

What we are learning this term in specialist classes

Specialist timetable					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Physical Education		4G (Aimee)		4T (Rushe)	4B (Josie F)
				4AD (Rushe)	
Music	4G (John) 4T(John)	4B (John)			4AD (John)
Science/Spanish		4B (Esmi)			4T (Pilar)
		4AD (Pilar)			
		4G (Esmi)			
Art/Spanish		4T (Marta)	4AD (Marta)	4B (Marta)	4G (Marta)
Kitchen Garden		4AD	4T		4B
					4G
Library		4T		4AD	
		4B		4G	
ICT			4AD	4T	
			4G		
			4B		
Grade 4 Sport					All Students
Performing Arts/ Spanish	Term 4				

Please note the timetable may change due to whole school activities. Library & ICT are taken by classroom teachers.

Physical Education

This term the Grade 4s will start the year off with lots of games while concentrating on being a good sport. We will be covering three sports this term all with an emphasis on 'striking' a ball. The first unit of work is cricket where students will work on ball skills and striking the ball. Our second unit is bat tennis and the third is tee ball. Students who qualified to represent Westgarth at swimming will compete in District Swimming on Tuesday 28th February.

Music

This term in music, grade 4 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 continue with 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.

Spanish through Science

Students in Year 4 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.

Spanish through Art

In term one students in grade 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>.