



Year 4 Teaching and Learning – Term 1

A warm welcome back to everyone for 2018, which promises to be another fantastic year at Westgarth! This year we have three straight year 4 classes and one 3-4 composite class. We are fortunate to have a great group of experienced teaching staff who are excited to be working together in the year 4 team. Brenda O’Leary will be teaching the composite class, while Josie Felton and Phana Phoumin will be sharing a class for two and three days respectively. Sarah Lugton and Cameron Lobb will also teach year 4 grades.

By now we hope you may have heard about some of the activities children have been doing in their classrooms already. The aim of the first two weeks of the school year is for students and teachers to get to know each other and to build strong relationships within classrooms. We do this within the ‘Quality Beginnings’ framework, which promotes teamwork and emphasizes our school values, rights and responsibilities.

Later this term we will be starting our swimming course at Northcote Pool- more on that as the time approaches. The year 4 parent information session will be held on Wednesday 7th February in the middle space of the WEB building (library) from 7.20 - 8pm.

Thank you for your support in the early part of the school year. 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!

The Year 4 Team

Important dates /Upcoming events

Wed 7 Feb	Parent information session WEB (library) 7.20 - 8pm
Thur 1 March	School photographs
Mon 12 March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Fri 16 – Wed 28 March	Swimming
Thur 29 March	Last day of term 2.30 finish



What we are learning this term in the classroom

ENGLISH

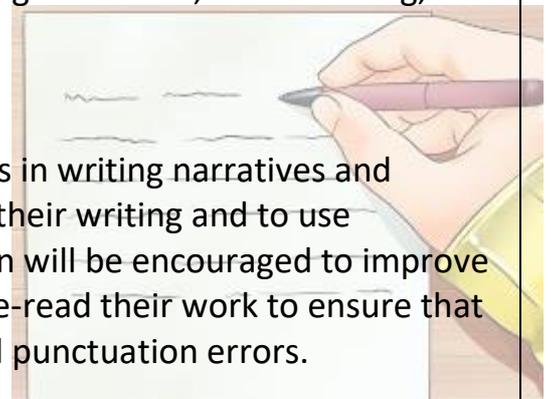
Reading and Viewing

Reading in year 4 is concerned with gaining knowledge of the structure of various texts, such as narratives, persuasive texts and information reports. 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 instruct students as they read, to talk and think their way through a text that is at their instructional level.

We will be specifically working on reading strategies such as getting knowledge ready, vocabulary in context, asking questions the text might answer, summarising, and distinguishing between fact and opinion.

Writing

This term, year 4 students will continue to develop skills in writing narratives and persuasive texts. They will be shown strategies to plan their writing and to use vocabulary appropriate for different text types. Children will be encouraged to improve their work by adding interesting vocabulary, carefully re-read their work to ensure that their sentences make sense, and to correct spelling and punctuation errors.



MATHEMATICS

Mathematics tasks will be differentiated to accommodate for the learning needs of each student, while connecting with real life experiences whenever possible. Students will also spend at least one session per week on problem solving strategies.

Number and Algebra



This term, the year 4 students will be building on their knowledge of place value, which will involve working with numbers at least into the tens of thousands. Students will aim to develop efficient mental and written strategies for addition.

Statistics and Probability

During term one, students will be selecting and trialling methods to collect data. They will use this data to create various graphs such as tables, column and bar graphs, and picture graphs where one picture can represent multiple values.

INQUIRY

The key understanding guiding our inquiry unit this term is: *Elected people come together to discuss issues and make decisions on behalf of others (rules and laws) and provide services to a community through an understanding of democracy.* The unit will explore the idea of citizenship and the differences between rules and laws. Students will investigate our responsibilities and rights as school citizens, and how our actions as citizens impact on the community.

Specialist timetable					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Physical Education		3-4B	4JP	4C, 4S	
Music	3-4B	4JP		4S	4C
Spanish/Discovery				3-4B, 4S, 4JP	4C
Spanish/Art			4C	3-4B	4S, 4JP

What we are learning this term in specialist classes

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 two sports this term all with an emphasis on 'striking' a ball. The first unit of work is cricket and the second is bat tennis, where students will work on ball skills and striking the ball. We will be making a start on our fitness unit at the end of the term, which will continue in term 2. Students who qualified to represent Westgarth at swimming will compete in District Swimming on Tuesday 27th February.

Music

This term in music, year 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 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.

Spanish/Discovery

Students will learn more about Spanish language and culture by exploring the different Spanish speaking countries. They will observe the similarities and differences between Australia and these countries by collecting and representing information about their geographical features.

Spanish/Art

In term one students in grade 4 will explore the art concepts of line, colour, shape, texture and composition to draw a giant tree house. Along the way students will learn the Spanish vocabulary for parts of the house and will continue to develop their Spanish skills 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>.

Additional Information

- Please make sure your child has their hat and drink bottle every day.
- To ensure your child's property is returned to them, please label all clothing, lunch boxes, lids and drink bottles.

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