Year 4

Parent Information Evening

Wednesday 20th February

HANDOUT
Communication –
The school newsletter is sent *electronically* every Wednesday fortnight. Additional notices are sent home as required. The Year Four students use a ‘notice folder’ to take their notices home. Please complete any correspondence necessary and return it to the class teacher in the notice folder. It is recommended that you cover this folder in clear contact, in case of drink bottle spills etc. Copies of notices can also be printed from the school website.

Parents receive a written report on their child’s progress twice a year. Reports are sent home each June and December and rate student achievement against AusVELS.

Parent/Teacher interviews are held twice a year. ‘Meet the Teacher’ interviews were held this term in week 3 and provided parents with an opportunity to give their child’s class teacher any information regarding their child to assist with the transition to new classrooms. The June interviews provide parents and teachers an opportunity to reflect on children’s progress in the first half of the year and discuss the Semester One report. Throughout the year, parents are welcome to make an appointment with their child’s class teacher if the need arises.

Assembly –
Assembly is held on a Monday afternoon from 2.45pm. At assembly, children from all year levels receive Classroom Awards and news and events are shared with the school community.

Appointments and Absences –
If your child is away from school for any reason, such as illness, you are required to notify the school. If possible, an older sibling may inform the class teacher before school or parents may leave a message with the office staff. On returning to school, we require a written note detailing the days and reason for your child’s absence.

If your child arrives late, (after 9am), or leaves school early due to an appointment, etc, school procedure requires children to go via the main office and complete a sign in/sign out slip. This is to be passed on to the class teacher.

AusVELS –
This year we commence the transition to the Australian Curriculum through the implementation of the AusVELS curriculum. AusVELS is the Foundation (formerly Prep) to Year 10 curriculum that provides a single coherent and comprehensive set of prescribed content and common achievement standards which we use to plan learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents. AusVELS incorporates the Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, History and Science within the curriculum framework first developed for the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). AusVELS uses an eleven level structure to reflect the design of the new Australian Curriculum whilst retaining Victorian education priorities and approaches to teaching and learning. AusVELS has been designed to ensure that schools and teachers are not required to manage two different curriculum and reporting frameworks during the development of the Australian Curriculum.

Curriculum –
Literacy, numeracy, science, history, interpersonal development, physical well-being and the arts are important areas to develop in school and are all covered through the classroom program.

The Literacy Block is divided into two sections – Reading and Writing, with Speaking and Listening combined in both areas. Typical Reading activities include whole class reading, small group Guided Reading and independent tasks to reinforce
spelling patterns, grammar, punctuation and reading and comprehension strategies and skills. The focus in Writing is on encouraging students to record their ideas and thoughts about personal and shared class experiences and correct letter formation. During writing session children also explore writing for different purposes (e.g. reports, procedural writing, narratives, persuasive writing). Later this year we will introduce students to a modified version of Literature Circles to further enhance their reading and comprehension skills. This term in Literacy we will be focussing on factual and informative texts for reading, recounts and information texts for writing.

Numeracy activities in classrooms are a combination of application and hands-on experience. Children are given opportunities to build on their understandings using concrete materials and games and develop skills in problem solving. Focus areas include Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Similarly to the morning Literacy Block, during Numeracy sessions children may work as part of the whole class group, in small groups or independently. This term in Numeracy we will be focussing on Place Value, Odd and Even Numbers, Length and Temperature, Mass and Capacity and Number Sequences for the 3’s, 6’s 9’s and for the 4’s, 8’s and 7’s.

Integrated topics provide a focus for many of our learning experiences and are an opportunity for children to build on their understanding of the world around them. During term one we are looking at the topics ‘Launch Into Learning’ and ‘The First Australians’. In term two the topic is ‘The First Fleet’, term three explores ‘Living Things’ and term four ‘Healthy Living’.

Specialist classes –
Each specialist class runs for 50 minutes. On Physical Education days, children should wear appropriate footwear to school. Library books should be returned weekly. Children attend weekly library session with their classroom teacher.

Extension and Support –
Support: Mrs Helga Shaw and Mrs Shelley Morrison to work with individuals and small groups for Literacy or Numeracy support. Extension: Students are extended through various programs such as Gateways and Enrichment, as well as extension in the classroom.

Timetable –
4T has the following timetable this term:

Monday – Art
Tuesday – Performing Arts
Wednesday – ICT, Library and Sport rotations
Thursday – French, P.E.

Occasionally there will be variations to this timetable due to activities occurring within the school.

Establishing Routines –
Students in Year 4 are expected to:
• Keep their novel in their bag so that they can read at home and school on a daily basis.
• Bring their diary to school daily. Diaries are to go home each night
• Bring a drink bottle of water daily to school
• Wear a hat and sunscreen until 1st May
• Students in Year 4 may ride bikes to school if accompanied by a parent / guardian.

Homework –
Children are expected to complete 20 minutes of reading at least four times a week. Children can choose books from take home readers, the school library or book from home. Parents are strongly encouraged to listen to their child read to improve oral expression or ask them questions about their reading to improve their comprehension. In addition, children will receive spelling, timetables and other literacy, numeracy or integrated studies tasks. Homework is sent home Monday and is due back Friday.
ICT / Computers –
Computers are integrated into the classroom program in many ways and play an important role in extending both the Literacy and Numeracy program. Each classroom has five laptop computers as well as access to iPads and the school ‘Computer Lab’. When the Internet is used within lessons, students are monitored closely. If proper use of internet is not honoured students lose the right to access the Internet at school.

All classes will be involved in sessions focussing on Cybersafety to ensure students have a clear understanding of the need to be safe on the Internet and respect the privacy of passwords. ‘Facebook’ and similar sites are illegal for use by students of this age. All Internet usage of students at home should be monitored closely.

Excursions/Incursions and Camp –
During the year, Year Four students will be involved in a number of excursions and incursions. These events are planned carefully to enhance the classroom program. Excursions, and some incursions, cost a small fee. If you have paid the excursion levy, this charge will be automatically deducted. Families will be informed in advance of coming events.

This year students will attend a three day camp in Mt Eliza called ‘Camp Manyung’. Camp is scheduled for term two from Wednesday 29th May to Friday 31st May. Further information about the camp will be provided at the beginning of term two.

Parental Involvement –
Parents are encouraged to assist and support the classroom program by monitoring and helping their child with homework including daily reading, provide assistance for excursions, school and class events, helping prepare resources and as guest speakers.

Reminders –
Each Friday is Icy-Pole Day. Ensure your child’s belongings come home safely each day, please clearly label all clothing, drink bottles, lunch boxes, hats, etc. Please use permanent markers or labels. Head lice – please check your child's hair regularly.

Important Dates –
- 21 February District Swimming Carnival
- 24 February Ashburton Community Festival
- 7 March Parents Association Wine and Cheese Night
- 11 March Labour Day Public Holiday
- 25 March Cultural Infusion Incursion
- 28 March Last day of Term 1

Thank you for taking the time to attend tonight’s session. We hope that you have gained an insight into our unit at GIPS. We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year!

Jenni de Villa, Rachel Pitson and Tanya Tomic
The Year Four Team ✪