

Term Planner – Grade 3/4

Term 4, 2018

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM:

English

Reading

In Term 4, Level 3 students will revise expectations during independent reading times and investigate why and how we use dictionaries, thesauruses and glossaries. Students will develop their understanding of the purpose of an author by exploring their intended audiences and we will discuss the different perspectives and points of view that readers can have. All classes will continue to work on comprehension by focusing on summarising information and identifying the literary elements in stories such as characters, settings, problems, resolutions and endings. Students will be provided with opportunities to practise adjusting their pitch and reading rate to increase their ability to read fluently and have a chance to share their learning about their favourite book this year.



Some ideas to help your child with reading:

- Encourage your child to read to the end of the sentence to enable him/her to gain further cues to the identification of an unknown word.
- Make sure that reading is an enjoyable experience for your child. Therefore if your child wants to read a difficult book he/she has an interest in, read along with them. Reading is a sharing time that can give you the opportunity to discuss the content of a book.
- Encourage your child to read a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and ask questions that will help them improve their comprehension.
- Praise every effort in reading, especially if confidence is low. Don't compare your child's performance with that of relatives or friends.
- Regularly ask your child which CAFÉ strategy they are working on in the classroom and encourage them to practise using it when reading at home.



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Writing

During this term in Writing students will study the author, Margaret Wild and learn how to use mentor texts to explore new ways of writing narratives. Students will learn about the ways illustrations can enhance a story and practise using the techniques used by Margaret Wild.

After exploring the writing craft of Margaret Wild, students will complete a mini author study about Mem Fox. We will compare and contrast the two authors and use their texts as mentors for our own stories. Each child will write their own picture storybook, incorporating writing techniques from both authors.

Writer's Notebooks will continue to play an important role in Writing. Each week, students will write new entries in their Writer's Notebooks and use these ideas to draft new writing pieces. Students will move chosen writing pieces through the Writing Process and create a published piece of writing for their portfolios.

A continued focus on grammar will allow students to develop their understanding of contractions, verbs, nouns, pronouns, connectives and homophones. We will look at how less commonly used punctuation marks can be incorporated into our writing such as brackets and hyphens and edit our work to emphasise the correct use of tense.

Speaking and Listening

Speaking and Listening is a vital component of the English program. In order to improve their speaking and listening skills, your child will be encouraged to participate in different activities which may include: group work, circle games, class discussions, VIP presentations and oral responses in the CAFÉ program. If your child has forgotten their VIP date, please see their classroom teacher. They will learn how to provide constructive feedback in a positive manner to their peers.

Mathematics

The Mathematics program at Launching Place Primary School is designed to cater for each child's individual needs. To ensure all students experience success, maths classes may take several different approaches. These include group work with focused teaching circles, hands-on, real-life activities, computers for skill building and problem solving, and open-ended, rich learning tasks.

Throughout the term, children will be pretested using Essential Assessment and provided with differentiated tasks catering to their point of need. They will then work at their level to target the next step in their learning. Students will continue to participate in Blitzmaster sessions designed to increase automatic recall of a range of number facts. In addition to Blitzmasters, students will use Handy Hands to assist them in learning their times tables.

Topics we will be looking at this term include:

- Place Value
- The Four Processes
- Area and Perimeter
- Length
- Fractions
- Money
- Shape Transformations and Tessellations



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- Mass
- Capacity
- Volume
- Collecting, representing and interpreting Data
- Multi-step Problems
- Times Tables

Some ideas to help your child with Mathematics

There are countless ways to help your child grasp mathematical concepts and skills. Calculation is not the only mathematical skill necessary at school. Measurement, Geometry, Statistics and Probability are all part of the Mathematics Curriculum.

Practising times tables – **although students will spend time learning multiplication at school, they will find it much easier if they are thoroughly familiar with the times tables.** Ask your child which ones they are doing in their quick maths and practise them daily. You may like to do this as you drive with your child, when they help in the kitchen or when you find you have some time alone with them. A chart in the smallest room in the house can also be beneficial.

Games – many children's games are mathematically based. Jigsaw puzzles provide early experience for visual planning skills to develop. Games where dice are used give opportunities for number use and understanding. Logic and strategy games sharpen young minds for thinking and planning ahead. Apart from the social language opportunities inherent in these games, the mathematical thinking involved is of huge value and cannot be taught in a formal sense.

In the kitchen – cooking and preparing food involves numbers and measures. Ask your child to contribute at an early age, from counting how many people and how many potatoes, to doubling the recipe which calls for one and a half cups of flour. Temperature, weight, mass, time and length are all part of life in the kitchen, as are fractions, decimals and dozens.

Attitude – the most important thing is that these activities provide useful, happy experiences in mathematical thinking. Keep it enjoyable. Learning happens best when the learner is ready and wants to learn.

Integrated Studies: Inventions Matter and Science: Melting Moments

During this unit, we will investigate and classify the different types of matter and demonstrate how they change forms. Students will learn the difference between solids, liquids and gases through experiments and investigations. They will also explore the changes to substances that are reversible (e.g. water) and irreversible (e.g. baking a cake).

Every day we see or use things that have been melted or frozen, heated or cooled. All around us are items that we find both useful and attractive that have been moulded into different shapes using heating and cooling. These can range from cast iron frying pans and plastic rubbish bins to chocolate bunnies. Understanding the properties of materials and how they change state under different conditions can help scientists to develop even more extraordinary products to help improve our quality of life.

Students will explore how solids or liquids are influenced by temperature. They will experience the way items from their everyday lives can change. Through hands-on



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investigations, students will investigate how the size of the pieces affects the melting time of chocolate.

During this unit students will:

- ❖ Describe solids and liquids by identifying similarities and differences in a range of materials.
- ❖ Identify patterns in the rates of melting and freezing of substances.
- ❖ Explore the way a solid can be changed to a liquid and then moulded by cooling to have different uses.
- ❖ Explore the way materials can change from solid to liquid (or vice versa) depending on the temperature.
- ❖ Explore how the rate of change of state can be influenced by the size of the surface area.
- ❖ Investigate the effect of adding or removing heat on the change of state of materials.

After exploring states of matter, students will complete a unit on Inventions. Students will complete a project about a significant inventor or invention throughout history. At the completion of this unit, we will celebrate by showcasing their pieces.

Homework & Diaries:

Students are expected to read at home for a minimum of 20 minutes and get their diary signed by a parent to indicate how long students have read. A minimum of 3 signatures are required per week and will be checked every Wednesday.

Diaries are a central part of home/school communication at Launching Place Primary School. Not only do the teachers check them regularly to see their reading record, they are often used to deliver messages to parents. If you write a message to the teacher in the diary, please make sure your child knows and shows it to the teacher. It is expected that in grades 3 and 4, students should be responsible for their morning routine; teachers do not give reminders to show them the diary every day.

Homework: it is expected that students complete one contract per week. Please support your child to complete the homework contract for the week and remind them to bring it to school on the day that it is due so that it can be corrected with their class.

You can help your child and us by:

- Donating any suitable books (that you have finished with) to add to our classroom libraries.
- Reminding your child to bring their diary to school **every day**.
- Sending a bottle of water for your child to keep in the classroom.
- Sending a box of tissues to school.
- Sending your child with a healthy and balanced lunch to ensure they remain focused and on task.
- Keeping your child's lunch as rubbish free as possible. We will be completing a rubbish free lunch challenge this term.

Japanese – Toko

Japanese will be held on Tuesdays.

The topic for the Grade 3/4 children this term will be **My Holiday Suitcase**. They will discuss in class what they should pack in their suitcase to travel to Japan and learn new words for



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those items such as jeans, T-shirt, jumper and toothbrush. Children will be making a passport and participate in a role-play 'At the airport' using simple sentences. They will also learn about the Japanese custom of giving an *Omiyage* (souvenirs) and compare this to their own culture.

THE ARTS – Miss Nyman

This term The Arts will be held on Wednesdays for 3B, 3H and 4F, and Thursdays for 4C. Students will receive an hour and half lesson each week that will combine elements of visual arts and performing arts, including music, drama and dance. In visual arts, students will complete a task that requires careful planning and designing, as they will need to dye different types of pasta different colours in preparation. They will also create a collage of an Australian bird. Grade 3 and 4 students will also be fortunate enough to participate in a Ceramic workshop that will involve making creations using clay. In Music, students will lead the grade with various rhythms using the instruments and they will need to include some light and shade by demonstrating their understanding of tempo and volume. In drama, students will act out different scenarios and they will use dress ups to create interesting characters. They will participate in improvisation activities and they will play a series of drama games that encourage them to think quickly.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mr Devisser

Phys Ed for these children will be held on Mondays.

It would be great to see everyone wearing appropriate footwear on their PE days. School shirts and shorts or school tracksuits are ideal.

The fourth term will focus on skill development for summer sports. Simple orienteering and mapping skills will be taught in the earlier part of the term. This will be supported by our Orienteering Program which will be held at Maroondah Dam on the 25th October.

The annual bike ride to Warburton in December is also a popular activity and some bike training may be held before hand.

Dates to Remember:

Sunday October 27th – Aerobics Spring Challenge

Thursday October 25th- 3-6 Orienteering

Monday November 5th- Curriculum Day

Tuesday November 6th – Melbourne Cup Day

Thursday November 8th – Launch Cup

Wednesday December 12th- Carol's Night

Friday December 14th- Warburton Bike Ride

Thursday 20th December- Meet the 2019 Teacher Day/ Reports home

Friday December 21st – End of Term 4

Thanks,

Zoe Harris, Kasey Bishop, Brydie Tatterson, Jessica Freeman and Kathy Barley

