

**Year 4 Newsletter**

**Term 1, 2023**

**Welcome**

We are excited to bring you some insight into the year 4 cohort for 2023. To the students and parents and guardians of our 2023 grade 4 students, WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! Congratulations on a fantastic first week of the school year. The students have returned to their school routines beautifully, showing that they are ready to learn. It has been great to see so many smiling faces buzzing around the classroom.

The grade 4 teachers for 2023 are Damiano Lo Nigro (Team Leader), Jack Mason, Laurence Gatt, Emma Grimaud and Tony Fraietta [Grade 3/4 - Grade 3 Team Leader]. Joining the KPS team 2023 are Damiano Lo Nigro (Baden Powell College), Tony Fraietta (Baden Powell College) and Laurence Gatt (Melton West Primary School). We look forward to an engaging and prosperous year together.

**Learning Together and School Values**

We strive to maintain a positive and orderly learning environment and will continue to focus on establishing this along with building on learning and behavioural expectations. We will encourage this through respectful social interactions and problem-solving skills, resilience and supporting independence skills through routines and clear expectations. At KPS, we explicitly teach our School Values of Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Empathy, Excellence and Effort and how these values are demonstrated in the classroom and playground, for example, being respectful of equipment, using it safely, and taking turns. The students will explore what these values will look like for themselves and the school community, both in the classroom and in the wider school environment.

**Take Home Books and Student Planners**

Reading is an ongoing learning strategy for all students; therefore, we encourage students to read each night and record their reading, page numbers or whole text in their Reading Journal. Reviewing journals is an important part of our morning routine. Teachers check Reading Journals for reading, communications from home to school or explanations for school absences. We would like to thank parents in advance for ensuring that students arrive at school on time and ready to learn by 8:50am.

**Hats and Water Bottles**

Please ensure that your child has a hat to start off the school year. Students require a school hat (wide brimmed) to wear outside during break times, if they don’t have one, they will be asked to sit in the shade for the duration of their breaks. Please ensure that your child is sent to school with a drink bottle, filled with water, to get them through the day. Especially in these warmer months. Children will get the opportunity to eat a healthy snack of fruit or vegetable during their morning learning sessions, so please send this along with their usual snack and lunch.

**COMPASS**

COMPASS is our main platform for communicating school related information up to and including reporting on your child’s learning progress. Teachers produce ongoing reports for all students, these are written and uploaded regularly throughout the term with this information being released on COMPASS for parents to access. Compass also has the facility for you to contact your child’s teacher if you have concerns or information that needs to be forwarded. Please see one of the friendly office staff for your family login details.

**Mathletics and EPIC Books**

Students will receive a subscription to Mathletics and EPIC Books which they are able to access both in class and at home to continue building strategies. Usernames and passwords will be written or pasted in your child’s Reading Journal so they can access these subscriptions.

**Term 3 Lady Northcote Camp**

As part of the camping program for Kurunjang Primary School 100 children in years 3/4 will have the opportunity to attend a three day, two night camping experience at Lady Northcote Camp. Lady Northcote Camp is situated in Glenmore. Students will have the opportunity to build confidence, independence and resilience by exploring outdoor adventure activities, working cooperatively and challenging themselves. Expressions of interest for camp will go out at the beginning of Term 2.

**Learning Focus for Term 1**

In **Reading** this term, students will be focusing on reading for longer periods of time as well as some different comprehension strategies to support them in becoming better readers focusing on predictions, visualising and making connections to what they’re reading.

In **Writing** this term, students are learning about the craft of writing and the features and strategies we can use when writing to entertain and persuade. In writing to entertain, students create an interesting narrative that contains an orientation, complication and resolution. In writing to persuade, students may develop an exposition piece where they argue a point of view. Students will also be looking at how to craft speeches and how advertisements use writing features to persuade.

For **Numeracy** this term, students will be practising their strategies to better understand numbers including counting, place value, solving problems with addition and subtraction. We will also be looking at time and capacity.

Our **SEL** unit will focus on Emotional Literacy. SEL lessons are based around stress management and resilience building to assist students in understanding their personal emotions and how these emotions affect their ability to move through emotional situations both at school and within their everyday lives.

**Upcoming Events**

**Victoria Police Incursion:** 7th February

**Parent- Teacher Interviews:** 22nd February

**School Photos:** 1st March

**Last day for term 1:** 6th April

**Term 2 begins:** 24th April

**Specialist classes**

Please be aware of the Term 1 Specialist timetable below. Students require a library bag to borrow and ***must*** return library books at their next session, these can be reborrowed at this time if necessary. Students need to ensure that they are wearing appropriate footwear for PE and House Sport which will run on a bi-weekly rotation, and lastly please ensure that you have provided an art smock for your child to avoid spills that may occur.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **4 LO NIGRO** | Science | Visual Art | Performing Arts  Kitchen Garden | PE  AUSLAN | House Sport  Library |
| **4 MASON** |  | Science  AUSLAN | PE  Kitchen Garden | Performing Arts  Visual Art | House Sport  Library |
| **4 GATT/GRIMAUD** |  | Performing Arts  PE  AUSLAN |  | Kitchen Garden  Science | House Sport  Visual Art  Library |
| **3/4 TONY** | Visual Art | Kitchen Garden | PE  Library | Performing Arts  AUSLAN | House Sport  Science |

**Performing Arts**

In Performing Arts, the year 4 students will work independently and in small groups to understand and demonstrate the basic elements of music. They will use percussion instruments and the keyboard / xylophone to learn to read simple notation, and play and perform pieces with independent rhythms over an underlying beat. Students will also explore dynamics, pitch and tempo, and how music can influence emotions.

**Science**

In Science, students will explore the differences between living things and non-living things. They will identify variations in the features of both plants and animals, and group living things based on these variations. With guidance, students will identify questions that can be investigated scientifically and predict what might happen. A particular focus will be expanding student vocabulary, thus providing students with the ability to describe in detail both the similarities and differences of living things.

**Physical Education (PE)**

Students will practise and refine the fundamental motor skills of throwing, catching and two-handed strike.

Students will participate in various striking and fielding games with a focus on developing skills and tactics, applying rules and scoring systems and demonstrating fair play.

**Visual Arts**

In Visual Arts, year 3 and 4 students will begin the term with pencil drawing a self-portrait, which will be added to their growing collection of annual pencil portraits. They will then be exploring a range of mediums such as oil pastels and paint to explore the art elements of line, shape, colour, pattern and texture to create artworks.

**Kitchen Garden**

In Kitchen Garden this semester, we will be focusing on learning about the utensils used in the kitchen and how to set a table properly. We will be learning about the different types of fruits and vegetables, the parts of the plant they come from, and the five different food groups. We prepare food following hygiene procedures and enjoying the food we prepare and cook. We will also be learning about the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.

**Communication to teachers**

Reading Journal

Write a note in your child’s reading journal with any daily communication. Teachers will check students’ journals on a daily basis.

E-mail via the Compass Portal

You can email your child’s teacher on the Compass portal.

When you log in to Compass, there will be an option on your home page which says ‘Send email to (child’s name) teachers’. You can simply click that link to email the relevant teachers. Below is a sample image of what to expect. For further support in doing this please call the school office.



Phone Call

For more urgent matters you may call the school office and ask to speak to or leave a message for your child’s teacher.

Please keep in mind that teachers are busy teaching throughout the day and will make every effort to get back to you in a timely manner.

We look forward to ***learning together*** in Term 1.

The Year 4 Teachers.