

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

It is hard to believe that this is our last syndicate newsletter for the year. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of our children to date. The latest assessment data collected at the end of term three, indicates very pleasing progress across both year groups. We understand parents and caregivers are really busy and as a team, we would like to extend our appreciation for your ongoing support with your child's learning.

We have another very busy term ahead and this newsletter is a summary of what curriculum learning will be taking place in our classrooms as well as some important upcoming dates. If you have any questions about anything at all please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher. The year 3 & 4 team appreciates as much communication between home and school as possible. On most occasions, concerns can be solved by having a quick conversation with your child's teacher, so do not hesitate to make contact. Our emails are listed at the end of the newsletter.

### **Curriculum Learning**

#### **Numeracy and Maths Strand**

This term our children will be using their number knowledge, understanding of strategy to solve word problems in different mathematical contexts. To prepare our children for PAT testing in week 5, teachers will introduce and model multiple choice questions and answers.

Throughout the year, individual student usage of Maths Whizz has been closely monitored by all our classroom teachers. Significant improvement and progress can be viewed in real time and you can request this data from your child's teacher at any stage during the term. Maths Whizz is an excellent programme and using the "Replay" mode is considered a regular part of your child's homework. If you notice your child is not happy about Maths Whizz please inform your child's teacher as nine out of ten times we have found children get frustrated and apathetic when they are stuck and require help.

#### **Literacy Writing, Reading and Inquiry**

This term we are continuing to integrate inquiry learning processes into our literacy programmes. As a school we have been using the SOLO Taxonomy to challenge critical and creative thinking. Our children enjoy using graphic organisers to group, order and challenge their thinking. One of our most popular maps would be the compare and contrast map. Our children really enjoy using this map to identify and explain similarities and differences of two different concepts eg airplanes and birds. Toward the end of last term, some of our children were challenged in their thinking and had to try and justify their comparisons.

For the first few weeks our children will be focusing on speech writing. The focus will then shift to oral language where our children will develop speech presentation skills. The school speech competition is open for year 4 and above children but we encourage our year 3 children to have a go. By being exposed to the structure of speech writing and use of persuasive language, they will have a greater appreciation of the speeches.

#### **The Arts; Dance, Drama and Music**

As a team, we have decided to place an emphasis on the Arts this term. Our children have worked really hard this year and our morning sessions through to lunchtime will continue to be structured literacy and maths learning which leaves our afternoons free to engage with the arts. It is important to note the educational value that visual arts, drama and music can offer our children by providing them with opportunities to think more critically and creatively. It would be fair to say that as a team, we are really excited about this programme and I am certain your children will have some funny stories to share at home. Remember a great way to find out what your child did at school is to ask them specifically. Instead of asking what did you do at school today? (Where the common answer is "nothing" or "I dunno"), try saying "Tell me what you did in *drama* today?" (and replace *drama* with any *curriculum area*).

#### **Physical Education and Health & Wellbeing**

This term PE is held on Monday mornings and the emphasis is on developing skills that will be required for the Wellsford Sports Exchange. The teachers will confirm the teams at the end of week 6 allowing the children time to practise as a team before the tournament. It is important to note that our Physical

Education focus is on skills development, learning the rules of each game and developing positive participation skills by fostering "healthy competition" and sportsmanship.

### **Uniform**

School uniform is compulsory. Black socks and black shoes are to be worn, or black sandals/jandals/bare feet. No coloured t-shirts are to be visible underneath school shirts i.e. hanging out below school shirts - black under-shirts are acceptable. We encourage students to bring a spare set of clothes for sport. No nail polish or make up is to be worn and all long hair is to be tied up with hair ties and bands in school colours (Bright pink flower head bands is not school uniform). Stud-type earrings are allowed. Hats are compulsory after Labour Weekend. As stated before, please check that all uniform items are clearly named. If for whatever reason your child cannot wear correct school uniform, please write them a note to carry around with them for each day they cannot wear it. An important message went home with your children today. Our children are encouraged to change into "play" clothes after school to keep their uniform clean.

### **No activity fees this term ☺**

### **Important Dates**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October: MBS has got Talent

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October: Scarecrows – please we need parent help!!

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October: Jump Rope for Heart

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October: School Ag Day

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October: Labour Day (School Closed)

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November: Middle Syndicate Speeches 11:30am

*Please check our school calendar for the latest information on important dates this term.*

Kindest regards,  
The Year 3 & 4 team;

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