Year 4 Term Overview – Parent Information Term 1 2016

Dear Families,

Welcome to Year 4 for 2016. We hope that your summer holiday break was restful and enjoyable. Term 1 has started smoothly for all three classes and we are gearing up for a very busy and exciting first term.

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<th>Important Events and Dates</th>
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Class structures for 2016

As all of our teachers have curriculum leadership commitments one day per week, James Shapowloff and Joanne Keens will be an important part of the Year Four team. James will work with 4H on Wednesdays and 4J on Fridays. Joanne will work with 4L on Fridays. Bec Hadfield will be teaching Japanese across the school on Wednesdays. Ryan Lindsay will be coordinating ICT across the school on Fridays. Julia Chadburn does not work Fridays.

Curriculum Information

English

Our Term 1 English program aligns with the Australian Curriculum and provides students with opportunities to read, write, speak and listen every day. Some features of the Term 1 program are:

- reading a variety of texts to persuade, inform and entertain
- deconstructing a range of informational texts to examine their linguistic features and structures
- planning, drafting and publishing a range of informational texts
- extending strategies for spelling, including spelling rules, word families, spelling generalisations, and letter combinations.
- developing handwriting skills by writing using clearly-formed joined letters and develop increased fluency
- commencing development of proofreading and editing skills by adding, deleting or moving words or word groups to improve meaning, content and structure
- continuing to develop understanding of the conventions of grammar and punctuation, and incorporating them into writing
- responding to literature by discussing literary experiences with others, sharing responses and expressing a point of view
- planning, rehearsing and delivering oral presentations incorporating learned content and taking into account the particular purpose and audience

Mathematics

In Mathematics this term we will focus on the following concepts:

- place value and number patterns/sequences.
- addition and subtraction with and without trading/exchanging/regrouping.
- length, area, and temperature.
- 2D and 3D shapes.
● using simple maps and grids to show position and location.

Science
Our first Science unit for the year, “Plants in Action,” provides opportunities for students to explore the world of plants. We will learn about the life cycles of plants and how living things, including plants and animals, depend on each other and the environment to survive. Student learning will involve making predictions, describing patterns and relationships, planning and conducting investigations, and using appropriate materials, tools and equipment to make and record observations.

History and Geography
This term students will research the journey(s) of at least one world navigator, explorer or trader up to the late eighteenth century, including their contacts with other societies and any impacts. In Geography we will examine the location of the major countries of Africa and South America in relation to Australia, and their main characteristics, including the types of natural vegetation and native animals in at least two countries from both continents.

The Arts
Students will continue to have opportunities to participate in Every Chance to Dance lessons each week. Visual Arts lessons will focus on elements of art as well as linking to other learning areas. Selected students will receive instruction in recorder, with class teachers providing similar programs in class. Drama will be covered by a range of activities within each class.

Technologies
In Year 4, students will have opportunities to use digital cameras, iPads, chromebooks, minilabs, and Robotic technologies. Students will also publish pieces of work using word processing applications, as well as learning how to use a variety of different computer programs and apps. Google apps will be heavily used throughout 2016. Please ensure that notes relating to computer use are returned promptly to enable your child to be on board with all of our ICT learning from as early as possible.

Health and Physical Education
Learning in the area of Health and PE will focus on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to their health, wellbeing, safety and participation in physical activity. Students will continue to engage in a range of physical activities including dance, class-based games and activities that promote a positive attitude to health and physical development, and further their understanding of the benefits of movement and physical activity.

Specialist Programs
Bluearth
Bluearth is part of our Physical Education program and is taught by our specialist teacher, Mrs Julia Tapp. In Bluearth this term, the students will be introduced to a 5 week program of Yoga. Exploring and practising fundamental movement skills in conjunction with developing the students’ coordination and agility will be the challenge for the remainder of the term.

Japanese
Kitasaka Sensei will continue to deliver the Japanese Language program at Kaleen Primary School. Students learn cultural aspects of Japanese life as well as learning spoken and written Japanese.

Additional Class Information

| Hats: | Our school is a SunSmart school and follows the Education and Training Directorate’s policy. Students will need to wear hats when outside during Term 1. |
| Fruit break: | Students are encouraged to bring a fruit or vegetable snack to have during our morning session, as well as throughout the day, provided it is not going to make a mess. |
| Water bottles: | Students are encouraged to have a water bottle, which can be kept in class and accessed as required. |
| Library Resource Centre: | All classes will have a weekly session with their classroom teacher in the library. These sessions will be used to borrow and also develop research skills within the Year Four program. Home borrowing, when accompanied by a parent, is also available Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3:00pm to 3:30pm. Students are required to have a library bag when borrowing. |

Please don’t hesitate to contact us via the Front Office on 62055888, or by email if you have any questions or queries.

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Joanne Keens – joanne.keens@ed.act.edu.au

Kind regards,
Bec Hadfield, Ryan Lindsay, Julia Chadburn, James Shapowloff and Joanne Keens