

Hello everyone!

It's hard to believe that we are already half way through 2017 and life in the Grade 3/4's is as busy as ever. We have hit the ground running and are set to experience some exciting and fabulous learning opportunities.

The term started with the grade 4s beginning their rounds of interschool sports on Friday, followed by the 3/4s going on camp to Phillip Island, an enjoyable day was had by all at Willinda Park for the Research Primary School Athletics Day on Monday and we all sat captivated by Martin from The Resilience Project on Wednesday. We are also looking forward to commencing our new inquiry unit 'Under the Sea' as well as several other extra-curricular activities thrown in.

Grade 3/4H

We welcome Hannah Wright who is working in Grade 3/4H and is continuing to provide a rigorous and consistent classroom program while Mr O'Halloran is recovering nicely following his surgery. We would also like to thank Mrs Maria Babic who helped kick off the term in 3/4H.

School Pride/ Book Work Guidelines

This term the students have been issued with new exercise books and have helped develop their own set of Book Work guidelines. The guidelines are a reminder to the students of the standards that are expected at their level in areas of presentation, care, creativity and pride. It has been encouraging to see how well the students have accepted these guidelines.

Phillip Island Adventure Camp

It was fantastic to see the grade 3/4 students take full advantage of all the wonderful experiences while on camp. They soared through the air on the flying fox and giant swing, practised their balance skills on the low ropes course and bouldering wall, enhanced their hand/eye coordination with archery, developed night vision on the night walk, rambled along the beach and were amazed and lost at Amaze'n' Things.

A huge thank you to our parent helpers for making the camp a memorable one: Eve Britton, Claire Welburn, Adam Humphreys & Shannon Kleehammer.

Reading

Our CARS and STARS comprehension reading program has focused on Recalling Facts and Details, which relates well with our information reports and factual text writing. In the next few weeks we will be looking at Making Predictions, Comparing and Contrasting and Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences. Our group activities will be based around these comprehension strategies.

It is wonderful to see the students really concentrating on their reading, following the expectations of reading groups and continuing to read regularly at home.

Writing

In Writing our main focus this term will be on the features of information reports. We will be investigating the structures of an information report beginning with finding relevant information, skimming and scanning and the skill of summarising. Graphic organisers such as Concept Maps and webs will be used to assist the students to organise and plan their research. The students will be focussing on writing fact files and then constructing a written report with sub-headings and labelled diagrams.



Big Write & VCOP Gang

Throughout the term we will continue to use the Big Write approach to teaching writing with the emphasis begin on the importance of talk and oral rehearsal, the use of V.C.O.P displays to assist with spelling and grammar, referencing the punctuation pyramids, setting realistic targets for the students and giving writing a purpose and making it fun!

Spelling

During spelling sessions the students will continue to use the Soundwaves Program, working on spelling skills and rules. There will be an active focus on proof reading skills and self editing.

Numeracy

Our main focus in maths this term will be Multiplication and Division. The students will complete a pre-test and will be grouped according to their results.

We encourage students to continue practising multiplication and division strategies with an emphasis on learning their times tables.

In Measurement, the students will measure, order and compare lengths, mass and capacity. Grade 3/4 students will investigate area and volume.

Home Learning

Home learning has begun again. Home Learning for Grade 3/4 students reading every night, dictionary meanings for 5 spelling words in the first week and a choice of spelling activities from the Home Learning Contract in the second week. Specific times tables revision each week, a nominated Mathematics task and choosing one activity from the English or Biological Sciences columns each week. A copy of the book work guidelines can be found on the inside cover of the Home Learning book. We congratulate those students who are really putting in the effort and energy that is expected. Please encourage your child to ask their class teacher for clarification of an activity if they are unsure of what to do.

Integrated Studies~ Under The Sea

As part of our Integrated Studies unit for Term 3, the Grade 3/4's will be investigating marine animals and their habitats. The key idea being that living things in the ocean have a sustainable relationship with each other and their environment. Areas that will be discussed will include life forms in the ocean, defence mechanisms of sea life, balance of the life cycle/food chains under the sea, and the effect of humans on the changing ocean environment. A Whole School excursion has been arranged to IMAX and Melbourne Museum on Wednesday 30th August, which looks like being a great day!

Resilience Project

We are fully focused on building resilience in our students here at RPS and are very fortunate to be part of The Resilience Project. This week we met Martin who entertained us with his stories of courage, kindness and gratitude. We have been exploring different ways in our classrooms to promote gratitude, empathy and mindfulness. G.E.M. We are encouraging the students to ask themselves 'What went well for me today?.'



WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Our whole school production 'Get Back Up Again' is well underway with our Grade 6's writing the scripts and storylines. The production will this year be held at the 360 Centre (Planet Shakers) 360 Main Rd, Lower Plenty, on Monday 11th September, and we will be performing both a matinee and evening show. Please keep the date free. More information about tickets and costuming, will be sent home at a later date.

Cheers,

The Grade 3/4 Team