

Respect
Ambition
Community
Confidence



Feb 2024

4/5B Term 1 Newsletter

Dates Term 1

13th Feb – Kaboom Sports IncurSION
16th Feb – National Young Leaders Day (Yr 6 only)
20th Feb – Meet and Greet 3.30 – 5pm
23rd Feb - Eltham District Swim Sports – WaterMarc.
1st Mar - Assembly
11th Mar – Labour Day
13th – 18th Mar – NAPLAN (Yr 3 & 5)
15th Mar - Assembly
12th, 19th & 26th Mar – Health and Human Relations (Yr 5 & 6)
19th, 20th, 25th, 26th, 27th Mar – Yr 3 & 4 Swimming.
21st Mar - Parent/Teacher Interviews
28th Mar – Last Day of Term & Assembly. 2.30 finish.

15th April – Term 2 begins.

NAPLAN (Years 3 & 5) will be administered between 9 & 11am on the above dates. To support your child during NAPLAN, please ensure they are rested and on time to school.

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Grade 4/5B at Research Primary School, 2024. My name is Peter Blackford, the students call me Mr B. I am a local of North Warrandyte and live there with my wife Mel, two children, Owen (12) and Ellie (10), and a forever expanding chocolate Labrador named Obie. We have had a wonderful, smooth start to the year with everyone renewing old friendships and making new ones. This year will be exciting, challenging and rewarding through our combined efforts and hard work.

This newsletter explains the operations of Grade 4/5B in 2024 and is designed to provide an overview of the programs and classroom procedures.

The aim for the year ahead is to provide learning experiences that enable the students to develop independence, resilience, responsibility for their own learning, which promotes leadership skills. We have established a shared vision for the year.

The following staff will be working closely with your child, providing many new, stimulating, and challenging activities throughout the year at Research Primary School.

Specialists: Maryanne Skeen (Science and Technology & Library)
Krista Kepitis (Art), Mark O'Halloran (PE)

Reading

This year we will continue Independent Reading where students are provided a set reading time, giving them the time to practice the explicit reading strategies taught in class. In preparation for Independent Reading, students will focus on how to pick a 'Good Fit' book and build their reading stamina. All students have access to Reading Eggs on-line to support their reading.

The reading strategies we will be focusing on this term are Making Connections, Predicting, Summarising, Inferring and Author Study.

Home Reading is a requirement of all Year 4/5 students. They are to record the number of nights read in their diary/reading logs (record the book title & pages), rather than the number of books they read. We would appreciate your assistance in encouraging your child to read regularly at home and have book conversations.

Writing

Grade 4/5B students are involved in daily writing sessions. Through conversations and discussions, the students are encouraged to broaden and increase their vocabulary. Fun and engaging activities assist in promoting grammar and structure skills. Inspiring prompts and story creation lessons help spark the student's creativity and imaginations. This term we will be focusing on narrative and persuasive writing.

Mathematics

Throughout Term 1 we will cover the areas of Place Value, Patterns, Space (Shape) and Measurement (Angles). Students work at their appropriate level for each topic. Students participate in daily Mathematics sessions and will explore the curriculum through differentiated learning tasks. All students will also have access both at school and at home to Mathletics on-line to support our Numeracy program.

Integrated Studies

During Term 1, Grade 4/5B will undertake an Integrated Studies unit entitled "What makes you ... you? Celebrating Uniqueness" where students will investigate understanding their own strengths, personal qualities, respecting differences, understanding how appreciating diversity contributes to positive relationships and the acceptance of others.

Year 5 will also participate in Health & Human Relations sessions this term.

Home Learning

Home Learning is a part of the classroom program and allows students to develop positive work habits and to manage their time effectively. Home Learning will be handed out on Friday and due back on the following Wednesday. The aim of home learning is for students to take *Personal Responsibility* for their learning at home. Parents are asked to encourage their child to establish a Home Learning routine.

Spotlight Project

This term, as part of our ongoing efforts to foster a strong community of learners, I'm excited to announce that our Years 3-6 students will be embarking on a 'Spotlight' project. Through this project, students will have the opportunity to shine a light on their passions and delve deeper into topics that inspire them. This initiative not only allows students to showcase their creativity, imagination, and knowledge but also encourages self-discovery as they explore their interests and potential areas for growth. I'm looking forward to seeing the culmination of their hard work at the Expo later this term. Stay tuned for more details!

Specialists Classes

Your child will be participating in the following weekly specialist classes this term.

In Science, students will be building their knowledge about human body systems in our Superhuman Challenge – "Could superheroes really exist?". This project involves creating a human being with an astonishing power by including an adaptation that turns the ordinary into extraordinary.

During library sessions, Grade 4/5B students will be encouraged to form views about the behaviour and dilemmas characters face in the stories we read. As students have commenced borrowing, this is a friendly reminder that library books are on loan for 2 weeks.

In Art, 4/5B will investigate portrait drawing and complete a whole school collaborative artwork. They will also design and create a mosaic on mesh, with the finished pieces to be installed in the school.

In PE, our focus will be on the fundamentals and rules of field hockey, tennis, and cricket. We will welcome two coaches from Research Tennis Club who will be leading three tennis sessions. Throughout the year in PE we'll emphasise the importance of teamwork, fun and fair play.

Home – School Communication With Classroom Teachers

I am more than happy to discuss the learning progress of your child with you throughout the year, or any other issues or concerns. I can be emailed through **Compass** online. Please try to avoid catching us after 8.50am in the morning as we are busy preparing for the day. I am unavailable after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays due to staff training.

With the School or Office

The following are the school's contact details:

1570 Main Road Research 3095

Tel: 9437 1917

research.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Wellbeing

The purpose of wellbeing sessions is to address and discuss any issues that may arise in class or in the yard. Through creating an environment of open communication, we aim to improve the wellbeing and mental health of our students with a focus on emotions, thoughts, and self-esteem. In these sessions, students will explore strategies that will help them in challenging situations and continue developing resilience. For example: exploring Cybersafety, anger management, gratitude, and mindfulness.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Grade 4/5B newsletter. If you have any further questions, please reach out to me or you can contact the school directly. I look forward to working successfully with you and your child this year.

Kind Regards
Peter Blackford