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3/4 Term 1 OVERVIEW: 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of 2018 and our first term as learners altogether. It will be both a busy and exciting term as we begin the process of getting to know each other. The grade 3/4 team for 2018 are Mrs Linda Salerno and Mrs Sue Gavin in 3/4A, Mrs Nicky Grujovski in 3/4B and Ms Lena Alsaad in 3/4C. The Specialist teachers working with our team are: Mr Drew El Massouli-P.E and Sport, Ms Lisa Gardiner- Art and Ms Candice Vanzin- Italian LOTE.

During the first few weeks of the year we will be revising aspects of our SEL program which develops confidence, respect and a positive learning environment for all. Our learning area operates within the values of Respect, Resilience and Love of Learning. Alongside this we will be focussing our teaching on literacy and numeracy programs and to a lesser extent, Inquiry Based Learning.

Our Social and Emotional Learning expectations are that all children develop the skills to manage their emotions, manage their reactions, relate well to others, resolve conflict and feel positive about themselves and the world around them. As children build their social and emotional capacity, their problem solving ability increases and they are able to activate their own resilience plan when required. All this work is what we call our SEL (Social and Emotional learning) Program.

Students begin the day with a smooth start. They have been invited to enter the classroom area at ten to nine, unpack their bag, organise materials needed at their table including diary and reader, meet and greet friends and then settle quietly into reading for enjoyment. During this time the home group teacher marks the roll, talks quietly to students, collects money, listens to children read and prepares to start learning experiences promptly at 9:00am.

Communication Processes:

The 3/4 teaching team understand the importance of open communication and welcome the opportunity to clarify and discuss any concerns families may have. You have the opportunity to contact your child's home group teacher via email, phone call or simply via a message written in your child's diary. We will endeavour to respond to your requests as soon as possible. We are available to have pre-arranged meetings in person when the need arises.

Key Learning Areas:

The **Math** foci for grade 3/4 students this term is on assisting children to develop strong number skills including place value and aspects of Measurement and Geometry such as "telling the time" to the nearest five minutes. Number fluency games/activities are conducted at the beginning of each lesson. Concepts are then launched/introduced by the teacher, children in groups/pairs/individually practice the skills using concrete materials if required. Further areas of study this term include number patterns, addition and subtraction, measurement and geometry. We will be setting clear learning intentions and establishing clear success criteria in order for students to develop a deep understanding of concepts. Success criteria also enables students to monitor their progress.

Reading lessons are held daily for one hour and begin with a whole class introduction that incorporates elements of reading comprehension skills such as predicting and making connections. Guided reading groups are conducted following the introduction and then up to two individual reading clinics are held where the teacher helps the child to develop reading goals based on areas for improvement.

Spelling occurs daily for half an hour. Our spelling program is based on using a phonemic approach. This means that throughout the week the children are developing their knowledge that sounds in our language can be represented by many different clusters/groups of letters. Through explicit teaching and word exploration, we will be striving to improve our students' ability to record their thinking accurately when writing.

Writing skills are also specifically developed in a daily one hour lesson. Learning intentions are clear and focus on the student developing understanding of a variety of genres. Our initial writing focus concentrates on the correct structure of a sentence- identifying and using simple, compound and complex sentences in their own writing. Grammar and punctuation are part of the writing hour as is the exploration of specific types of genres such as narratives and persuasive texts.

Speaking and Listening: Students have already identified what Five Star listening looks, feels and sounds like. Good listening requires active attention. It requires the listener to think and organize what is being said mentally. These skills require constant practice and through frequent Brain Break activities we are tuning our students in to developing good listening habits. All students are required to speak in reflective share-time components at the end of each lesson and in Circle Time.

Home Learning Expectations:

Home work will continue to be a weekly expectation. There will be spelling based activities and weekly mathematics home learning. Your child will be expected to complete and submit their home learning by Friday every week. **Your** child will be expected to read daily, learn set spelling words and complete a number problem each week. Once again, it is of vital importance for students to read daily and bring their home reading books to school every day. Students are required to show the teachers their diary each day so teachers can see that students are reading daily. The diary is also an effective way for you to communicate important messages, set up appointments and to give us feedback.

Sport:

During Term 1, Year 3-6 students are involved in training sessions throughout the week to develop the necessary skills for participation in the inter-school Athletics Sports at Meadowglen Athletics Stadium on Wednesday 7th March. Students will practise individual events such as discus, shotput, high jump, long jump, relay running, short distance sprints, long distance runs and triple jump and team events such as tunnel ball and crossball.

After the Athletics day, the sport focus changes to cross country running and the development of skills needed to play soccer, football, netball and rounders for Term 2. Whilst inter-school sport is primarily for Yr 5 and 6 students, opportunities often arise when Year 4 students are required to make up teams. Therefore it is important that our future senior school students develop the skills required to play in team games.

P.E:

I look forward to working with the 3/4 classes this year. In Term 1 the children will be involved in an athletics program. Running, jumping and throwing activities will be the main focus and developing fundamental skills that will be used in athletics. The children will be taught to throw the discus and shot put and refine their running and jumping techniques. The athletic sports day will be held on Wednesday the 7th of March at the Meadowglen Athletics Track. Parents are welcome to come and watch. Please don't forget that school approved hats are required for P.E. lessons during term one.

Visual and Performing Arts:

In Term 1, Visual Art activities will concentrate on *drawing and painting*. Students will explore design elements such as line, shape, colour, texture and space and the principles of pattern, contrast and movement.

Abstract Expressionist, Wassily Kandinsky and Illustrator's, Andrea Joseph and Christopher Myers are the focus artists this term. Kandinsky's paintings will provide inspiration for paintings that show movement. The narrative art of Joseph and Myers will be studied for ideas for a bookmaking project. Each year level (P-6) will create a monochromatic (one colour) self-portrait that will be displayed together this term.

As these art activities can be quite messy, all children need to bring an art smock (an old shirt will do) to protect their school uniform. These need to be named and will be sent home for cleaning at the end of each term.

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Italian:

This year all students at RVPS will participate in a weekly Italian lesson for one hour with Signorina Candice. They are immersed in the Italian language with little English spoken enhancing the literacy skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. All students will engage in a variety of language and cultural activities including: introductions, greetings, information about themselves, basic conversations, songs, listening to and dramatising stories, language games and plays.

Year 3/4 students will continue to explore a variety of communicative language activities to continue building on students' everyday Italian conversational skills. Students will learn how to tell the time in Italian and share daily routines, along with likes and dislike. With the term ending with Easter close by, children will learn about Easter celebrations in Italy.

Uniform Expectations:

Term 1 is a Sunsmart term and all students must wear a school hat for all outdoor activities. Students who do not have their school hat cannot participate in outdoor activities, which includes outside PE lessons as well as recess and lunch breaks. Please remember that your child should have a water bottle each day as teachers allow students to have a drink whenever they feel the need. The slogan "NO HAT, No PLAY", is clearly visible in all classrooms. Our uniform is navy blue pants and a light blue top. Black shorts or black tracksuit/leggings are not part of our uniform and should not be worn to school.

Acceptable Use of Digital Technology Agreement:

Attached to the class newsletter is our Acceptable Use of Digital Technology. This agreement covers use of all learning technologies at school including Laptops, tablets, digital cameras, interactive whiteboards and notebooks. This agreement supports our students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies. The agreement is to be read by both students and parents and signed by students and parents. This agreement **must** be returned to school promptly in order for your child to start/continue to use learning technologies.

Kind regards,

Sue Gavin

Linda Salerno

Nicky Grujovski

Lena Alsaad