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3/4 Term 1 OVERVIEW: 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of 2019 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 2019 are Mrs Nicky Grujovski in 3/4A, Ms Sophia Moshis 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. Our daily teaching has a focus on literacy, numeracy and Inquiry.

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 developing 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 the necessary materials. Further areas of study this term include number patterns, addition and subtraction, measurement and geometry. We will be setting clear learning intentions and establishing relevant success criteria in order for students to develop a deep understanding of concepts. Success criteria 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 conferences are held where the teacher helps the child to develop reading goals based on areas for improvement.

Spelling is based on 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, students' will be encouraged to transfer their learning into their writing.

Writing skills are also specifically developed daily. Learning intentions are obvious and the 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. Grammar and punctuation are explicitly taught through students' exploration of specific types of genres such as narratives and persuasive texts.

Speaking and Listening: All students speak reflecting about their learning during story time at the end of each lesson.

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. Once again, it is of vital importance for students to read 20 minutes 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 Tuesday 5th March. Students will practise individual events such as discus, shotput, high jump, long jump, relay running, short distance sprints, long distance runs, triple jump and team events such as tunnel ball and cross ball.

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:

In Term One the children will be involved in an athletics program. Running, jumping and throwing activities will be the main focus, developing fundamental skills which 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 school athletics day will be held on Tuesday the 19th of February. Please don't forget that hats are required for P.E. lessons this term.

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.

This term, Art activities focus on drawing and painting. Students will explore new skills, techniques and processes. They will combine drawing, painting and collage techniques to create landscapes and 'zentangle' animal artworks. They will study Fauvist art and respond with brightly coloured abstract artworks. 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.

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.

This term, 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 engage in activities to develop their skills in talking about themselves, their 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,

Nicky Grujovski

Lena Alsaad

Sophia Moshis