

BELVEDERE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL



Year 4 Newsletter Term 1 2023

Welcome to the Sanctuary!

Welcome back to the **Sanctuary!** We have been incredibly impressed with how the Year 4s have settled back into school and the daily routine. Just a reminder to make sure you have booked a parent/teacher interview with your child's teacher so we can get to learn more about them. If you have any questions at any time, please don't hesitate to get in contact.



Warm regards,

Sarah McGeary and Kelsey Leggerini.

Important Dates:

Tuesday 14th– 15th: Parent/Teacher interviews

Wednesday 15th February: Rugby Clinic

Tuesday 7th March: AFL clinic

Tuesday 9th March: Division swimming (selected students)

Monday 13th March: Labour Day

Tuesday 15th—16th March: Cooking

Friday 24th March: House Athletics

Thursday 29th March: District Cross Country (selected students)

Friday 6th April: Last day of Term 1 (2:30 dismissal)

Specialist Timetable:

Subject	4M	4W
Art	Wednesday: 10:00	Wednesday 10:00
PE	Wednesday 9:00	Wednesday: 10:00
Performing Arts	Tuesday 9:00	Tuesday 10:00
Digital Technologies	Monday 9:00	Monday 10:00

Literacy

Reading:

We commenced our Café Reading program this week with a focus on building a positive reading community. We will be doing a reading behaviours program looking at all the fundamentals we need the students to understand and practice before we can expect them to be successful readers. We will then work collaboratively with the students to set individual goals through conferencing.

Writing:

We have begun writing sessions this term with Writer's Notebook. A writer's notebook is a tool for helping our students grow into lifelong writers. It is where students capture observations, reactions, ideas, questions, memories, quotes, sketches, lists, or snippets of language. It is a place to experiment, collect, and hold on to thinking. It is unique and personal where students are empowered to make decisions about what goes into the notebook. There are no editing corrections, or scoring rubrics. It is a safe place to experiment, reflect, and grow as a writer. Ultimately, a writer's notebook is a place that holds the inspiration for lengthier writing endeavours in the future.

Later in the term, students will focus on writing information reports. This directly links to our Inquiry Unit, "Earth's Environments." Student will have the opportunity to choose an African or South American country to research, draft and present an information report on.

Spelling:

This year we are continuing with the Jolly Grammar program. They will work through their student workbook, completing a spelling and grammar activity each week. Students will be explicitly taught spelling rules, strategies and conventions with weekly spelling words to practice for homework each week.

Speaking and Listening:

Every day, students will be provided with opportunities to participate in class or small group discussions, to share their work and present their ideas to their peers. We will also be incorporating Circle Time activities throughout the week to develop oral language and provide opportunities for student voice to be heard.

Maths

This term, students will participate in three one-hour Maths group sessions. Students will be tested using Essential Assessments at the beginning of each unit, grouped accordingly and then post-tested to monitor growth. This term's focus is on place value, patterns, chance, and using units of measurement.

Additionally students will participate in weekly fluency games and challenging Maths task sessions to build their automatic response and critical thinking skills.

Inquiry

We will commence inquiry session this year with our Government and Society unit where Students study the role of their local government and the services it provides to their community. They examine how rules and laws affect them and the importance of laws in society. They explore cultural diversity in their community and how belonging to different groups can shape personal identity.

Following this, we will move on to our Geography unit, Earth's Environment. Students will study the natural environments of Australia and other countries in Asia, South America and Africa. They will investigate how humans and animals interact with those environments to survive. Learning about sustainability and looking at some of the sustainable practices around the world encourages

Homework

We have commenced homework for 2023 by focusing on reading. Each night, students are expected to read for at least 15 minutes, record this in their reading diary and have this signed off by an adult. When students finish their reader, they need to make sure that they change it so they continue to have a levelled book to practice each night.

In consultation with the students, we have decided to change the homework for this year to improve engagement. Homework will still include the 15 minutes nightly reading but will be more project-based to further their critical thinking skills. Further details will be available on Compass in coming weeks.

WELLNESS HOUR, HOUSE POINTS AND BEHAVIOUR

This year we are continuing with the same behaviour and reward system as last year. Students



will be utilising a “Good to be Green” behaviour system. As a reward our students will participate in “Wellness Hour”. Wellness Hour is a positive classroom management strategy used



as a popular incentive, usually for good behaviour but is also given for effort, learning and academic achievement. It's something that children look forward to, work towards and aim for so they can do something of

their choice or a ‘fun’ enrichment activity for up to an hour. It can improve teamwork, class spirit and make for positive experiences.

A main aspect of our system are the words: **CHOICE, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and CONSEQUENCE!** These are the four words we live by. Each pupil's behaviour is directly linked to the Friday Wellness Hour. There are clear consequences for not following the rules so when children are confronted with a situation that challenges them, they will learn to think twice and behave with more thought. Each Friday afternoon pupils have a choice of fun activities. Pupils who have been on the behaviour system during the week accumulate consequences starting with the loss of their choice and increasing to the complete loss of their time. We are encouraging pupils to see the connection between their choices throughout the week in the classroom and playground and the ability to participate in weekly rewards.



Uniform

It's great to see many children looking fabulous in the correct school uniform. We are frequently reminding the children about correct articles of clothing and the rules associated with wearing jewelry to school. Please check the Student Dress Code Policy if you have any queries (available on the school website). As it is Term 1, all students are required to wear their broad-brimmed school hats.

