Dear Parents,

This Term Overview provides you with a brief outline of the curriculum the students will be focussing on this term in classroom programs. Other key information and important dates are also included.

**INQUIRY Day Time, Night Time!**

**Big Idea:** There is a relationship between the Sun, Earth and Moon.

**Key Understandings:** *Earth’s rotation on its axis causes regular changes, including night and day.*

*Time is based on a regular and predictable cycle of revolution and rotation.*

In this unit, students explore the sizes, shapes, positions and movements of the Sun, Earth and Moon. They investigate how shadows change throughout the day and link these changes to the Sun’s apparent movement across the sky. Students role-play the movements of the Earth in relation to the Sun and Moon. Through investigations, they explain night and day in terms of the Earth spinning on its axis. In Week 8 there will be an excursion to the Planetarium at Scienceworks to enable students to explore these concepts further.

**LITERACY**

**Reading**

In the first part of the term students will focus on various reading genres to further develop their comprehension. This will help them understand through many examples that texts have different purposes, and that the structure and features of each text should reflect its purpose. For example, they may read texts that persuade the reader or entertain, and this will support the persuasive and narrative writing focus. In the latter part of the term, the strategy of questioning will be a big focus as we go deeper into our inquiry science investigations.

**Writing**

Initially the students will complete their studies of the two genres of persuasive and narrative writing begun during Term One. They will learn how to plan, structure and edit their work, and how to use language appropriate to the purpose of their writing. Then after Week 5, procedural writing will become important as a way of explaining sequences connected with our science inquiry. For example, students may write to explain to another person how to conduct a science experiment to measure shadows. Students will also focus on a series of **spelling and grammar rules** which will be reinforced through group games and dictation.

**Speaking & Listening**

Students will continue to listen and contribute to discussions, sharing information/ideas and respecting others’ views. They will be encouraged to speak before the class in a clear, confident manner with appropriate tone, pace, pitch and volume. This will be supported through Reader’s Theatre sessions and inquiry, for example by explaining what their group discovered during their science experiment.

**NUMERACY**

**Number**

This term students will consider problem solving with these different types of addition and subtraction:

- Change – transforming a quantity by adding to it or taking away from it
- Combine – thinking about two different quantities either separately or combined
- Compare – students compare or combine two quantities

Last term’s foundation work on place value will be used to reinforce a variety of efficient strategies for performing these type of calculations. For example, last term students rounded numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000, and now they may use this as a strategy to estimate an answer to a problem or check if their answer is reasonable. Students will be shown that numbers can be regrouped flexibly in many ways; for example, 75 can be grouped as 70 + 5, or 60 + 15, depending on what suits the purpose. There may be several different pathways towards a solution, and a variety of whole-class and group games will serve to reinforce this.

**Measurement: Time**

The measurement component of the Numeracy program this term will consist of a focus on time. Initially students will focus on telling time to the minute and they will investigate the relationship between units of time, such as analogue and digital time. After these skills have been mastered, they will convert between analogue and digital, or between hours and minutes, and use am and pm notation and solve simple time problems, including interpreting calendars and timetables.

**OTHER**

- **Tuesday, April 26th** – Curriculum Day, Pupil free day
- **NAPLAN testing** - Tuesday May 10th, Wednesday May 11th, Thursday May 12th (for Yr 3 students)
- **Cooking and Gardening Program for 3-4s:** a rotating timetable on Wednesdays throughout the latter part of Term 2.
- **Tuesday May 31st:** Excursion to the Planetarium at Scienceworks. Please let your class teacher know if you are able to help either with the Cooking and Gardening program or the excursion.
- **Monday, June 26th** – 3-way Conferences throughout the day. Students only required to attend school with their parents for their scheduled conference.
- **Student Diaries** – Parents please check and sign your child’s Student Diary daily.