Dear Students and Families,

The grade 3/4 teachers would like to warmly welcome back students and their families to the 2015 school year. We hope that the holiday period was relaxing and enjoyable and we are looking forward to getting to know all the children and supporting them on their learning journey this year.

Our inquiry for Term 1 centres around the idea of community: the various kinds of communities that exist, the values the shape different communities and how public spaces can support the gathering together of community members. As part of this investigation, on Tuesday 17th February, grade 3/4 students will have the opportunity to hear from a visiting architect and a neighbourhood development officer, who will be talking about what is involved in creating public spaces. Additionally, grade 3/4 students will be going on a walking excursion to the Womens’ Peace Garden on Wednesday 18th February, as well as travelling into the city on Friday 27th February to undertake further community space research, through visiting and recording observations of Flinders Street Station, Federation Square, Birrarung Marr, Alexander Gardens, Southbank and Immigration Bridge. All of these experiences will support students in their projects of designing their own community gathering spaces. We greatly value parent involvement on our excursions. If you are able to come along to assist on any of our excursions we welcome your support. Please see the Post Office if you need to organise a Working With Children check.

In maths this term, students will be working on developing their understanding of place value. They will also be exploring the concepts of shape and space through an Inquiry Rich Task in which they will be designing and modelling their own community gathering spaces. Through undertaking this task the students will have the opportunity the build their skills and knowledge in creating and representing 2D and 3D shapes in an applied context.

Within literacy, students will be investigating the structure and features of both fiction and non-fiction texts and working on developing their skills in selecting “Just Right” texts and being “thoughtful readers”. Students will be supported to deepen their comprehension of texts through posing questions before, during and after reading. They will also be learning how to determine whether the answers to their questions can be found in the text or whether they will need to infer the answer from the text, their background knowledge and/or an outside source.

Writing skills will be fostered through the investigation of narrative and persuasive texts in Term 1. Through being engaged with a broad range variety of texts (e.g. magazines, digital texts, short films, advertisement etc.) students will develop their understanding of the purpose and structure and language features these genres, and use this understanding to inform their own writing.

The students in 3/4 will continue to participate in specialist classes in Physical Education, Music, and Art. Class teachers will take sessions in the Library and teach the concepts in Bounce Back.

It is an expectation that 3/4 students do home reading five nights a week. Students are expected to read for at least 20 minutes on weeknights and record this in their student diary. Parents are asked to periodically listen to their child read aloud and ask them to explain what they are reading. The school diary should be brought to school each day, as teachers use them to hand our important notices and check students’ home reading. Students can also access electronic literacy and numeracy tasks through the use of Reading Eggs: www.readingeggs.com and the grade 3/4 website: www.3-4kensington.weebly.com (password: purplepeople). Our school homework policy states that homework should not exceed 3 hours a week for students in years 3-6.

Please feel free to contact us if you would like more information on what is being covered this term.

Kind Regards,

Claire, Louise D, Simone, Melanie, Luba and Andrew.

3/4 Teachers