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

**Big Idea:** Different places have different environmental and human characteristics

**Key Understandings:**
- People have settled in different places within Australia.
- Australia has similarities and differences with its neighbouring countries.
- Sustainability ensures that the environment can continue to support the lives of humans and other living things.

**Key Questions:**
- How and why are places similar and different?
- What would it be like to live in a neighbouring country?
- How does the environment support the lives of people and other living things?
- How can people use places and environments sustainably?

**Concepts:** identity, sustainability

### LITERACY

**Reading**
This term, grade 3-4 students will be focussing on “Thoughtful Reading.” They will be taught to choose “Just Right” books that interest them, using the five finger test. They will learn to monitor their own reading, asking questions when the meaning is lost and using various strategies to solve unknown words. Numerous routines will also be established in class-i.e. independent reading, shared reading, guided reading, buddy reading, home reading and so on.

Most importantly, lessons will continue to develop the students’ love of reading. To this end, the 3-4 teachers would like to encourage students to bring in their favourite book from home to share with their peers. In class, the students will write persuasive pieces, promoting this book to others. Hopefully the children will be inspired to read their classmates’ favourite books.

**Writing**
The students will focus on two different text types in term 1: narrative and persuasive writing. The main purpose of a narrative is to entertain the audience. This is done through the use of unexpected events and imagined or real-life experiences. Usually something goes wrong and the characters need to solve the problem. Yet it can also teach, explain or inform the audience about human experiences.

Persuasive texts express a point of view on a specific topic. The aim is to try and convince the reader to agree with your point of view by giving reasons and examples to support your ideas. Persuasive texts are used to analyse, interpret and evaluate the world around us.

**Speaking & Listening**
Over the course of the term, students will 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, for example, through Reader’s Theatre sessions and in having the children write and present speeches on why they should be chosen as Student Council Representatives.

Some students will also receive literacy support with Kay Headland and Chris Angus.

### NUMERACY

**Number:**
We will begin the year by focussing on place value or, more specifically, understanding how to name, write, read, rename and use numbers. Students will:
- Investigate odd and even numbers.
- Recognise, model, represent and order numbers to and beyond 10 000.
- Apply place value to partition, rearrange and regroup numbers to and beyond 10 000. For example, recognising that 10 000 equals 10 thousands, 100 hundreds, 1000 tens and 10 000 ones.
- Describe, continue and create number patterns resulting from performing addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
Geometry

- Make models of two- and three-dimensional objects and describe their key features.
- Identify and create symmetry.
- Identify angles as measures of turn and compare angle sizes in everyday situations.
- Use simple scales, legends and directions to interpret information contained in basic maps.

OTHER

Homework:
Your child is asked to read at home each night for 20 minutes. They may read a book that belongs to them, issue one out from the school library, or borrow a book from the class home-reading boxes. It is important that you monitor your child’s home reading. Please listen to them read and discuss the books with them. Your child has a list of reading response questions glued into the front of their home-reading diary. These questions should help to guide your discussions. Each night, please sign off in your child’s diary to indicate that they have completed their home-reading.

Students are also expected to learn their times tables at home. We will be teaching the class several games, such as multiplication snap, which they can play with you and/or with their siblings to practice their tables.

In the classroom, we will be using various websites to support the students in their learning. These sites can be accessed at home as well. If you would like your child to undertake additional study at home, please encourage them to log onto the following:
1) 3-4 Kensington http://3-4kensington.weebly.com (Password: purplepeople)

Please ask your child’s classroom teacher for his/her Studyladder and Reading Eggs login details.

Important Dates This Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th February</td>
<td>Three Way Conferences from 2:00pm – 6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26th February</td>
<td>District Swim Carnival at Queens Park (for selected students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1st March</td>
<td>Three Way Conferences from 3:45pm – 6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th March</td>
<td>Waste Management Incursion – considers the impact of landfills and the importance of recycling. The incursion will be provided for free, funded by the City of Melbourne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th March</td>
<td>Bounce Back Parent Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14th March</td>
<td>Labour Day - no school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18th March</td>
<td>Harmony Picnic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
<td>Last Day of Term – school ends at 2:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade 3-4 students will achieve much this year in terms of academic growth, greater self-confidence, and improved social skills. Good communication between parent, teacher and student is very important in effecting such progress. If you have any questions or concerns, please see your child’s teacher to make an appointment.

Kind regards,
Louise Grace, Luba Bojczuk, Claire McKeown, Stuart Mills, Andrew Warmington and Melanie Young