

YEAR 4 PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET - 2019

TEACHERS

Team Leader:

Tony Muir Grade 4TM muir.anthony.r@edumail.vic.gov.au

Year 4 teachers:

Anita Salems	Grade 4AS	salems.anita.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Diane Kassiotis	Grade 4DK	kassiotis.diane.d@edumail.vic.gov.au
Geoff Zielin	Grade 4GZ	zielin.geoffrey.e@edumail.vic.gov.au
Kelly Hall	Grade 4KH	hall.kelly.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
Kirwan Peluso	Grade 4KP	peluso.kirwan.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
Nigel Hooley	Grade 4NH	hooley.nigel.w@edumail.vic.gov.au

OSPS School Values:

*Respect, Integrity,
Excellence, Working Together & Resilience.*

Welcome to Year 4!

Our school day begins at 8:45am. It is essential that students arrive on time to ensure the day begins in a relaxed and organised manner.

- Listening and following instructions is essential in Year 4. Please reinforce this, by making it a priority at home.
- Please be aware we will be encouraging **and** expecting increasing levels of independence and responsibility from the children. This includes organisation of belongings, personal tubs, notes, notices and readers etc. Children should be packing and carrying their own bags to school.

MATHS

- Daily maths sessions allow children to develop mathematical concepts, practise and apply these concepts.
- Problem solving activities.
- Maths Invaders - 4 times a week. Children work on this program at their own level and develop their automatic response using the four processes.
- Mathletics - This is an on-line Maths Program which covers all areas of the Maths curriculum. The school values this program. We have registered and paid for the program and it is available for all children to work on at home as well as school. Accessing the Mathletics program at home is a great way for children to improve their skills.
- Essential Assessments - Online Maths program which assesses student achievement then directly sets lessons for individual children's learning.

- **Addition and subtraction facts, as well as multiplication and division tables** are extremely important so please help your child to learn these.

ENGLISH

Reading:

- Daily morning reading takes place at 8:45am.
- One scheduled Library visit per week to borrow and return, plus other times the Library will be open for Accelerated Reader borrowing.
- Accelerated Reader. Quizzes can be taken before school, or at suitable times during the day as well as in Library borrowing time.
- MyOn reading program being implemented this year. This gives student access to 5000+ books to read online (home or school) and then do the relevant A.R. quiz at school.
- S.R.A. reading program.
- Comprehension activities.

We ask that the children read for at least 20 mins each night and parents are to actively watch and supervise this and sign in their reading diary.

Writing:

- Different text types taught e.g. recounts, information reports, narratives (stories), persuasive, various forms of poetry, explanation reports of 'How things work', etc.
- Editing skills are very important and will be taught.
- Computers are also used to publish final copies of work.
- **VCOP** was introduced into the classes in 2017, which focuses on **V**ocabulary, **C**onnective words and phrases, **O**peners and **P**unctuation.
- **VCOP** also looks at children self-editing and creating goals for future writing.
- Regular punctuation and grammar activities.
- Handwriting - Regular class lessons on letter formation and joining techniques.
- Pen licences are awarded to students who display neat and legible hand-writing in Semester 2.

Spelling:

Children will have a list of words in their spelling and homework folders and are tested on these each Friday. Various levels of achievement are catered for.

These include:

- Basic letter groups covered - e.g. 'oo', 'ar', 'ee', 'ight' words etc.
- Teaching children about spelling and how to approach unknown words.
- SMART Spelling program is being implemented this year.
- Problem solving of new and unusual words.
- How to make use of a dictionary and thesaurus.

Speaking and Listening:

- Basic listening skills - making eye contact, facing the speaker, active listening etc.
- Clear speech - Pronounced correctly with appropriate volume and speed.
- Confidence in speaking to an audience is highly developed, especially during our Grade 4 production.

GROUPS - WRITING & MATHS

- These groups occur twice weekly (Term 1 - Wednesday & Thursdays, starting at 9:00) and with the added support provided by the school, we have 10 teachers available to teach these subjects. These smaller sized groups are to support, consolidate and extend children's learning at a more individualised level and to target a specific focus a particular group might have.

COMPUTERS

- Used as a tool for learning in many areas, e.g. Maths, English, etc.
- Used for reading comprehension quizzes - Accelerated Reader, MyOn.
- Skill development to use programs effectively, e.g. Microsoft Word, PowerPoint & Excel, Publisher and AutoCollage.
- Cyber- Safety: Budd:e

CODING & ROBOTICS

- One lesson per week in the DigiLab

FITNESS

- This is done 3 times per week.
- Children run 2 - 3 laps of the 500m running track.
- A note or email is required if your child has an injury and is unable to run.
- If they are sick, they should be at home recovering.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

These themes cover the areas of Civics and Citizenship, Humanities, History & Science/Technology.

- Term 1 - My Local Community - Civics & Citizenship.
- Term 2 - Australia: 'When Two Cultures Collide.' - History.
- Term 3 - Australia, You're Standing in It! - Geography.
- Term 4 - Inventions That Changed The World - Science.

EVENTS DURING THE YEAR:

Term 1

- Melbourne City excursion - MCG & Eureka Tower (cost \$42).
- Friday March, 29.

Term 2

- Fete - May 4. Parental support to roster on the day is very much appreciated. Each class will have a stall and parents are needed to work on the day for 1 or 2 hours.
- Swimming program - towards end of term at GESAC.

Term 3

- **Production:** 'The Music Man' (date yet to be confirmed). **Note: Parent assistance is required with this to make costumes.**
- **WEEK 4: CAMP - CYC The Island** www.cyc.org.au
- Camp 1: Monday August 5th to Wednesday August 8th.
- Camp 2: Wednesday August 8th to Friday August 10th
- Approximate cost \$320 at this stage - final costings not yet able to be done until numbers are known.
- Further information will be provided early in Term 2.
- This is a terrific camp for children, very clean, very safe and with great facilities run by a very professional crew.
- It is located on a flat venue, very close to doctors and services.
- Children will sleep in heated bunkrooms with a bathroom attached.
- Numbers per room can vary between 4 to 6 children.
- Your child will be placed in a room with a friend.
- **PLEASE** try to make sure your child has slept away from your home away from parents and family successfully, before coming on camp.
- School camp is not a place for **first time away from home** children who are severely homesick.
- If necessary (if your child is severely distressed and can't be settled) you could be rung to drive 2 hours to camp and collect them in the middle of the night.
- Please send back medical and dietary information forms as soon as possible, as they have to be read over, checked for anything not filled in properly, information recorded, information sent to camp etc.
- This all takes much time to do carefully to ensure your child's safety cannot be done at the last minute.
- Tell us in advance if your child has any needs we should be aware of - please do not tell us very important information as we are boarding the bus.
- Read forms carefully and fill in all accurate details - especially dietary and medical information Medicare Number, tetanus details, etc.
- If you have any concerns or questions about camp - we could have an information session early in Term 2, OR we could have a parent FAQs page where you as parents email a list of questions to Tony Muir (Year 4 Camp Organiser) and they are answered in a notice to all parents.
- Please email: muir.anthony.r@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Please assist Tony Muir by asking any questions you have early or during Term 2 and not just before the camp.

Term 4

- Healthy Skills for Life (at this stage).
- Craftpower technology incursion - This is an excellent 'hands on' woodworking activity which the children really enjoy each year and make a miniature go-cart.
- Approximate cost \$15.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

- Art - Rochelle Hunt
- Japanese - Mami Martin & Sumiko Ranjitkumar.
- P.E. - Marcus Mooney & Nathan Beaumont or Brad Cantlon.
- Music - Lemone Meyer & Elaine Wilkinson.
- Music Group/Choir - Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:30 in the Music Room with Mrs Hall, Mr Zielin, Miss Wells and Mrs Meyer.

SPORT

- Regular fitness sessions are conducted to develop the children's motor skills and improve their fitness.
- Swimming Program - All children are expected to attend the swimming program as it is now an essential part of the school curriculum for safety reasons. Please support us with this program, or if you have any questions, please speak to your class teacher or Year 4 Co-ordinator Tony Muir.

HOMEWORK

The aims of homework tasks are to reinforce and to develop academic skills and to encourage good work habits.

Homework includes:

- Home reading - Children are expected to be reading for **20 minutes each night.**
- Please monitor your child's reading and sign the reading diary after each session.
- Spelling weekly words - Practise words at home and complete a spelling activity per week.
- Athletics - Assigned tasks (or student selected) to be 1000 points per week.
- Occasionally incomplete work may be sent home for finishing off.

PREP BUDDIES

- Grade 4 children are allocated Prep buddies to help them settle into their first year of Primary School.
- Occasional class activities are spent together, some playtimes etc.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR & CIVIC PRIDE

- Whole school focus on School Values and manners - Key Words - 'Please', 'Thank You', 'Excuse Me', 'Pardon'.
- This is an expectation.
- Reinforcement at school of polite ways of behaving.
- Home support with this is essential as: *'A polite child at home is a polite child at school'*.
- Class Rules - Discussed with the children.

NO WRAPPER DAY - WEDNESDAY

- On Wednesdays, please try to send your child to school without plastic, foil or Glad Wrap wrappers and use re-usable containers.
- This is to reduce the amount of rubbish in the yard.
- Your assistance is required and appreciated.

UNIFORM

- Uniform is compulsory. **Parental support is essential.**
- Uniform policy is on the school website.
- Hats are compulsory in **Terms 1 & 2 until May 31 and from the beginning of September.**
- No hat = **'Reading inside'** rule.
- Please provide a note if your child is not in uniform on a particular day.
- Jewellery - mostly not allowed. Only sleepers, ear studs are allowed.
- Only family religious neck jewellery is allowed (these must be worn under the t-shirt for safety reasons).
- Netball skirts are **not** a part of school uniform.
- Hair ties - Green, white or black only.
- Slippers or alternative footwear is required for indoor use.
- Roller shoes - not to be worn at school.

PUNCTUALITY

- Children need to be at school by 8:50 am at the latest to come inside, unpack and commence reading.
- Parental support is necessary with this.
- Please help your child to develop good life long habits by being punctual.

ABSENCES

- You must tell us when your child is absent.
- If the school has received no message from you about your child being away, they will be marked **ABSENT** and the school will SMS you asking for confirmation that you are looking after your child.
- This will occur around 10:00AM.
- This is a very important child safety requirement.

SICKNESS

- **Unwell children must be cared for at home until recovered.**
- Children who are unwell at school suffer unnecessarily and don't learn well. Children work in close contact with others and illnesses can be easily spread.
- Please send absence notes when your child returns to school if you haven't already emailed the teacher or rung the school.
- This is a government requirement that the staff at Oakleigh South Primary School are expected to ensure.

TISSUES

- Please send along 2 boxes of tissues for the children to share during the year.
- You don't have to do it in Term 1.
- Winter terms are a good time to send in a box of tissues.

TOYS/MOBILE PHONES

- We will collect and take care of inappropriate or expensive/electronic toys brought to school.
- Beyblades are now banned.
- Mobile phones **MUST** be left at the office. **This is a safety issue.**

RESILIENCE & SELF ESTEEM

'Able to bounce back from adversity or similar situations'

- All children need to experience success **AND** failure to achieve self-confidence.
- Children **must be allowed** to experience failure, disappointment and some adversity, in order to develop resilience and coping strategies as well as an ability to put things into perspective.
- Children who are not given the opportunity to experience the natural '**ups and downs**' of life, or to be actively challenged can become overly fearful and anxious.
- Self-confidence comes from the experience of facing a variety of situations coping with either success, or difficulty.

PROBLEMS and CONCERNS

- Please come and see us re work concerns, everyday issues etc. Most problems can be investigated and smoothly resolved through parent/teacher communication.
- **Always bear in mind there may be more to the story than what your child has explained to you.**
- It is parents' natural reaction to protect their child. Having an open mind is very helpful about such issues.
- Always ask yourself 'What **hasn't** my child told me?'

- It is natural for children to only remember what is important to them, however there may be more issues involved.
- **DO NOT** let playground problems continue unresolved. Speak to your child's teacher.
- Help your child to speak to the teacher concerned. This is part of their growing maturity. If they tell you about a problem, ask and expect them to speak to the teacher first.
- If after several attempts they are unable to do this - come and speak to us.
- We **WILL** follow these issues up and act upon any issues of concern.
- However it is not possible to support you and your child if we aren't informed of problems and concerns.
- Children will make mistakes in their decisions, judgement, actions and behaviour.
- This includes other children behaving inappropriately to your child and possibly your own child behaving inappropriately to others.
- This is a completely normal part of childhood.
- **IT IS NOT** a reflection of your parenting skills, if your child makes an incorrect decision.
- Please support us to encourage positive behaviours in all our children.
- **NOTE: Do not under any circumstances, directly approach other children in the yard to sort playground problems out. This is an extremely serious matter and almost always results in the situation becoming worse, rather than better.**
- **PLEASE** allow the class teachers, year level co-ordinator (Tony Muir), Assistant Principals (Nikki Virtuoso) or Ron Cantlon (Principal) to deal with such concerns.

SCHOOL & HOME COMMUNICATION

- Please download 'FlexiBuzz' and Qkr! to your Android or Apple phone. FlexiBuzz is the main way the school communicates with you. Newsletters, communicate last minute news with parents via SMS:
e.g. *'The bus will be late home from the Year 4 Camp'*.
You must select the year levels which apply to your child.

- Newsletter - Is now **only accessible online** at <http://oakleighsouthps.vic.edu.au/> or on FlexiBuzz.
- FlexiBuzz will alert you via **sms** when each new edition is uploaded to the website.
- Please make sure your phone numbers and email addresses are up to date with the school.

EXCURSION PERMISSION & PAYMENT FORMS

- Now available on Qkr!
- These are also available on the school website for download.
- Permission forms have gone back to being signed on paper and returned to class teachers.

NOTE: For URGENT matters, please phone the school direct on 9570-1016.

We look forward to your continued support and to a very happy and productive year working with your children.

Thank you for your support.

The Year 4 Team.

And a final request:



© yayayoyo * www.ClipartOf.com/1053643

AMBULANCE!

Do YOU have Ambulance Victoria 'Family Cover'?

OSPS strongly recommends this for the safety and security of your child.

In case of any emergency, the school IS REQUIRED to call an ambulance for your child's safety.

Thank you.