

Grade 3/4 Newsletter

Term 1, 2015

Welcome to grade 3 /4 at Morang South Primary School. Firstly, let us introduce ourselves:

HG 09 - Karen Jeffrey

HG 13- Emilia Iaconis and Connie Constantinou

HG 14 - Jess Barden

HG 15- Amy Murray

HG 16 - Josie Dell'Aquila.

It was great to meet many of you at our recent information night. We hope that you found it informative.

An mp3 recording of the evening is available. If you would like a copy, please email:

young.sandi.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

Unit- This term our unit is called "Let's Do It Together" This unit focuses on the setting up of routines, processes and expectations for the coming year. As part of this unit, we also address the MSPS values and how these can be demonstrated in our classrooms, specialist classes and the playground. Our class agreement has been established, and you will have received a copy from your child. **Please ensure that these are signed and returned to school.**

We have also focused on the concept of both personal and communal responsibility and how this impacts on everyone's right to learn and work.

It is important that students **developing resilience** as they grow and develop. Resilience is that ability to resolve every day challenges. It is also about developing skills in managing their own emotions and learning how to deal with conflicts which may occur in their relationships with other children. **KidsMatter** is an integral component of this program. This program aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of primary school students and provides support for families.

Later in the term our topic will be **'We are all part of a community.'** Our school is a community. We will look at issues which may affect our school, eg rubbish in the school grounds, and discuss ways of improving the situation.

Netbooks



There has been great excitement in the 3 /4 when the netbooks were distributed. Please ensure that all the permission forms have been signed and returned to school and that you have made your payment arrangements with Jenny in the office.

The grade 3 netbooks will remain at school for the moment and we will advise you when students will be able to bring them home.

The grade 4 children will be bringing their netbooks and charger home soon. Please speak with your child about looking after them. The netbooks need to be charged at home. They are an important learning tool and children need to be responsible for ensuring that they are ready for use each day.

Homework

The children have 2 homework books - one is **Write to Read** and the other is **Maths**. There is important information included in both of these books which explain the task or offer a resource if you need it.

Write to Read

The students are learning about the 70 phonograms (codes representing the 45 basic sounds of English) by hearing, saying, seeing and writing them. A phonogram is a single letter or combination of 2, 3 or 4 letters that is a written symbol for a sound in a word. They will also learn the spelling rules.

During the week students will be introduced to a number of the phonograms and will continue to work on these in class. However it is important that this practice is supported at home so that these codes become automatic recall.

The **Write to Read homework** activity focuses on the rule for the week. The children are asked to sound check or syllable check the word and explain the rule. By doing this, the children can explain why a word is spelt in a particular way.

Over the coming weeks, **parent classes** will be offered for anyone who would like to gain a better understanding of this approach. These sessions will be on **Tuesday March 17** and **Wednesday March 18** at **2.30 - 3.30**. More details will be provided in the newsletter.

The **Maths** homework focuses on the development of **problem solving strategies**. The children work on one problem a week and explain how they have solved the problem. There are also some extension activities for those who would like to do a little extra. **Our expectation is that children will always complete their work to the best of their ability.**

Children are expected to read each night for 15-20 minutes and record the title of the book and the number of pages they have read in their student diary.

Children can read books from the classroom, our school library or the local Mill Park Library, or books they have at home.

CHILDREN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHOOSING THEIR BOOK AS WELL AS CHANGING IT.

Homework is always discussed and explained before it goes home on Monday. It is then due back on Friday. If children do not bring their homework on Friday, they will have the opportunity to complete their homework during 'Homework Club' at lunch time.

Of course, we know that, at times, children are unable to complete their homework due to family commitments. Please put a note in your child's reading diary if this is the situation for you. We ask that **parents sign their child's homework each week, as well as their reading diary**. Please encourage your child to complete their diary and sign it when you have seen it.

Swimming



Swimming will begin in term 2. The dates are: May 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19
Permission forms will be sent home shortly.

COMING EVENTS

DATE	
Friday March 6	JSC Ride to School day
Monday March 9	Labour Day holiday
Wednesday 11 March	Regional Swimming
Monday March 16	Assembly hosted by HG 16
Friday March 20	Crazy Hair Day
Monday March 23	Assembly hosted by school leaders
Tuesday March 24	Student led conferences
Friday March 27	Assembly 1.45 Easter Raffle Students dismissed at 2.30pm

Learning time is valuable. There are a number of students who need to go to the toilet more frequently than normal. We encourage the students to visit the toilet during first and second lunch, as well as before school.

Please let your child's teacher know if your child has any medical conditions that require him/her to visit the toilet more frequently.



Please ensure that you read all the notes which come home as this is an important way for you to be informed about what is happening in our school.

Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher if you have any concerns so that any issue can be addressed as soon as possible.

We look forward to working together this year.
Grade 3 /4 team