

February 2017

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Term 1 Overview

TR5 Year 4 Mertz Building



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Welcome to term one and to year four. We will generally spend the first few weeks building up our routines, expectations and creating new relationships. This is important because it enables me to plan more engaging and relevant learning opportunities to match your children's skills and interests this year. It also means we get to make a team, that enables a safe place for learning with respect, a growth mindset and by being powerful learners.

Our class will continue to work in a variety of ways with the rest of the school. We have Steve's year fours (TR6) next door and will work collaboratively with them as well as our buddy class of Casey's year twos, across the creek in E33. We will also work with the other straight and mixed year four classes. We will do this as individual classes, in small groups and as a large cohort for a variety of activities.

The following is my overview for this term and it should be noted that, it is flexible, as individual student needs may require modifications to best suit our learning intentions.

Welcome to TR5 and I hope we have a positive and rewarding year working together. Please let me know if there is any way I can better help the needs of your child by visiting me or dropping me a note.

English

Our main focus this term will be on the narrative and description genres. This will include exploring, developing and writing our own texts to share. Through this we will be looking at structure, spelling, grammar and appropriate punctuation.

As part of the whole school reading agreement we will continue to work through the skills of being good readers and develop greater reading comprehension by practicing the skills in our daily reading groups. Hopefully, your children are using visualising, summarising, determining importance and the others in their reading at home with you. In class, we will revisit and explore these and the others in greater detail with increasingly more complex texts.

Students will continue to practice and improve their spelling by using appropriate strategies and self-checking to identify and correct errors. We are also using the skills of good listeners to listen to others and give constructive feedback that is respectful and useful.

Mathematics

In mathematics, this term our focus is initially on number sense and we will investigate and explore financial maths and measurement. We continue to work with Anne Baker this year and build upon the good work from year three and their work on natural maths strategies. We will also visit one NAPLAN question per week to deconstruct and use better strategies when problem solving.

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Important Dates:

Term 1 begins

30th January

Acquaintance Night

Tuesday 14th of February

External Review

6th and 7th of March

Three Way Interviews

Week beginning 3rd of April

Last Day of Term 1

Thursday 13th of April

(2:00pm dismissal and casual day with gold coin donation)

Good Friday

Friday 14th of April

Our maths lessons have two main styles; regular maths games to build skill and speed as well as our daily maths lessons which start with a mental routine, explore and work through a problematised situation and finish by reflecting on different strategies used and the efficiency of their choices to make us accurate problem solvers.

Other Learning Areas

This term we will focus mostly on science, technology, technologies, visual arts, civics and citizenship. Our HASS subjects of history and geography will be briefly linked, where appropriate but not have a major focus until term two. Students will continue to explore the Child Protection Curriculum in class to support safe behaviours and safe personal development.

In science, we are exploring chemical sciences and will investigate how natural and processed materials have a range of properties that can influence their use. This will link with our technology work around different materials being matched to a product in this case our first classroom improvement project being to build a USB storage device or to make our class chairs more comfortable and efficient at storing personal items.

In visual art, we are pairing up with Steve's class to explore Aboriginal art and artists.

In civics and citizenship, we are exploring the differences between rules and laws and how this affects our lives and the lives of other people and cultures.

Specialist Teachers

We now have a specialist lesson every day. Please refer to the note in your child's communication book which highlights when and where your child will be. This is especially important for late drop offs, early pick-ups, flood days and hot lunch deliveries.

Three Way Interviews

Our annual three way interviews will be in week 10 this term. Booking information will be available in the next few weeks. However, please feel free to see me before this if you have any queries or concerns. If it is brief, please visit me before or after school. If you would like to make an appointment for more detailed conversation, then use the communication book or email me on the address below.

I look forward to working with you, in making this a positive and powerful year of learning and development for your child.

Kind regards,

Justin Grubb

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