

Year 4 Teaching and Learning – Term 3

Welcome back to term 3!

We hope that you have all had a restful winter break, you stayed warm and your energy levels are back to optimum after a big term. Term 2 was full of fantastic learning, and a lot of hard work towards the end of our inquiry celebration as demonstrated through the 'Festi-Well'.

As we enter a new term, students will continue to build on to their knowledge from the previous two terms of 'What makes a good citizen?', 'Mind Body and Emotion', Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day learning's to engage with our term 3 topic 'Australia's First Peoples'.

During term 2, we saw children utilising their knowledge of MBE to assist them in following the school rules of safe, fair and friendly behaviours in the playground. The creativity of the students at Westgarth was also apparent with the design of their huts, the fair play during team games, and the development of rules that create fun and engaging play in a myriad of ways.

Student Wellbeing

Following our incursion of 'Being Brave' students will continue to engage in social and emotional learning through the KidsMatter framework and the Mind-Up program.

Students will continue to learn strategies to self-regulate, build respectful relationships, self-esteem and resilience. Grade 4 Camp is a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with a range of students and teachers on a different level, and to engage in activities that put students out of their comfort zones allowing them to put into practice their social and emotional learning.

The grade 4 teaching team would like to acknowledge the ongoing support from parents, grandparents and carers that is endlessly provided both at home and school. As always please come and speak to your classroom teacher if there are any concerns no matter how minor they may seem.

We look forward to another fantastic term with all of you,

Year 4 teaching team: Christine, Dorothy, Glenn, Tom and Rosie (Welcome back to Ruby in 4CD, M.Teach student)

Important dates /Upcoming events

19 th July	Paralympian talk
2 nd August	Athletics
3 rd August	Parent /Teacher Interviews
19 th August	District Athletics
22-26 th August	Book Week/ Excursion to the Museum
27 th August	Astronomy night
7-9 th September	Grade 4 Camp
16 th September	Last day of term



Grade 4's incredible Festi-Well was a fantastic example of the amazing work that the students at Westgarth produce.

What we are learning this term in the classroom

ENGLISH

Reading and Viewing

In term 3, students will be continuing their focus on comprehension strategies with particular focus on Compare and Contrast, Author's Purpose, Fact and Opinion, Making Predictions, Cause and Effect and Word Meaning in Context. Students will read in literature circles on a regular basis with each member taking on a role of discussion director/questioners, connector, summariser, vocabulary enricher, literary luminary, travel tracer, illustrator. Over the term students will read a novel together and through discussions will emphasise meaning through the use of comprehension strategies. All grades will be reading a class novel and will participate in accompanying comprehension activities that align with book.

Writing

Linking in with our inquiry unit 'Australia's First Peoples' students will be continuing on with Information Reports and beginning a unit on poetry. The emphasis will be on the different structures required for the variety of genres that students are writing, adding to narrative, snapshot and persuasive writing. Students are encouraged to use their reading skills such as figurative language and their punctuation use will be extended with the use of the VCOP program that began last term.

Speaking and Listening

As part of the inquiry unit, students will be engaged in speaking and listening activities which encourage a focus on oral tradition, the performing arts, song, and dance wherever possible. Students will be presenting stories of their own to share with their class and in small groups to encourage a stronger understanding of cultural traditions held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

MATHEMATICS

Number and Algebra

In number students will be focusing on the topics of multiplication and money. You can assist your children by encouraging the practise of multiplication facts in their weekly homework, and asking your child to describe what strategy they have used. For money, use incidental occasions in real life contexts where your child can be involved in using money. E.g. Using spare change in your pocket for fun money games can be a really great way to encourage the consolidation and development of your child's money skills.

Measurement and Geometry

Over term 3 students will be looking at shape, transformation and time through a variety of hands on activities. Students will look at 3D shapes and the 2D shape components that make up the different 3D shape varieties. Students will be learning to tell the time to the nearest minute, looking at 2 hour time and comparing 12 and 24 hour time. This is another great opportunity for families to encourage their child's development through incidental moments when getting ready for school, sporting games, catching public transport etc. Please encourage your child to be reading the time and discussing it whenever possible.

Statistics and Probability

Camp Maths

Students will be using their mathematics skills and applying them in real-life situations relating to camp. For example they might collect data by surveying their peers to create a graph, timing one another on different obstacle courses or whilst on kitchen duty. They may also get an opportunity to take the temperature in their cabin rooms daily to monitor the changes over the 3 days.

INQUIRY- Australia's First Peoples

Term 3 sees the grade 4s engaging with Australia's history. Students will be discovering significant events in chronological order, understanding different perspectives from people from the past as best as possible.

The key understanding for term 3's inquiry is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have survived and changed for thousands of years, before and after European settlement.

Some key question examples that students will be looking at 'Who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples? What are the connections between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country and Place?

Students homework will also be centered around our inquiry topic and we encourage you to assist your child in researching, having discussions, and assist their curiosity when relevant articles occur in the news.

What we are learning this term in specialist classes

Specialist timetable								
	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Physical Education	3/4 Glenn	4 Tom	4 Christine/Dorothy		4 Rosie			
Music	3/4 Glenn		4 Rosie		4 Christine/Dorothy		4 Tom	
Science/Spanish	4 Christine/Dorothy		3/4 Glenn	4 Tom			4 Rosie	
Art/Spanish	4 Rosie		4 Tom		4 Christine/Dorothy	3/4 Glenn		
Kitchen/ Garden						4 CD	4 Tom	3/4 Glenn 4 Rosie

Physical Education- Rushe and Aimee

This term is all about athletics! The grade 4s will be practising for the track and field events that all students will be competing in at our annual House Athletics Day, which will be held on Tuesday August 2nd. The focus will be on trying your best, team spirit, having fun and being a great 'sport'. Towards the end of term the grade 4s will be learning basketball, netball and AFL.

Music- John and Clare

Grade 3 and 4 will continue to learn the recorder this term. Students will also sing and play many different instruments in an ensemble setting such as bass, drum kit, piano and guitar. Building at note reading, composing their own songs, working with others and playing orchestral arrangements and chord charts. At WPS we strive to include theory as part of weekly lessons so that by the end of grade 6 students will have a solid foundation should they wish to continue their music studies.

Science/Spanish

Year 4 students will keep on exploring the living things around them. They will learn about the different animal habitats and investigate the role of living things in them. They will also complete hands on experiences to recognise the environmental factors that can affect these. Students will continue to develop their vocabulary relating to animals, plants and their characteristics.

Art/Spanish

In term three students in grade four will to continue their project on daily routines, illustrating one day in their lives using different art materials and techniques. They will learn about the jungle of Amazonia and create some elements of the jungle inspired by artists such as Henry Rosseau and Georgia O'Keefle. Along the way students will continue to develop their Spanish vocabulary to be able to communicate in the Spanish/Art classroom. To find out more about what we are doing in the Spanish classrooms you can visit the Spanish website <http://wgpspanish.wix.com/westgarthspanish>