Introduction
Welcome back to our first term in 2014. We trust that you had a safe and enjoyable holiday with your family.

It is pleasing to see the enthusiasm with which students have commenced the year. Programs have begun smoothly, beginning of the year testing is being carried out, along with activities to establish classroom routines and expectations.

Parent Information
Term one is a Sun Smart term and students are expected to wear their school hats. If you are placing sunscreen on your child please make sure it is done so at home. Please encourage your child to bring bottled water to school, as this will improve their concentration as the weather warms up.

Parent Teacher Information sessions will be conducted on the 26th of February. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and teachers to meet and discuss the academic and personal needs of your child.

A Homework sheet will be handed out on each Monday and we ask that parents encourage their children to complete homework tasks to their best ability and return it on the Friday.

Reading is an important part of homework and all children are expected to read each night. Reading Log Books need to be completed by the students every day.

Please ensure your child’s clothing, hats and belongings are all labelled so they can be returned if misplaced.

If your child is absent or late to school, a note or phone call explaining your child’s absence is required.

Curriculum Overview

English
This term students will begin by setting up the classroom library and revising the Five Finger Rule by selecting Just Right Books for Independent Reading. Students will continue to use the comprehension strategies to explore different genres of texts and set goals to improve their reading skills. They are recording their reading experiences in their reading journals.

In Writing, students are creating and personalising their own Writers’ Notebook. Students will learn to expand ideas freely and to implement effective writing strategies into their own narrative writing. They will continue to develop their understandings of spelling patterns, grammar and punctuation cues. Students will make generalisations in these areas and place their findings on classroom literacy walls for further reference.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, students will be further developing their knowledge in the following strands: Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability.

Students will increase their knowledge and understanding of Number and Place Value, addition, subtraction and 2d shapes through activities and Open-Ended tasks. Students will record their findings in a variety of ways using the Problem Solving Strategies.

Students will explain their understandings and findings through reflective maths journals and maths dictionaries.

Teachers and students will discuss mathematical vocabulary for each strand and decide on a common mathematical definition to be placed on the numeracy wall for future reference alongside student examples.

In both English and Maths, teachers continue to confer-ence and set goals with students to encourage re-sponsibility of students’ own learning.

Inquiry Unit

Inquiry Topics for Term 1

“Relationships”
This term grade 3 and 4 students will be looking at “Relationships — Values and Learning”

We want students to understand:
The impact of personal choices and values that contribute to self worth and the development of positive relationships.

We will be asking questions like:
• What are values?
• How do my values and beliefs affect my self worth?
• How do my values and beliefs affect my ability to develop relationships?

As part of the Inquiry topic, the children will participate in activities presented by Responsible Pet Education. The grade 3/4 students will learn about living safely with dogs.

Students will participate in outdoor environmental sessions to develop positive links and appreciation of our natural environment.

The 3/4 students will also participate in Friday sport sessions. This will involve skill sessions for cricket, newcomb, tee ball and bat tennis. Children will also participate in badminton and hockey clinics.

We look forward to your continued support.
Many thanks from the Grade 3/4 Team.
Lewis Bainbridge (room 3)
Jenny Sipthorp (room 4)
David Jaggard (room 5)
Fay Kapp. (support staff)
**Visual Arts**

Throughout Term 1, the children will continue to explore the elements of art such as line, colour, shape and pattern. The Artworks of Wassily Kandinsky will be viewed, giving children inspiration to complete their own artwork.

In the lead up to Harmony Day, the children will briefly learn about different cultures and complete activities, including a paper geometric tile mosaic, relating to the theme, ‘Everyone Belongs’.

The children will contribute to the Art in Public Places display at the Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre. This year’s theme is ‘The Age of the Dinosaur’.

Could children please be supplied with an art smock to protect their clothing during art. An old oversized shirt, clearly labelled with their name would be fine. Art smocks will not be stored in the art room and will become the responsibility of the child. Please become aware of the day that your child has art so that you may remind them to bring their art smock to school. Thank you.

Deb Morgan

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**Sustainability**

The students are encouraged to be aware of the need to care for the environment in which we live in, through every day actions and behaviours. Monitors from each grade are responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products. Throughout the year the students will participate in an environmental education session in the worm room, and be involved in the hands on practical understanding of how their waste is recycled at ANPS using the school’s worm farms/paper and cans/plastic recycling programs.

In grade 3/4 the student are responsible for the management of the recycling bins in the eating areas of the schoolyard. Students are encouraged to show leadership with monitors from each grade being responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products.

This year we look forward to 2 major projects, the construction of our second “Garden wall” which will further enhance our school ground and learning landscape, and the building of the “Vegetable Garden”. Both projects are exciting initiatives in the development of the school’s environmental and sustainability program. We look forward to the student participation components in these projects throughout the 2014 school year.

Wal Raghdo

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**Health and Physical Education**

During Term One the 3/4 students will be participating in team based games and activities. The students will be learning about teamwork and will develop skills and strategies that will be transferred to game situations.

The students will experience the fun and enjoyment of exercise and they will be encouraged to discuss the importance of living a healthy and active lifestyle.

Throughout the term the students will be challenged with fitness circuits that will assist in maintaining their general fitness. The students will participate in a 20m shuttle run test to determine their current individual fitness level and will allow them to use the results from this test to set personal fitness goals.

Lynette Soto

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**Music and Performing Arts**

During term one in Music & Performing Arts, grade 3/4 students will focus on studying and playing the Ukulele and Percussion instruments.

Students will learn basic music theory and start to appreciate and remember chords, notes, melody and song structure. There will be a focus on developing and building musical skills such as co-ordination, timing, rhythm, practise and performance. This will be done through playing the songs as a class, in small groups and individually. Students will work together to develop and rehearse a performance, which will be assessed at the end of term.

All students will use journals to record and reflect on their Music & Performing Arts lessons. These will also be used to write and keep any music, lyrics, practice schedules or ideas they may have in and out of class.

There will be opportunities for students to audition for the ANPS Junior and Senior choir as well as the Instrumental group. We encourage students who may study an instrument or own an instrument to practice on outside of school to participate in this program.

Cassie McCawley

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**Computers**

During this term, the children will use programs such as Kidspiration, Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint to design concept maps about themselves, for their Inquiry Unit titled, ‘Relationships, Life – Let’s Be In It’.

The students will develop their skills of searching the internet for relevant information, true facts and images. They will use this information to create visual representations of their ‘Life’.

Joanne Jackson