February 2016

Welcome to the
Grade 4 Learning Community!
We are a learning community that consists of children and teachers from two home groups sharing an open plan learning space. Although each student has a home group teacher, you can speak to either Ellie or Declan if you have a question or message about your child.

Notes And Money
Please make sure that all notes and money that come to school are clearly labelled with your child’s name and what it is for e.g. book club, and safely sealed in an envelope or plastic bag.

The rule for Terms 1 & 4 is
‘No Hat? No Play!’
We ask that children leave their hat in their locker at school so that it is on hand for recess and lunchtimes every day.
Parent Helpers Wanted!

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for you to come into the classroom as a classroom helper or to come along on excursions. You must have a current Working with Children Card to do this.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE.

If you would like to help on a regular basis in the classroom please see Ellie and let her know the days and times you are available.

Fresh Fruit Friday

Every Friday the school provides the children with a variety of fresh fruit for their snack. We encourage children to bring only fruit, yoghurt or cheese for their snack on this day. This is to promote healthy eating habits.

Learning to Learn

Brain Food Breaks

As part of the ‘Learning to Learn’ program, the students of the Grade 4 Learning Community came up with the idea of having ‘Brain Food Breaks’ during blocks of learning time. Therefore, students will have the opportunity to eat fruit or vegetables during our two-hour learning blocks, to provide their body with the fuel needed for learning.

If you would like your child to participate, please pack some extra fruit/vegetables to eat during the day. We would appreciate foods that are simple to eat e.g. apple, banana, carrot, blueberries etc. Fruit and vegetables that are in packaging or require utensils can be eaten at regular break times.

Hydration

As part of the ‘Learning to Learn’ program, the Grade 4 students learnt about the importance of hydration for our learning. We encourage you to pack a drink bottle for your child to keep in our classroom ‘Hydration Station.’ We will be encouraging our students to have regular drink breaks to keep their bodies hydrated and their minds ready to learn!
Important Reminders

Just a reminder that all students must bring their reading folder to school every day.

A reminder that all students will need to bring an art smock so that they can fully participate in our creative arts program. There are a limited number of smocks available in the art room if your child forgets, however, they do not adequately cover and protect school uniforms.

1:1 Netbook Program

The teachers and students of the Grade 4 Learning Community are excited to be continuing with the 1:1 netbook program this year. The netbooks will be used for a variety of purposes throughout the year and will support your child to develop fluency with Information and Communications Technologies.

**Students should come to school with their netbooks charged and ready to go each day.**

When the bell rings at **8.45am** they can put their netbooks on the appropriate shelf and their bag away, then wait outside until the music sounds to line up.

Students and teachers are currently working on our Grade 4 Digital Technologies Acceptable Use Agreement. The aim of this agreement is to ensure all students have a clear understanding of the expectations in regards to using ICT in the school, home and public domains. The agreement will help to develop a consistent approach to cybersafety between home and school. This agreement will be sent home later this term and will need to be signed by both the students and their parents/guardians.

**eSmart**

Newport Gardens Primary School proudly participates in the eSmart Schools program. The eSmart Schools program supports our students to become safe, responsible and smart users of ICT.

For further information about the eSmart Schools program, or about cybersafety, please see;

https://www.esmartschools.org.au/Pages/default.aspx
Homework
The Homework Matrix will handed out to students this week with **2 Homework tasks** due **every Thursday**. If for some reason your child cannot hand in their homework for a particular week, please speak to their home group teacher. Your support with this is much appreciated.

‘Show & Share’ Program
Last week, a note went home regarding our ‘Show & Share’ Program and the date your child has been selected to bring in an artefact to share with their peers. The program aims to further engage our students with our inquiry themes and to develop essential speaking and listening skills. Your child is not required to complete any tasks from the Homework Matrix the week of their Show & Share. If you have any questions about this program, please see Ellie or Declan.

Birthdays
We love to celebrate birthdays with the children! If your child is celebrating a birthday and you would like to bring in some treats you can either: bring something for all children or just bring something for your child’s home group. There are 20 students in 4A and 19 students in 4B. It is much easier to manage individual items like cupcakes or lollies rather than a large cake that needs to be cut and served. **Please do not feel like you have to bring anything along!**

Food Allergies
We do have some children in our learning community who are allergic to nuts. For this reason please be mindful when you are preparing your child’s lunch. **Children will not be allowed to share any food from their lunchbox.**

Let’s be on time
Just a reminder that school begins at **8:50 am**.
It is very important that all children are at school **before 8.50 am** to begin the day with their peers.

Tissues
Are you able to donate a box of tissues to our classroom? They certainly help when the snuffle season starts!!
What are we learning about in Term 1?

In Term 1, the Grade 4 Learning Community will explore ways to help our body learn to the best of its ability. This will include learning about hydration, brain food, movement breaks and our preferred and non-preferred learning styles. Grade 4 students will also develop a deeper understanding of our school values and complete activities related to pride, collaboration, inclusion, responsibility, improvement etc.

Our major inquiry will involve a close look at the human body. Students will discover what our bodies need to function, how our bodies change and develop over time, and ways to keep our bodies and minds healthy.

In **Reading** we are learning about:
- Building our vocabulary
- Summarising
- Procedural texts

In **Writing** we are focusing on:
- Recounts
- Descriptions
- Procedures

In **Numeracy** we are focusing on:
- Place value
- 2D Shapes
- Symmetry

**Specialists**

*4A*
- **Japanese**— Thursday (8.50-9.50am)
- **Art**— Tuesday (9.50-10.50am)
- **Science**— Thursday (9.50-10.50am)
- **P.E.**— Tuesday (8.50-9.50am)

*4B*
- **Japanese**— Thursday (9.50-10.50am)
- **Art**— Wednesday (12.20-1.20pm)
- **Science**— Thursday (8.50-9.50am)
- **P.E.**— Tuesday (8.50-9.50am)