Class Teachers:

Rebecca Sanders (4A)
Ross Callejan (4B)
Emily Dropuljic (4C)
YEAR FOUR INFORMATION BOOKLET

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet which informs you of procedures, students’ expectations and curriculum planned for our classes during 2016.

This year should be exciting for the students, parents and teachers of Year 4. Students will be involved in a great deal of activity-based learning.

Your child’s teachers for this year are Ms. Rebecca Sanders (4A) Mr. Callejan (4B) Mrs. Emily Dropuljic (4C). Mrs. Elena Colley is also part of our Year 4 team, assisting 4 days a week in 4A.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTION

In Year 4, our commitment is to improve Literacy and Numeracy skills.

Teachers will provide your children with a variety of experiences to assist with personal development and their transition through their schooling years.

OVERVIEW OF ENGLISH

The development of literacy skills will be the major focus of English teaching at this level.

There are three areas of English (Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening). The areas are interrelated and more than one dimension is generally dealt with during English sessions.

We develop our English Program through an integrated learning approach, taking into account the diversity of experience of our students. We recognise that mastery of English is an individual developmental process learnt in a context that is meaningful to children.

English skills are emphasised throughout the day across all the curriculum areas. Skills are developed in the areas of:

Reading
The purpose of reading is to construct meaning from a variety of printed and dramatised/illustrative texts as well as visual materials. Within this program students will learn how to choose ‘Just Right Books’ and be exposed to a wide variety of text types and genres. Providing opportunities for children to view and be exposed to a variety of reading materials such as: books, magazines, posters, charts, films, videos and photographs allows them to develop:
. a wider vocabulary
. an awareness of sentence structure
. an appreciation of grammatical correctness
. an understanding of material experienced
. fluency and use of expression.

Reading is an essential part of our daily classroom and is approached every day in a variety of ways.

**Home Reading**

Home reading is an important part of our homework program, and is intended as a pleasurable, shared experience for both your child and you. The books your child brings home are chosen by him/her, with the teacher’s supervision so your child should be interested in the content. As the purpose of reading is to gain meaning from the text, the reader should expect to make sense of what is read.

Home reading should assist children to develop their reading skills with regular encouragement and support from parents. With the emphasis on sharing reading, you can either:

- Read to them.
- Hear your child read.
- Take turns reading parts.
- Read aloud together.
- Let them read silently and then talk about the book.
- Listen to your child read and ask them to summarise what they have read.
- Sign your child’s diary after they have read (minimum of 4 weekly reading signatures).

Always be positive and look for opportunities to praise. Enjoy yourselves.

Home is a goldmine of reading materials. Parents do not have to spend a lot of money if they want to help their children read at home. If your child expresses an interest in a particular book and you would prefer not to buy, please remember that there are extensive Libraries in the area. Children can also be encouraged to look up TV programs, news items of interest, bargains at the supermarket. This is good reading practice and it also provides useful information for the family.

**Writing**

During Writing sessions, students will be learning how to be proficient writers. They will be learning how to draft, edit and revise their writing. Students will be adding their ideas and personal achievements to their Writers Ideas Books. They will also get to experience publishing pieces of writing for a variety of purposes and audiences.
**Word Study and Spelling Investigations**
Word Study and spelling investigations extends children’s vocabulary and provides them with strategies to reinforce spelling patterns and consolidate word meanings and appropriate use.

Children in Year 4 will work with frequently used words, letter blends, word origins and word lists. They will study words used in their writing. The children will explore antonyms, synonyms, and homonyms and develop skills in using dictionaries and the thesaurus. Children in Year 4 will have 10 spelling words to practice each week as part of their homework.

**Grammar**
Children will be instructed the following grammar and punctuation throughout the year:

- Sentence enhancement
- Paragraphing
- Story sequencing
- Exclamation marks
- Talking marks
- Commas
- Nouns/Pronouns/Proper Nouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives and Adverbs
- Synonyms and Homonyms

**Handwriting**
Neat and legible handwriting is an expectation of all students. Students in Year 4 will work towards gaining their pen licence.

**Speaking and Listening**
Time is given each day to share ideas, opinions, experiences and stories. The children are always encouraged to report or debate as well as, respect others’ opinions. The children relate personal experiences during informal and formal classroom discussions. They are also afforded the opportunity to discuss current affairs and relevant news items during these sessions.
OVERVIEW OF MATHEMATICS

We teach Mathematics under the following broad areas:

**Number and Algebra**
Students count, order, compare, estimate and record to demonstrate an understanding of place value, five digit numbers, decimals and simple common fractions. They identify, recognise and extend patterns based on the addition and subtraction of whole numbers and round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000. They recall multiplication facts and perform simple mental calculations involving the four processes. Students refine written methods to add and subtract three digit numbers and numbers involving tenths, and multiply and divide by single digits and multiples of ten. They apply these methods to solve problems involving money and other quantities.

**Measurement and Geometry**
Students select and use a common informal unit to measure, order and compare length, angle, area, volume, capacity and mass attributes of familiar objects and shapes. They make sensible numerical estimates of particular attributes of familiar objects that they can see and handle. Students tell the time using analogue and digital clocks; classify events according to duration; read and make simple timetables; and estimate the time of the week or year using clues such as clothing or weather conditions.

Students learn to identify, write, describe and compare attributes of shapes and objects in the world around them. They learn to produce recognisable drawings and models of geometric shapes along with their corresponding nets, and become familiar with the spatial features of objects and their function. They identify repetition in decorative patterns, structures and formations, and predict and test which figures will tessellate and which part of a design is (or is not) congruent. Students visualise, follow and give directional descriptions of locations and paths and read and make maps of familiar locations.

**Statistics and Probability**
Students are able to use simple experiments, eg. Throwing dice to record possible outcomes and use informal language to classify outcomes in terms of their likelihood. They participate in discussions about what data is required and how it can be obtained. Their knowledge of number and measurement is used in collecting, sorting and organising data, eg. Recording a tally, and in devising simple scales to represent data in graphs, diagrams and tables. Students also extract specific information from tables and simple graphs.
OVERVIEW OF INTEGRATED STUDIES

We teach Integrated Studies through the following broad areas:

- Humanities (Geography and History)
- Science
- Civics and Citizenship
- Information, Communication and Technology
- The Arts
- Design, Creativity and Technology

Integrated learning is based on an inquiry approach with the students involved in the exploration and sharing of ideas. Students are often encouraged to work in co-operative groups and to reflect on their own learning. They become empowered as learners and should be able to pursue their own personal interests as well as being involved in class topics.

The main outcomes of the class topic development:

- To provide students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge in areas of interest.
- To help students learn to plan and discover for themselves, using a wide variety of resources including personal experience, books, brochures, magazines and the internet.
- Encourage the students to share their ideas and knowledge either in oral reports to the class, projects or PowerPoint presentations.

Our topics this year:

Term 1: Beneath our feet/Australia the land.

Term 2: Investigating Materials.

Term 3: Australian Settlement.

Term 4: Live Local, Think Global
ICT

Children will be involved in ICT lessons in the Inquiry Centre regularly conducted by Mrs O’Callaghan, our ICT specialist teacher. Students will also have access to Information Technology via computers in the classroom. In addition, children will have access to ‘Mathletics’ and ‘Studyladder’.

HOMEWORK

Year 4 students will be given homework. It is to consolidate and practise what is being learnt in your child’s classroom. Please refer to KHPS’ Homework Policy.

Each week, homework is distributed on a Monday and collected and corrected on Friday. If your child experiences any difficulty with homework, please return the homework with a brief note on the due date.

In addition to weekly homework, we expect our students to:

- Read at home for at least 15-20 minutes four nights per week
- Practise Times Tables weekly (1’s to 12’s)

PROPOSED INCURSIONS / EXCURSIONS / CAMPS

Term 1: Swimming Program

Term 2: TBA

Term 3: TBA

Term 4: Year 4 Camp – Lady Northcote (Bacchus Marsh)
OVERVIEW OF SPECIALISTS

Students in Year 4 will participate in a weekly Physical Education, Visual Arts, Computers (ICT) and Performing Arts Session. Our weekly timetable is as follows:

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<th>CLASS</th>
<th>P.E.</th>
<th>ART</th>
<th>PERFORMING ARTS</th>
<th>ICT</th>
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<td>4A</td>
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Please note that timetables are subject to change during annual swimming programs and school camps. Teachers will provide students with more than enough notice to prepare for any timetable changes.

Library

The children will become confident in using the Library. They will be encouraged to borrow up to 3 books from the Library to read and enjoy at home. Students can bring a library bag in order to take books home for borrowing. Each week, library lessons will be conducted by their classroom teacher.

4A’s Library day is Monday. 4B and 4C’s Library day is Wednesday.

We do request that each child returns or renews their books each week to keep their reading material fresh and engaging.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- Tissues – Please provide a box of tissues to contribute to your class.
- Magazines – If you have appropriate magazines we would appreciate these for class use.
- Headphones – please provide students with an inexpensive set of headphones for computer based activities in the classrooms.
- Students require a drink bottle with water to be at school on a daily basis.

If you would like to discuss anything, we are available after school for quick discussions, but would appreciate if you could make an appointment or contact the office to organise an appropriate time.

We look forward to having a wonderful year with your child.

Kind Regards,
Year 4 Teaching Team