Term One in Grade 4 @ APS

We have really hit the ground running in the Grade 4 team. We are extremely excited to have some Grade 3’s joining us this year in 3/4M and we are envisioning another busy but exciting year ahead of us. Here is an outline of what we will be covering during Term One.

**Reading:**

In our reading sessions, students will be exposed to a range of stimulating and challenging material in various genres and forms of media. Your child will begin by revising how to select a range of reading material at a ‘Just Right’ level, which will be utilised for Independent and Home Reading. You will notice this level change throughout the year as your child’s reading skills and knowledge develop.

As a reader, your child will need both decoding strategies (reading the words) and comprehension strategies (understanding the content) in order to maximise their learning potential. This term we aim to build upon the decoding strategies learned in earlier years and introduce a range of comprehension strategies to help your child to understand what they are reading at a deeper level. A sound base in comprehension early in the year will pave the way for higher order thinking and help to foster an appreciation for texts of all kinds.

**Writing:**

Each term we will explore various text types in writing and we are starting the year with Poetry. Your child will explore limericks, couplets, and cinquains as well as learning how to utilise poetic and descriptive language in their writing.

We will enhance your child’s knowledge of writing conventions and tools such as commas, figurative language (similes & hyperbole), adjectives and synonyms through explicit focus sessions. We will also be exploring a range of spelling strategies to assist your child in their vocabulary development.

This term we will also continue to utilise Writer’s Notebook sessions and will employ mentor texts. Mentor texts (example pieces) not only give your child clear models to utilise when composing their own texts, but also provide a target for your child to aim for when writing.
Numeracy: Throughout the year, we will aim to consistently develop your child’s skills and knowledge in relation to all aspects of mathematics. Altona Primary School strives to make clear connections between different concepts so your child can develop a deeper understanding and gain greater mathematical reasoning abilities. Students will be encouraged to explore different strategies/methods which they can use to best solve problems such as drawing a diagram, identifying a pattern, using a table, acting out the problem, working backwards from the answer, guessing and checking, or solving a simpler problem. We will also constantly highlight the relevance of what we are covering to the real world, thus giving the curriculum greater importance in the eyes of your child.

- In Term 1 we will focus on:
  - Time
  - Place Value
  - Addition and Subtraction

ICT & Integrated Studies in Grade 4:

In light of students having netbooks this year, the Grade 4 ICT program will be aligned with the program being undertaken by the Grade 5/6’s. We will be covering a number of crucial components designed to develop your child’s confidence with using ICT as well as keeping safe on internet.

In Term 1, we will focus on Cyber Safety and digital footprints, cyber bullying and also proper care and maintenance of Netbooks.

Integrated Studies

This year we will cover a range of topics that address key aspects of AusVELS (Australian National Curriculum).

Term 1 – World Explorers (History)       Term 2 – Beneath our Feet (Science)
Term 3 – Early Australia (History)       Term 4 – Forces & Simple Machines (Science)

We endeavour to integrate these topics in all curriculum areas as well as teach them explicitly during stand-alone lessons.

We are looking forward to what we are sure will be a very prosperous and enjoyable year.

Jess McDonald, Kate Beckman, Kaela Johnson and Ashley Craig.