

OVERPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION REPORT August 2013

LEVEL 1 - Miss Christie Holman

The Preps have made a tremendous start to Term Three! Through the open learning space, classroom activities and our social skills program, the children have developed many wonderful skills. They work together beautifully as a team and show genuine empathy and thoughtfulness towards each other. It has been an exciting term curriculum wise with all children making advancements in their reading, writing and mathematics skills. The children are responding extremely positively to the open-ended, hands on activities presented and have become more creative and flexible in their thinking as a result. We have been focusing on becoming 'self-managers' by encouraging the children to manage their time, organise their belongings and to take responsibility for their choices, problem solving and learning. Our unit this term has been focused around animals and the children eagerly anticipate their turn in our 'zoo' and 'vet'. We are counting down the days until our surprise 'fun day' in the last week of term. The highlight for this term will be the preps stage debut when the feature as munchkins in this year's production of 'Oz'.

LEVEL 2 - Mrs Sarah Keenan

The students in Level Two have had another busy start to another school term. In the area of English we have been learning about narrative texts. As a part of this each child has created their very own picture story book. The children have planned their stories, written a draft and published their story. Each story has a front cover, back cover and has illustrations. The children have really enjoyed creating their very own stories. During this time we have also worked on weekly sounds within the Sound Waves Spelling program and continued with reading literacy centres. Within mathematics we have studied multiplication, division, place value, number patterns, length, and symmetry. This term in integrated studies we have been looking at a unit titled 'Cooking for Healthy Bodies'. This unit focuses on developing the concepts of our body systems, exercise and preparing and eating good, nutritious foods for healthy, growing bodies. The children have been cooking healthy foods and discussing how different foods help various systems within our bodies.

LEVEL 3 - Mr Matt Leyden

Level 3 is well and truly into production mode with students busily learning dances and songs and making costumes. This term we are learning about simple machines and the students have participated in five workshops looking at the various types of simple machines. Students have just been given a project to make a machine to move a marble, using at least three simple machines, which they are very excited about. We have seen further implementation of the Big Write program across the level. Staff from all areas of the school have attended professional development on this program, delivered by staff from the 3/4 area, and are implementing various parts of the program. Organisation for Year 3 and 4 camps is underway and students will be receiving information on Year 4 camp this week.

LEVEL 4 - Miss Marie Yanni

Students in the senior school are working extremely hard on their musical items for the upcoming production. The main cast are rehearsing extremely well. Students not in the main cast are trying out for roles backstage including lighting. The Year 6s have been constructing various prop items to assist other grades. The curriculum has remained a balanced and productive one. Students are constructing their own story books for Literacy and Numeracy Week. The senior students have been involved in writing enhancement workshops that focus on developing student capabilities in vocabulary, openers, connectives and punctuation. The maths workshops that are ability-based have examined the topics of multiplication, division, volume and capacity and patterns and relationships. The integrated unit of Australian history has seen the students develop their understandings of the indigenous culture, Australian settlement and the contribution of Asian cultures and how they have shaped our country. The Year 6s have participated in a Japanese morning at Frankston High School in an effort to promote the selection of Japanese as a LOTE subject in Year 7.

LITERACY - Mrs Andrea Santospirito & Mr Sam Rodwell

In week 2 the level three team presented a PD session on a new writing process called 'Big Writing'. Mr Rodwell prepared a fantastic slide show which included the benefits of the program and the research behind the practice. All staff seemed very enthusiastic about the program which is aimed at getting students to initiate their own short term and long term writing goals. We are looking at holding a whole school Big Writing PD early next year and all teachers are invited to trial the program in 2014.

All year levels have been thoroughly immersed in the story writing process and are busily working on developing their picture story books. These will be ready to be presented during Book Week in week 8, following production. The community will be invited to come and join us in celebrating all of our students' hard work during book week. Some fantastic book prizes have been purchased and a winner from each class will be selected to receive an award!

This term, Level 1 has purchased lots of materials to support their play based program in literacy. Level 2 has purchased some new guided reading material to further enhance and diversify their literacy and guided reading sessions.

NUMERACY - Miss Jackie Goodier & Mr David Pryor

The maths curriculum team are currently working towards presenting a Professional Development session to staff after school on Monday 16th September. The session will focus on utilising each teacher's expertise and prior knowledge in the maths area. In small groups, teachers will present and share quick maths games they find effective as warm up activities.

INTEGRATED STUDIES - Miss Christie Holman & Miss Suzie Moroney

At the last integrated meeting, the integrated team looked at thinking tools and graphic organizers, discussed which ones were most suitable for which ages and look at how we can use them in our programs. We came up with an organizers booklet and gave the booklet out to each of the levels. All levels were able to use these at their planning day for term 3 and will be able to use them for their integrated topic in term 4.

Due to changes with AusVels, some levels have had to introduce new topics. As a result; some of the integrated budget is being used to purchase new resources to develop these units. Each grade has had an allocated amount of money which they have spent on various things for their integrated topic. Level 1 has purchased new developmental play toys, level 2 have purchased food for their healthy eating unit and level 3 have purchased books for their new topic in term 4 'Explorers.' The Level 4 have spent their budget on the materials for the tinkering unit.

We are very excited about our Professional Development next Friday with Kath Murdoch. She will present to us an Inquiry Learning PD that will equip us with another approach which we can use to enhance and improve teaching and learning at Overport Primary School.

ICT - Mrs Chelle Gray

The preps, ones and twos have been working on various levels of Microsoft Word. They are doing very well and are very engaged. The grade twos have been using this to practise their keyboard skills and type up their picture story books. Level 3 has been looking at using the internet as a research tool while the grade fives have been using Microsoft Publisher to create a newspaper and the grade sixes have been publishing their picture story books. All grades have been using the computer lab and as a result, wonderful ICT skills are being addressed. Chelle attended an ICT conference recently and has many ideas to share with staff at the next meeting regarding assessment of ICT.

ASSESSMENT & REPORTING - Ms Wendy Kilpatrick

Teacher completed reports and parent teacher interview towards the end of Term 2. This is an important and valuable experience for teachers, parents and students. This term we are beginning to investigate AusVELS which incorporates the new Australian curriculum and the current curriculum VELs. In term 4 we will be reporting to AusVELS for Literacy, Numeracy, History and Science, other areas will be as normal. Information will be communicated to parents as we progress with these changes.

WELLBEING - Miss Tessa Higgins

The new school wellbeing policy has been finalized and is ready to be implemented across the school. The language of the policy and expectations of the students are being introduced slowly to all levels with explicit teaching of the expected positive behaviours to be taught to the grade three and four students later this term and into term four. By early term 1, 2014 the whole student body and community will understand the behaviour expectations of Overport Primary School. The wellbeing team have finished working on a parent friendly version of the policy to be given to families in the near future. The Friends Program has begun with grade 3B and 3A. The Yard Leaders are still continuing to do a great job in the playground assisting with small issues and conflicts.

SPECIALISTS - Mrs Sharron Hearn

READING RECOVERY - One student in RR to finish this week and another to start from 1B. Lit support in Gr 2 and 3/4 going well and showing good progress.

LIBRARY - We are looking at books from CBC Book Week Read Across the Universe.

The Book Fair opens on August 30 and runs until Sept 5.

JAPANESE - Japanese garden: hard landscape completed. Planting will commence soon.

Frankston Japanese speech contest is this term. G34 and G56: talking about pets and Japanese movie about pets.

PE - Preps - 2s:

- Continuing to work on fundamental motor skills and social skills through minor games and drills. Running, dodging, skipping, catching and throwing, hopping and jumping are particularly being focused on.

3-6s:

- Minor and major games, involving kicking skills, throwing and catching are being focused on.

Yr. 3/4s (17 students on 13/8, Suzie coaching) & 5/6s (20 students on 3/9, Ben coaching) are competing in a basketball Hoop

Time events

- A 5 week leisure activities program for 5/6s is running on Friday mornings as follows: 9th, 16th, 30th Aug. Sept 6th and 20th.

Activities include: Fun Fitness, Cooking, Lawn Bowls, tennis and possibly bike riding/education

- Footy Day, a whole school event is scheduled for Friday 13th Sept, 2nd

MUSIC - All grades have been working on their production songs and dances in music. Grades are doing very well learning the dances and just need to remember to try and sing now that they know the movements. All songs and videos are saved on the server at L:\2013 Production if teachers wish to practice with their grades. Thanks to all of the teachers for their help with the dances. All grades have been terrific learning their moves! Preps have learnt their dance very well!

ART - Preps are looking at theme of Zoo, farm animals and pets.

Grade 1/2s are doing Book Week art and clay.

Grade 5/6s are continuing a unit on Japanese art, clay and has had a Bunning's workshop.

Next Bunning's workshop in Term 4 for Grade 3 and 4. Some timetable changes will be necessary.

Grade 3 and 4 - fantasy bird houses. Next they'll be wrapping tree branches - watch out for the colourful trunks!