

**OVERPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL
EDUCATION REPORT
May 2013**

LEVEL 1 - Miss Christie Holman

Level One has had a very productive start to the term. The children have begun learning centres to develop their reading skills. We have grouped all 61 preps into 13 groups and they rotate through 2 activities per day over the course of a week. The preps are learning to work independently on activities aimed at developing their reading, fine motor, social, comprehension, oral language, word and letter skills. It has been exciting to watch as many of the preps have begun to write simple sentences. Mathematics skills are being developed through hands on activities and lots of exploration. We have focused on measurement, pictographs, ordinal number and number. Our theme of 'Fairy Tales' has been woven into the reading, writing and mathematics curriculum. The preps are eagerly anticipating their excursion to the Botanical Gardens on the 17th May and our Mother's Day morning tea on the 10th May. Our P.M.P. (perceptual motor program) and ICT program have commenced this term, much to the delight of the children. We have been extremely fortunate to have many parents volunteer to assist in the classroom, with our excursion and with P.M.P. They are a true asset and their involvement is enriching the learning of all the children. We have also been offered the privilege of having a group of students training to be sports coaches coming in and working with the preps in small groups to develop their motor skills. We are looking forward to all the exciting events coming up this term!

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 writing various writing genres including persuasive writing and have been looking at commas, exclamation marks, nouns and how to use dictionaries. He have also worked on weekly sounds within the Sound Waves Spelling program and continued with reading literacy centres. Within mathematics we have studied number patterns, time, addition, subtraction, and chance. This term in integrated studies we have been looking at a unit titled 'Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle'. In this unit the students have been investigating that it is everyone's responsibility to take actions to care for the environment.

LEVEL 3 - Mr Matt Leyden

The Grade 3's are currently involved in a 'Friends' program which is being run by Tess Higgins and our school psychologist. The students are responding well to the program and are looking forward to each of their sessions. Over the past few weeks the Grade 3's have been preparing for the upcoming Naplan tests, beginning the 14th May, by doing pasts tests. Level 3 students are very excited about visiting the Planetarium on May 23rd as part of the 'Life in Space' unit. We have continued running ability Math sessions twice a week across the level and the students are very engaged. We are currently in the process of buying resources to support the 'Big Write' program and will continue to develop this program over the coming weeks.

LEVEL 4 - Miss Marie Yann

The students of the senior school have been working extremely hard to achieve their learning goals and furthering their understandings across the curriculum. The term has been extremely eventful for our students with a lot of great sporting opportunities, wonderful learning opportunities and talks about our upcoming school production of Oz. Term 2 is living up to its reputation of being a busy term indeed!

Students have created some exceptional science projects for this year's Education Week. The Open Night and Science Fair was a great success. The projects are still on display in the TLC. All Year 6s have brought in their Year 7 applications and they have now been passed onto the secondary schools. We have organised a number of camps for the senior students. The Somers Camp will happen at the end of this ter. The Snow Camp will take place early in Term 3 and so will the Year 5 camp to Coonawarra Farm Resort.

LITERACY - Mrs Andrea Santospirito & Mr Sam Rodwell

Literacy is in full swing at Overport this term as all year levels have commenced their formal literacy programs. The parent helpers course proved to be very successful as we have had many parents assisting in classrooms across the school. The literacy team held an in school PD which focussed on reading and comprehension strategies as well as a recap of our writing program and current expectations. This session was highly valuable for staff as it gave us an insight into how the strategies are being taught and developed across the school in a variety of ways. A great suggestion was for teachers of all levels of experience to visit other colleagues' classrooms to see their literacy program in action!

The literacy team has decided to build up the resources in the level 3 and 4 teams. Level 3 has purchased the introductory resources for the Big Write program, which they are currently investigating as a valuable inclusion to our writing program. Level 4 has purchased some book sets for take home reading and comprehension.

We have had a very productive term and we are looking forward to the upcoming book fair and picture story book competition in term 3.

NUMERACY - Miss Jackie Goodier & Mr David Pryor

The maths materials in the portables have been sorted and organised into a space in the new Resource Centre, in the library. A PD is being organised for early 2014 for teachers to work with Michael Ymer. Ymer will demonstrate maths lessons in the Level 1, etc. Teachers have worked on a resource audit for their areas to establish what types of materials are needed in our areas for easy accessibility.

INTEGRATED STUDIES - Miss Christie Holman & Miss Suzie Moroney

This term Level One is focusing on 'Fairy Tales'. They are looking at the traditional fairy tales and their morals. Their unit is fully integrated into the curriculum. They have an excursion to the Botanical Gardens in the city booked for Friday 17th May. Level 2 is looking at Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, Re-think. They have started to talk about the world, the environment and carry in carry out (lunch rubbish). Level 3 are looking at 'Our Place in Space'. They will be going on an integrated excursion to Science works in May. Level 4 is looking at energy this term. It is being linked to sustainable energy. Students are coming up with their own questions. Year levels throughout the school are looking at how to best set out their planners to ensure curriculum topics are integrated. The integrated team has also started to look at and collate graphic organizers which will be passed on to levels to be included in planning for term three.

ICT - Mrs Chelle Gray

The ICT team has discussed with other staff the benefits of and resources available on Reading Eggs/Eggspres and all staff found the PD extremely valuable. Our brand new website is also up and running!

All levels are successfully using the computer lab, now that the stand-alone computer systems have been put in there. Levels have been following the scope and sequence planner; level one is focussing on logging on and off, as well as the functions on Paint, level two is focussing on cyber safety, using an internet browser and keyboard skills, level three is focussing on testing, using On Demand, while level four is focussing on a range of skills and utilising the Mathletics program.

ASSESSMENT & REPORTING - Ms Wendy Kilpatrick

Term 2 is a busy term for assessment and reporting. Teachers are preparing to assess students' progress in preparation for learning goals and formal reporting. Assessment is an ongoing process for teachers and students. Staff are trialling assessment books this year which include formal and ongoing assessments. Assessments can be in the form of formal testing, photos, observations and student self-assessment. We are revising the effectiveness of these throughout this year with the main focus been on students knowing what they can do and where they need to head next with their learning. Reports will go home to parents at the end of term 2, we will be reporting to VELS as in previous years. Parent teacher interviews will follow soon after these reports go home.

WELLBEING - Miss Tessa Higgins

A number of projects are happening in the Wellbeing area. Tess Higgins and David Freeman are training a number of interested senior students to become yard helpers. They will assist the yard duty teachers with minor issues like 'Can you tie my shoelaces?' or 'I have lost my friend. Can you help me?' This frees the teacher to deal with the main issues.

Teachers have revisited the different parts of the SMaRT program to report and keep tabs on misbehaviour. A staff PD was organised about an off-site counselling service for students. Tess is working with teachers who have challenging behaviours in their grades and with students that are finding self-control are bit difficult at the moment.

SPECIALISTS - Mrs Sharron Hearn

READING RECOVERY - Working with individual students.

LIBRARY - The focus is persuasive texts.

JAPANESE - Students completing excellent presentations about Japanese culture, across the school.

PE - 5/6s involved Interschool Sports, 3/4s working on athletics and P-2s working on rules, physical space and motor skills.

MUSIC - Students sing, act and play musical instruments throughout the school.

ART - Bunning's workshops and Frankston Arts Centre excursion to view exhibitions have been organised this term.