

**OVERPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL
TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT
October 2016**

Foundation/Prep - Mr Ricky Joyce

The Foundation team had a really productive planning meeting this term. We're really excited about our Inquiry of 'People Who Help Us', which will explore various aspects of safety throughout the community. We've planned out our assessment in preparation for reports and have started identifying specific areas of the curriculum to focus on as we prepare the students for Year One.

We have begun preparations for Kinder transition, with over 100 new foundation students already enrolled. We've also looked at the various factors that will weigh in to class selection for our current students.

Our swimming program has started successfully with all students participating in the eight week intensive swimming program. Teachers and students already feel the new structure of one session a week is beneficial.

This week we have a volunteer coming in to talk the foundation students about biodiversity and how our actions can impact on the various environments in which we live.

We also have the Year 9 LEAD class from Frankston High School coming across to work with Prep B in the Veggie Garden. These students will work in with the Garden Club, to continue maintenance on our very successful Veggie Garden.

Year 1 - Mr Sam Rodwell

As anticipated, term four has begun in a busy manner. In only their third week back at school, the year one students have already participated in their first swimming lesson and paraded as their favourite book characters. Most excitingly, the students have studied and explored the rock pools at Balnarring beach as a part of our integrated topic, life.

In mathematics, the students will be looking closely at units of measurement such as capacity, length and weight; we will also explicitly teach the interpretation and representation of tallied and graphed data. The level one team has continued to use the Ymer model of planning to integrate these topics into the number and algebra domain. This will ensure that our students build new mathematical skill sets while continuing to practice and refine their number and place value skills.

Procedural writing will be closely examined this term. The students will also be given the opportunity to revise other writing genres studied throughout the year such as narratives, expositions and recounts. The level one team will continue to develop the students reading skills through the explicit teaching of Margaret Menner's comprehensions strategies and the Overport reading strategies.

The level one team has planned and prepared for a busy, and yet, exciting term 4 as we begin to help our student's transition successfully and happily into year two.

Year 2 - Mrs Amber Ellery

The year 2 students have had a terrific start to Term 4. We visited Balnarring Beach and went rock pooling, we learnt about marine life and the living and non-living things in the marine environment. It was a fantastic day!

In English, we have been continuing to develop the students understanding of the VCOP writing program. We are participating in weekly 'Big Write' sessions, consolidating all the aspects of the VCOP program; Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation, focussing on writing procedural texts.

We have continued our Literacy sessions each morning with a focus on prefixes, suffixes and revising contractions and homophones. We are continuing to consolidate the students reading strategies during our guided reading and our Big Book sessions.

In Maths, we have continued to consolidate the students understanding of place value and numbers to 1000. Throughout the term we will be focusing on time, shape, multiplication measurement and chance and data.

Year 3 - Mrs Chelle Gray

Welcome back to term four! The students have been brilliant and settled back into classroom routine very quickly during planning week. We have started our swimming lessons and had lots of fun fundraising for our school during the Walkathon and the RACV Day. The Year Three students are looking forward to all of the exciting activities we have planned for this term, especially the sleepover!

We have started focusing more intensely on reciprocal reading groups during literacy sessions and are really getting into learning how to successfully edit and 'up-level' a piece of writing. The students have also been learning more about figurative language and poetry as well as life cycles during our literacy and writing sessions.

The focus in numeracy this term is to go into greater depth with those topics we feel the students need to practise more of, such as time, money, statistics and data and multiplication. We are currently working on division and fractions.

During ICT sessions, the students have been learning how to use email and will be preparing a collaborative PowerPoint presentation on life cycles. Students will also use ICT for mind mapping their knowledge about life cycles.

Year 4 - Miss Jess Lake

In Year 4, we are currently looking at the inquiry topic of plants and life cycles. Students will be looking at seeds, flowers and plants, how they grow and how they survive.

We are learning about persuasive writing and students are beginning to use different techniques to persuade, as well as learning a way to structure their persuasive pieces.

We have begun to look at fractions in maths and students are practising finding equivalent fractions, putting fractions on number lines and creating representations of fractions.

Students had their first swimming lessons last Friday. They seemed to really enjoy it and are looking forward to the remainder of their lessons.

This term, the students are doing a short 10-15 minute talk to teach their class something. This is part of their speaking and listening assessment and students are coming up with some fantastic ideas to teach their class.

Year 5 - Mr David Pryor

We have had enjoyed a flying start to term four in the year five area. Week one was planning week where the teachers worked diligently to give consistent and relevant direction to another busy term. We also analysed the 2016 NAPLAN data which we compiled into a presentation was delivered at our whole staff meeting on the 18th of October.

Week two saw us off to the Melbourne CBD to enjoy a sensational three day urban experience. With our three wonderful parent helpers we had enormous fun exploring the MCG Sports Museum, Eureka Skydeck, The Old Melbourne Gaol and the Crown Cinema Complex for a private screening of 'Pete's Dragon'. We also explored many other informative and entertaining aspects of 'The World's Most Liveable City'.

We are now looking forward to our student leadership challenges for next year and further building on what has been an exceptional year five.

Year 6 - Cathy Houston

Year 6 have started their final term for primary years with lots to still fit into our curriculum.

Maths groups have commenced with Eleanor taking a small support group at this time. On Friday Eleanor also takes an extension group for numeracy to excel those mathematicians. The kids are really enjoying this time and tricky problem solving.

Spelling groups continue with the addition of a small group of top spellers working independently vocab enrichment organised by Mrs Lacey.

The much loved Junior High continues with Mrs Wynne teaching ICT and digital technology, Mrs Lacey with a history focus about Wilson's Promontory and Mrs Houston teaching Commercialism from a consumer perspective.

Memory books have been started with a countdown to our Primary school days.

Some children have needed to consider social responsibilities and consequences with more appropriate behaviour being addressed.

English

In English this term we will be focusing on several key components of our program at Overport Primary School.

Firstly the teachers will begin assessment of student growth in the areas of reading, writing. We have standard assessment in place to ensure we are marking students consistently. We are also keen to continue to develop a resource of programs, teaching and assessment strategies into one document to support current and new staff with strong teaching approaches. The English team is proud of the progress we have made this year and are keen to see that there is an improvement in teacher practice and student results in future years.

Maths

The maths team have been working hard to accomplish the goals and targets specified in the AIP. We are using the visit from educational consultant, Michael Ymer, as a catalyst to affect change in mathematics at Overport and to shape our teaching and lesson structure. It was unanimous amongst staff that the work with Ymer was of immense benefit and we would like to continue this partnership into the near future. We enjoyed his connection with the real world for his maths activities and the seamless way he involved and ignited curiosity and excitement for maths learning with the students. The maths team have worked through staff feedback about the demonstration lessons by Ymer and are using his ideas to make connections in the classroom. The maths team are also looking at the whole school maths assessment schedule for a consistent approach to evaluating the performance of students in the subject area. We are sampling ACARA portfolios for a common way to assess students learning prior to reports. We are also looking at how to create rich learning tasks in mathematics.

Music

All students were fantastic for our school production at the end of term 3. A special mention needs to go to the classroom teachers and the production team for their efforts. The show was another success and a credit to the school.

All grades focussed on completing learning their songs and dances during this time.

The junior school grades in term 4 are completing a unit on rhythm. They are practising different body percussion activities, drumming activities and working on reading and playing rhythm syllables. They have also been experimenting with Interactive music programs looking at pitch, tempo and dynamics.

The senior grades are completing their own rock band performances. Each grade could choose from a variety of songs with the goal to perform it as a class. Students have to learn different sections of the song on a range of instruments. Their performances are recorded and shown back to the class so they can reflect on their performance and find areas for improvement.

Phys Ed

Hot Shots tennis program will be run for the entire school over the first half of term four.

The senior school will continue on with a Fitness unit where they will develop the skills to test different fitness components and learn how they can/are be applied to different sports.

While our middle school will also participate in a Fitness unit where they will learn about their bodies and to identify components of health related fitness.

Our junior school will be continuing to develop their Basic Fundamental Motor Skills through active play and structured games. They also will be learning about their bodies and the effects physical activity to our bodies and mind.

Art

Prep children have been creating a seahorse and a sea background based on Eric Carle's book: "Mister Seahorse". Children in Grade 1 and 2 have looked at the theme of space and created a picture using plasticine, gold paint and splatter paint.

Grade 5 and 6 children made snowflakes using flat sticks and created symmetrical designs. They have started making candlestick holders using terracotta clay.

Library - Melissa Gleeson

In library the senior students have been exploring a selection of books from the CBA Book Week book list. We have been looking at books that share similar themes. This year's themes are of displacement, war and hope. The students have been thoroughly enjoying the books so far explored and have had many in-depth discussions around these themes.

In Art:

The grade 3 and 4 students have been exploring the ancient Aztec, Mayan and Inca cultures. We have looked at the influence their culture had on their art, in particular, their mythologies regarding their gods. Throughout this topic students have been exploring clay as a medium and have been developing their skills in sculpture (joining, coiling, creating a slip etc.). They have also been adding to their understandings of line, pattern and colour aesthetics while looking at Aztec weavings. They worked cooperatively as a group to create an Aztec painted weaving.

LEAP

36 students have just started in LEAP this term and going well so far. 40 students completed LEAP in term 3 with great improvement on phonics and reading.

Japanese

In term four, Prep to Year 2 students are having Japanese lessons. Year 1&2 students are learning Japanese by reflecting on their integrated studies: Living thing (biology). Students will learn the insects' body parts and their functions, habitats, and life circle through the original living creatures of *Pokémon* characters. The students will learn the key concept in Japanese aurally, orally, and in the written format using *Hiragana* symbols (one type of Japanese writing symbols).

Prep students are learning Japanese language and culture by reflecting on their math topics. The students will learn to recognise Japanese numbers 1-10 orally and written format. They are currently working on creating individual Japanese number books by drawing equivalent number of objects to each number page. The students continuously looking at the basic shapes (such as circle, square, triangle and stars) by physical exercise, pass the parcel game, feeling the shape game, drawing pictures by using various shapes, and reading the shape picture book written in Japanese. They are also learn to group, order, and create systematic patterns by using Japanese objects. In addition, the students have been consistently using classroom instructions, greetings, colours, and basic stationaries in Japanese as parts of the lesson activities.

Wellbeing

This term is packed full of exciting activities for our students. Many students will be given the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities. Activities outside of the conventional classroom environment are an extremely valuable learning experience for our students. They can have a lasting impact on student's overall wellbeing and their engagement with school and their peers. The activities taking place this term include; three school camps, one sleep over, the swimming program, beach excursions, whole school activity days, RACV challenge and sports days. Also this term, our students will take part in our whole school transition program. This program involves all of our students, spending one hour each Thursday for four weeks, in their 2017 year level. This is a great opportunity for our students to make new friends, meet new teachers and get to know a new learning area. All students will be informed of their classes for 2017 on the State Wide Transition day on December 6th.