Hi Parents and welcome back to Term 3! It is hard to believe we are already halfway through the school year! How time flies when you’re having fun!! The 3/4 Team look forward to working with you all again for what appears to be another busy term.

The 3/4 Team

CURRICULUM UPDATES...

LITERACY:
Reading
During reading, students will continue to further develop their comprehension skills by focusing on strategies such as ‘questioning’, ‘inferring’, ‘synthesising’ and ‘summarising’.

Students will be involved in a variety of activities that will see them continue to extend upon their vocabulary by becoming curious about words and discovering what unfamiliar words and phrases they encounter in texts mean.

Writing
Excitement is building within our classrooms as our students continue to prepare for the upcoming ‘Writer’s Festival’. Students are currently working through the different stages of the writing process (planning, drafting and editing) before they begin to publish their work. Discussions as to the way they would like to present their work to the Bell P.S community are currently underway and we are all excited with the ideas that are coming up in conversations. We look forward to our students sharing their work with the school community using traditional publishing techniques (picture story books) and have been very impressed with the way that students are embracing digital technologies to create eBooks, audiobooks etc. We cannot wait to see what our fantastic students come up with!

NUMERACY:
This term in Number the 3/4 team will begin the term by focusing on Money and Financial Mathematics. Students will participate in a differentiated curriculum to learn how to represent money in multiple ways and count the change required in various transactions. Using situations involving money students will devise and use algorithms to add and subtract numbers to two decimal places. Using money, students will also recall multiplication facts and related division facts. Students will be recognising that not all countries use dollars and cents.

As part of Measurement and Geometry students will identify symmetry in natural and constructed environments and create symmetrical shapes and patterns, with and without the use of digital technology.

At Bell PS we value - Respect, Learning, Teamwork, Honesty and Creativity.
STRIDE M-POWER GIRL’S PROGRAM:

MPower Girls is a program to encourage female students to talk about what it means to be a girl and discuss what happens in their friendship groups and how this affects them. The girls will work together to discuss and resolve problems and issues within their groups, or in a larger class size group, using props and activities and creating visual ideas on which to base their discussions.

The purpose of the program is to:
- reveal and explore the nature of girls
- better understand girls’ relationships
- practice new ways of relating to each other
- develop the confidence to express feelings openly and honestly

BOY’S PROGRAM:

The boy’s program works with male students to help them understand feelings of anger and discuss the individual reactions and responses they may have to situations that make them feel angry. Through the program, students are taught ways of relating positively with others and as a result, how to be aware and considerate of their own and other people’s feelings.

The program is designed to encourage the boys to:
- examine their behaviour in relation to its effects on others and themselves
- reflect upon and promote motivation to change negative behaviours
- gain support from others in the process of positive change

ICT

One of the ways we will be using ICT is to work on our Writer's Festival pieces. Students will use a variety of publishing tools to draft and edit their work. Some students will use digital tools to publish their work, including: e-books, word processing, presentations and Interactive texts.

We will continue to involve students in discussions and activities related to Cybersafety as well as provide students with opportunities to extend their skills and use a range of ICT tools to provide them with opportunities to become confident digital citizens. Students are encouraged to communicate with each other and their teacher through the use of email and shared documents.

We will continue to use the year level blogs and email to communicate with parents about relevant classroom and school events.

INQUIRY

Through Inquiry Learning students have asked themselves ‘What do I already know and what else do I want to know?’ Our Inquiry investigations will continue throughout Term 3. The Inquiry process for students has been more about the concepts and NOT topics or subject driven activities. It has allowed students to take on the responsibility for learning about areas of interest and to their specific needs. They have been encouraged to ask questions, reflect on their learning and to be organised and resourceful as well as being risk takers who are adaptable and resilient. Students are not necessarily working with their classroom teacher, however they are working with students who share a common interest of learning.

You may find some students going on excursions with others from different classes, while others might be motivated and engaged by talking to guest speakers.

Inquiry Learning is student centred with the emphasis being on the process and allows for direct experiences and authentic action.

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MUSIC: Atmospheric Music Using Technology
Drawing from their prior knowledge of film music the grade 3/4 students will be adopting the role of composers to create pieces of music that help portray a certain atmosphere of a particular scene and characterisation. Using music creation software and other technologies students will be working collaboratively to compose a series of short compositions. These compositions will link in with the ‘Artists’ as Illustrators’ work that they will be undertaking in art. Students’ finished artefacts will be published on the Arts@Bell Blog.

ART
This term is going to be all about Tim Burton for the Year 3s and 4s. Students will be creating their very own spooky silhouette house and learning how to transfer a 2D image into a 3D landscape. After looking at Burton’s character sketches, students will develop their own character with Burton aesthetics, while learning about the way in which illustration conveys meaning without text.

SWIMMING: Thursday July 31st – Thursday September 4th

Swimming will start in week 3 for those students who have elected to attend. Students will be going over to the pool in two groups throughout the morning:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Depart School</th>
<th>Lesson Time</th>
<th>Depart Pool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34E &amp; 34M</td>
<td>11.15am</td>
<td>11:45am</td>
<td>12.45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34O &amp; 34X</td>
<td>12.20pm</td>
<td>12.45pm</td>
<td>1.45pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents who wish to attend to watch their child will need to make their own way to and from the pool.

On the day, students need to come to school with their **bathers under their school uniform** in order to save time once at the pool. They need to have a separate swimming bag that should contain their towel, goggles and underwear that they can take to the pool. Please include a spare plastic bag for their wet towel and bathers. You need to ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child’s name.

On the first swimming day students will be assessed and placed into the appropriate teaching group by the YMCA staff. From the second session students will then swim in these groups with the same instructor for specific skill development.

Students not attending swimming will continue with a modified class program.

FIRST AID IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM
The St John Ambulance First Aid in Schools Program will deliver free First Aid training to 100,000 Victorian Primary School Students in 2014 at no cost to schools or parents. In 2013, the first full year of operation, the St John First Aid in Schools Program trained 72,000 primary school students. By 2017, St John Ambulance aims to train 200,000 students each year.

The knowledge and skills gained in our First Aid in Schools Program will develop First Aid awareness in school children and contribute to building a more resilient community. This learning is age-appropriate and integrates with the AUSVELS curriculum.

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HOMEWORK

The expectation for homework across the 3-4 team is that every student will continue to read nightly for at least 15-20 minutes. They should also continue practising their times tables to improve their automatic recall.

Other homework that will be evident this term, is students working on completing their Inquiry investigation as well as accessing their Writer’s Festival stories via Google Docs. While a majority of this work will be completed in class, the opportunity will be given to students to complete some of their work outside of the classroom. For example, it may be research based or hands on.

AHHHH...TISHOO - Tissues please...

We are now into the cold months which means more sniffily noses. We would appreciate it if each family could send along a family sized box of tissues for the classrooms. You would be amazed how many tissues a class can go through.

Do you visit our Grade 3/4 Blog?

http://34team.global2.vic.edu.au/

You can check out all the cool things we have been up to this year!!

3/4 Team Contact Details...

Email Updates:

In addition to the blog, we continue to communicate with parents via email. If you have not received any email contact from the 3/4 staff recently, it means your up-to-date address is not included on our distribution list. If this is the case, please email one of the teachers. Please note that addresses are used in the ‘blind carbon copy’ tab to ensure your privacy is respected.

As a reminder, our team’s emails are:

oneill.joy.j1@edumail.vic.gov.au (3/4O)
emmanuel.dean.d@edumail.vic.gov.au (3/4E)
matani.xenia.x@edumail.vic.gov.au (3/4X)
cashen.melinda.m@edumail.vic.gov.au (3/4M)