Learning Outline
Year 3 & 4 – 2016

Staff: Mrs Kellie Stojanovic (4S) – Assistant Principal, Mrs Vanessa Mackellar (2/3M), Mrs Mary Spencer (3S) and Mrs Leanne Patterson (4P)

English
The English Key Learning Area includes the following strands: Speaking and Listening, Reading and Viewing, Writing and Representing. Typically Year 3/4 students will do the following to achieve appropriate Stage Two outcomes;

- write in a variety of text types and develop the skills of editing leading to quality published works
- possess a basic understanding of grammar and utilise understanding when writing
- read from a variety of sources including the study of novels and the School Magazine
- respond to literature using a variety of thinking skills
- read silently for pleasure
- regularly browse and borrow from the school library, returning books by due dates
- research selected topics using various school resources
- practise handwriting
- speak and listen in both informal and formal situations (including the poetry and debating)
- write using a fluent, legible, consistent cursive handwriting style
- use a range of spelling strategies when writing
- participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge, Premier’s Spelling Challenge and Library research

Mathematics
Mathematics is undertaken in class groups with the child’s class teacher. Individual student needs are catered for by teacher monitoring of student performance in class and in assessing their personal needs. The topics undertaken in Mathematics classes are year appropriate and matched to individual student’s ability. Most children in Years 3 & 4 are working in stage two. Students can access additional activities and learning through their class Smartladder login (www.smartladder.com.au). Students will be:

- using a variety of resources including a maths mental, learning activities, games and collaborative learning to assist in the learning of Mathematics
- encouraged to solve a variety of problems mentally
- encouraged to see Mathematics as an integral part of the real world and everyday activity
- engaging in hands on activities and be encouraged to think mathematically
- using materials to encourage discussion, sharing of ideas, and finding solutions to mathematical challenges and games
- challenged to draw on mathematical knowledge to solve a variety of complex problems
- Students MUST learn their times tables as a part of regular homework if they do not already know them. Quick recall of times tables and other number facts, such as combinations of 20, is an essential part of a student reaching their full potential in Mathematics in stage 2. Stage 2 staff would value your assistance in this area - Thankyou.

Interviews
Teachers are available for interviews at varying times during the week usually before or after school and during class RFF time. Please make sure that any issues are taken directly to the class teacher, as they are in the best position to assist your child. Class teachers will refer you to an Assistant Principal or the Principal if necessary. In addition to our scheduled interviews, we will be holding Parent Teacher interviews on Wednesday 17th February to allow you to hear about the programs and activities occurring within your child’s classroom, to discuss your child’s needs and to set future learning goals.

Reporting to Parents
Term 1 – Interviews
Term 2 – Written Report and Interviews
Term 4 – Written Report

Other Activities
SPORT – Sport will be held on Friday. Children should wear their sport uniform.
LIBRARY – Individual classroom teachers will notify parents which day their child’s class has library

Creative & Practical Arts
Children work and experiment in a variety of media to make artworks reflecting their investigations of the world as subject matter. An opportunity will be provided for children to perform in a number of areas including music, drama and dance. This may include choir and dance group as well as at whole school assemblies. Students may experience the entertainment provided by visiting musicians throughout the year.
**Personal Development, Health and Physical Education**

Students participate in Fitness, P.E., school carnivals and Friday sport in order to develop a range of movement skills. The focus of the term one P.E program is fitness and sporting skills. In the Health and P.D strands, the students will discuss the importance of making informed decisions in personal lifestyle issues. The content which is to be covered in these strands during the year includes: Drug Education, Active Lifestyles, Growth and Development, Safe Living, Systems of the Body and Child Protection.

**History**

1. **Community & Remembrance:** Moving from the heritage of their local area, students explore the identity, historical features and diversity of their community in both a local and a broader context. Local, state and national symbols and emblems of significance, as well as celebrations and commemorations, both locally and in other places, are examined. The significant individuals, groups and events and their contributions to changes in the local community over time are investigated. Students apply their developing skills of historical inquiry and communication throughout this unit.

**Geography**

1. **Places are Similar & Different:** Students will examine natural and human features of Australia and the diverse characteristics of Australia’s neighbouring countries. They explore the different climates, settlement patterns and demographic characteristics of places and use this information to imagine what it would be like to live in different places. Students consider how people’s perceptions of places are the basis for actions to protect places and environments.

**Science & Technology**

1. **Plants in Action:** Students’ beliefs about flowering plants will be challenged as they work through hands-on activities. Students will develop a sense of wonder and appreciation of plants as they investigate the processes of pollination and germination, the stages in a plant’s life cycle and environmental conditions that plants need for growth.
2. **Beneath Our Feet:** It provides opportunities for students to explore how natural processes and human activity shape their surroundings. Students’ understanding of soils, rocks and landscapes and how they change over time is developed through hands-on activities and student-planned investigations. Students also investigate factors that affect the erosion of soils.
3. **Smooth Moves:** The unit provides students with the opportunity to explore forces and motion. Through hands-on activities students identify forces that act at a distance and those that act in direct contact, and investigate how different-sized forces affect the movement of objects.
4. **Material World:** This unit provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of the properties of materials and how they relate to use. Through investigations, students explore how to test the properties of materials fairly and how to use this knowledge to choose materials wisely.

**Computers**

Students participate in weekly computer lessons with their classroom teacher. They will be able to select the most appropriate program from a range of known programs, format text depending upon the audience and produce and present multimedia presentations. They will make use of the Internet as a research tool.

**Homework**

Homework will be completed each week by Stage 2 students. Typically, students will complete set tasks given from their class teacher. Students can also write, complete unfinished class work, revise class work and/or complete teacher directed tasks or assignments. At no time should homework cause any anxiety for students or parents. Should the need arise, please discuss homework with your child’s class teacher. Homework should always include reading at home for pleasure as well as the completion of their home reading activities. All students are entered in the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

**Excursions**

Excursions and visiting performers, including costs, are still being finalised but look like including the following:

- **Term 1**
  - Swim Scheme – Approximately cost $80
- **Term 2**
  - Geography & Science Excursion (Australian Botanical Gardens) – Approximately cost $25
  - School Photos – Various costs up to approximately $35
- **Term 3**
  - History Excursion (Elizabeth Farm) - Approximately cost $18
- **Term 4**
  - **Stage 2 Camp:** 1 Night camp to Taronga Zoo: Zoo Snooze – Approximately cost $100 per student
  - End of Year Celebration Excursion – Approximately cost $15

**Classroom Needs**

Blue pens (4), Red pens (2), pencils HB, Dictionary (Macquarie or Oxford School Dictionary & Thesaurus), Scissors, Glue Stick, Coloured Pencils, Eraser, Medium Sized Pencil Case, Textas, Pencil Sharpener, Ruler