Welcome to 2016 in 3/4. We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday, and are looking forward to a busy and exciting year ahead at BPS. This newsletter is to introduce you to the 3/4 team for this year and let you know of some of the things happening in first term.

The 3/4 Team
The Year 3/4 team this year consists of Karen Glasscock 3/4G (Team Lead), Beau Christakakis 3/4C, Anna Hull 3/4H, Michelle McMahon 3/4M, Sarah Medland 3/4S and Michelle Wong 3/4W. We all look forward to getting to know you and your children better throughout the year and encourage you to arrange a time to speak to us at any stage during the year if you have concerns. The first Parent Teacher conferences are happening this week, and provide you with an important opportunity for you to talk to your class teacher about your child and bring to the teacher’s attention any particular issues they need to be aware of, as well as a chance to discuss how your child has started the school year and how we can work together as a team to support their learning.

Student Wellbeing
Each class is spending time establishing routines and setting up learning expectations with their classes, including creating Class Norms to help ensure each child has a supportive, happy and positive environment in which to learn. The You Can Do It program will continue to be an important part of our wellbeing focus, and lessons this term will emphasise developing both Getting Along skills and Resilience. Students in 3/4 are also setting a learning goal for themselves this term, empowering them to strive towards its completion, giving their learning focus and purpose, and they will reflect on how successful they have been at the end of the term.

Also a reminder to parents that when it comes to your child’s education Every Day Counts. Going to school every day is important as students learn new things at school every day, and missing school puts them behind. While there are times when students need to miss school, such as when they are ill, we ask you to help us provide the best learning experience possible for your child by having them at school whenever possible, including preferably making appointments outside of school hours.

3/4 Integrated Unit
Our Integrated Unit this term is called “Deciding Together”, focusing on the big idea that our decisions affect others and that to live and work together effectively and in harmony we need to make decisions that consider other people. We will be learning to understand the value of a democratic process, and that as members of our school community we have both rights and responsibilities. We will be developing our teamwork skills and learning to solve problems collaboratively. We are planning a number of exciting visits, both within and outside our school, and look forward to bringing you more information about these soon.

English
We will continue to run a targeted, differentiated and developmental literacy program, catering for each individual student’s learning needs. Reading will focus on continuing to build each child’s reading strategies, including their ability to read for meaning and develop their literal, inferred and applied comprehension skills. Writing will continue to centre around the students developing their skills at a word, sentence, paragraph and whole text level, including focusing on both narrative and persuasive text types.
Mathematics
Maths this term will have a strong number focus, including covering concepts such as place value, addition, subtraction and money. Our weekly maths programs will also incorporate the students learning and practising their times tables, including both multiplication and division facts, and developing their maths problem solving strategies.

Visual Arts
Students will identify the symbols linked to Chinese New Year and explore collage, linking ideas to the Year of the Monkey. Sunflowers growing in the school garden will be depicted with a focus on the art elements of colour, shape and texture.
Jacqui Arnott

Music
During Term 1, students will sing songs and participate in singing games to consolidate their understanding of the musical elements of rhythm, pitch, dynamics, texture, timbre and form. They will collaboratively compose and record an original vocal piece in a group, using their names rhythmically to create contrasting textures. They will practise skills on guitar/ukulele, keyboard, tuned percussion and drums and focus on playing music cooperatively in a class ensemble. Experienced musicians will be given more challenging parts to play. They will learn about String Instruments, including those from Asian cultures and listen and respond to pieces played by these instruments.
Jenny Ranogajec

LOTE
This term, 3/4 students will be engaged in a range of language activities which will enhance their Mandarin skills. AIM methodology (gesture-based) will continue to be used as the main teaching method. Students will start learning one of the official AIM stories - ‘San Zhi Xiao Zhu’ (Three Little Pigs) where a number of songs, rhymes and performances are introduced. Students will also be doing Chinese cultural activities to celebrate the Year of the Monkey.
Lei Zhu

Health and Physical Education
Year 3/4 students will spend the majority of this term focusing on invasion games. Students will experiment with a range of invasion games including endzone, basketball, soccer and netball. They will apply previously learnt and further develop fundamental motor skills for each of these sports. Students will develop an understanding of the commonalities of all invasion games and thus begin to establish basic games’ tactics to aid the goal of their team.
Year 3/4 students may take the opportunity to represent BPS at the Kooyong District Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 17 February.
Ashley Cull

Sunsmart
Please remember that Term 1 is a ‘No Hat, No Play’ term and that all children are required to wear a broad-brimmed hat to protect them from the sun until 1 May. They are also encouraged to bring drink bottles filled with cold water so they can drink plenty of fluids throughout the day.

Fresh Fruit Friday
All the 3/4 classes will be participating in Fresh Fruit Friday this year. Students are asked to bring a piece of fresh fruit (or vegetables such as carrot sticks, cherry tomatoes, snow peas etc) cut up in a container every Friday to share with their class. This is designed to promote the children’s enjoyment of a wide range of different fruits/vegetables and encourage healthy eating habits, as well as providing a cooperative, social activity for the class to share. Your support of this program throughout the year would be much appreciated.
Anaphylaxis and Asthma
Just a friendly reminder of the school’s policy to encourage students not to bring any eggs, nuts and nut related products to school to minimise the harmful effects these products can cause to students who suffer from severe allergies (anaphylaxis). Also, if your child suffers from asthma it is highly recommended that you update his/her asthma management plan. Please see your classroom teacher for any queries or concerns in relation to these issues.

Class Supplies
Throughout the year each child will be asked to supply a box of tissues and a roll of paper towel to be used by their class. Because we do not have storage room for all these supplies at once, we ask that children with surnames between A-L bring these to school this term, and children with a surname starting with M-Z will be requested to bring their supplies at the start of Term 3.

Please see your class or specialist teacher if you have any queries about any information in this newsletter. We are all looking forward to a wonderful year ahead, and thank you for the fantastic support we always receive from our families.

Year 3/4 Team
Beau Christakakis, Karen Glasscock, Anna Hull, Michelle McMahon, Sarah Medland and Michelle Wong

Below are some of the important dates you should pencil in your diaries for Term 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Teacher Conferences</td>
<td>Wednesday, 10 February</td>
<td>Balwyn Primary School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thursday, 11 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Information Session</td>
<td>Friday, 19 February</td>
<td>Balwyn Primary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome Picnic</td>
<td>Friday, 19 February</td>
<td>Balwyn Primary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photo Day</td>
<td>Thursday, 3 March</td>
<td>Balwyn Primary School</td>
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<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>Monday, 14 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum Day</td>
<td>Tuesday, 15 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day of Term</td>
<td>Friday 24 March – 2.30 pm dismissal</td>
<td>Balwyn Primary School</td>
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