INFORMATION BOOKLET
2014

Year 4

Debbie Mierisch
Principal

Mark Roberts
Assistant Principal

Teachers:

4DM  Mr David Mander
4GA  Mrs Gail Ashworth
4KB  Mrs Kim Brabham
SCHOOL INFORMATION

TERM DATES
Term 1	Tuesday 28th February – Friday 4th April
Term 2	Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 27th June
Term 3	Monday 14th July – Friday 19th September
Term 4	Monday 6th October – Friday 19th December

SESSION TIMES
8.50am	First bell to enter classrooms
9.00am	Learning begins
10.40 - 11.10am	Morning recess
12.50 - 1.00pm	Lunch eating time [inside]
1.00 - 1.50pm	Lunch play
3.30pm	School Finishes

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS
Art	Judy Gallagher
E.A.L	Sharon Harrison
Learning Technologies	Class Teacher
Library	Class Teacher
Mandarin Language	Ping Nixon
Music	Jenny Batten
Physical Education	James Will

HOUSES
Each child is designated a House upon enrolling at the school. Siblings are placed in the same house team. House Captains have been elected by students within the house. House responsibilities will be articulated to the students through appropriate avenues, including assemblies, class discussions, house meetings, etc. We have four House teams, they are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOYD - Blue</th>
<th>ROBERTS - Red</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McCUBBIN - Green</td>
<td>STREETON - Yellow</td>
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Our Houses are named after four famous Australian artists from The Heidelberg School, an Australian art movement in the late 19th century. The movement has latterly been described as Australian Impressionism. The artists’ names are Arthur Boyd, Frederick McCubbin, Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton.
**ABSENCES**

- It is unfair to your child, other students and teachers to send to school a student who is obviously unwell or not fully recovered from illness. Such students are not receptive to learning or school routines, and our facilities for caring for them are limited.
- It is a DEECD requirement that, after each absence, a written explanatory note is provided to the school.
- Late students require a Late Pass, available from the Office. Parents must fill in the In/Out Register, collect a Late Pass for each student and escort the student/s to class.
- If you need to take your child out of school early, a Blue Authorisation Slip must be obtained from the Office prior to collecting your child from the classroom.

**MEDICATION**

- When a student requires medication at school, the parent must fill in the official authorisation form (available from the Office).
- *All* medication must be handed in at the Office. Students are not allowed to keep any medications (other than asthma puffers or epipens) in their school bags.

**EXCURSION LEVY**

The excursion planner is sent home at the beginning of each term and this covers the cost of all excursions, camps, swimming and in-school activities.

Whenever an excursion or in-school activity is planned for your child a permission notice will be sent home.

Students will not be able to attend activities without payment and a signed permission form.

**DIARIES**

Students are issued with a diary. This is used in various ways e.g. for noting important dates, for communicating between home and school, for writing down homework requirements. Students are to ensure that they always have their diary with them at school. Please sign any message from the teacher to show that you have seen and read it, as the need arises. Teachers will also sign against any messages from parents, once read.

*Please write absence notes on a separate piece of paper, not in the diary.*

**HOMEWORK**

Each week’s Homework will include aspects of English, Maths and Integrated Curriculum. In addition to the set homework activity children are expected to read regularly, practise their multiplication facts and to learn their personal spelling words. A Homework Sheet, exercise book and Folder will be provided. Children are expected to complete these Homework tasks and to begin to take responsibility for their own learning and to establish study habits.
**PARENT INFORMATION**

Welcome to 2014. Your child is now a member of the Year 4 Learning Community. In Year 4 your child will experience a range of different activities and expectations relating to their responsibilities for their learning and actions. They will be encouraged to become more independent learners and to take on further responsibilities with their belongings, behaviour and their general learning.

As teachers we welcome and value your input into their education and encourage you to contact us to discuss any issues or concerns of an academic or social nature.

**Parent/Teacher Communications**

At any time during the year, interviews regarding your child can be arranged through the class teacher.

The school also provides opportunities to discuss your child through scheduled introductory parent/teacher discussions in Term 1, and formal parent/teacher interviews mid-year which are scheduled to discuss your child’s educational progress.

Detailed written reports, indicating your child’s progress, are prepared in June and December.

**Parent Involvement**

We value classroom involvement of parents so please speak to your child’s classroom teacher about their programs and what can be done in their rooms. There may be opportunities for parents to attend camps, excursions, Literacy and Numeracy assistants and general classroom tasks. The Parents & Friends, together with School Council and related sub-committees are also key areas for parents to consider involvement.

Some ways that you can be involved in your child’s school:

- Become a Class or Specialist helper, assist on Parents and Friends Committees, come along to Education Meetings, attend Working Bees, come along to Education Week and Celebrations, or volunteer to attend Excursions.

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**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

**AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS (I.C.A.S. Tests – University of NSW)**

Students in Years 3-5 are given the opportunity to sit for these tests in Science, Maths, Spelling, and English. The tests are set and marked externally and provide a very thorough analysis of student performance in relation to other students in Australia.

ICAS dates for 2014 are:

- **Computer Skills**
  - Tuesday 20th May
- **Science**
  - Wednesday 4th June
- **Writing**
  - Monday 16th June
- **Spelling**
  - Tuesday 17th June
- **English**
  - Tuesday 29th July
- **Mathematics**
  - Tuesday 12th August

**CAMP**

Year 4 students will participate in a 3 day / 2 night camp to Mt Evelyn Recreation Camp in Term 3, from August 6 to 8.
Milgate PS uses the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) as the basis of the curriculum / teaching and learning program. It will also be linked in with the AusVELS (The Australian Curriculum).

**THE IB PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME**

Students in the 21st century are faced with the challenge of learning about an interconnected world where knowledge is constantly developing. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) prepares students to be active participants in a lifelong journey of learning.

It focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside.  [www.ibo.org/pyp](http://www.ibo.org/pyp)

**CURRICULUM MODEL**

The curriculum is expressed in three interrelated ways:

- the written curriculum - what do we want to learn?
- the taught curriculum - how best will we learn?
- the assessed curriculum - how will we know what we have learned?

**The Written Curriculum**

At the heart of the programme's philosophy is a commitment to structured, purposeful inquiry as the leading vehicle for learning. The most significant and distinctive feature of the IB Primary Years Programme is the six transdisciplinary themes.

These themes are about issues that have meaning for, and are important to, all of us. The programme offers a balance between learning about or through the subject areas, and learning beyond them.

The six themes of global significance create a transdisciplinary framework that allows students to "step up" beyond the confines of learning within subject areas.

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organize ourselves
- Sharing the planet

The traditional disciplines retain a role in the IB Primary Years Programme. The six specified subjects are language, mathematics, science, social studies, arts, and personal, social and physical education. The overall expectations for each subject area are defined for each year of the programme.

**Taught Curriculum**

The six transdisciplinary themes help teachers to develop a programme of inquiries— in-depth investigations into important ideas, identified by the teachers, and requiring a high level of involvement on the part of the students. These inquiries are substantial, in-depth and last for a number of weeks.

All students will know that a unit of inquiry will involve them in in-depth exploration of an important idea, and that the teacher will be collecting evidence of how well they understand that idea. They will expect to be able to work in a variety of ways, including on their own and in groups, to allow them to learn to their best advantage.
The Assessed Curriculum

Assessment is an important part of each unit of inquiry as it both enhances learning and provides opportunities for students to reflect on what they know, understand and can do. The teacher's feedback to the students provides the guidance, the tools and the incentive for them to become more competent, more skilful and better at understanding how to learn.

At the heart of the programme's philosophy is a commitment to structured, purposeful inquiry as the leading vehicle for learning.

The principal purposes of assessing what has been learned are to:

- determine what the student knows and understands about the world
- inform and differentiate teaching and learning
- monitor student progress in terms of the IB learner profile
- provide feedback to teachers, students and parents
- monitor the effectiveness of the programme
- inform the professional development of teachers

Essentially, assessment in this programme is of two types, each of which has a specific function:

- Formative assessment is interwoven with daily learning.
- Summative assessment occurs at the end of the teaching and learning process and provides students with opportunities to demonstrate what they have learned.

FIVE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

The five essential elements - concepts, knowledge, skills, attitudes, action - are incorporated into this framework, so that students are given the opportunity to:

- gain knowledge that is relevant and of global significance
- develop an understanding of concepts, which allows them to make connections throughout their learning
- acquire transdisciplinary and disciplinary skills
- develop attitudes that will lead to international-mindedness
- take action as a consequence of their learning

LEARNER PROFILE

The learner profile describes a list of attributes that promote academic rigour and the establishing of a personal value system leading to international-mindedness. It is expected that PYP teachers will assess and report on individual student development regarding each of these attributes.

The programme encourages students to become:

Inquirers Their natural curiosity has been nurtured and they actively enjoy learning.

Thinkers They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to solving complex problems.

Communicators They receive and express ideas and information confidently in more than one language.

Risk-takers They approach unfamiliar situations without anxiety and have the confidence to explore new ideas.

Knowledgeable They have explored themes that have global significance and have acquired a critical mass of knowledge.

Principled They have a sound grasp of the principles of moral reasoning and have acquired integrity, honesty and a sense of justice.
Caring  They show sensitivity towards the needs and feelings of others, and have a sense of personal commitment to helping others.

Open-minded  They respect the values of other individuals and cultures and seek to consider a range of points of view.

Well-balanced  They understand the importance of physical and mental balance and personal well-being.

Reflective  They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning by constructively analysing their personal strengths and weaknesses.

**IB/PYP ATTITUDES**

While IB students are expected to take an active role in their learning of necessary concepts, knowledge and skills, the IB PYP also focuses on the importance of instilling positive attitudes within its students. Through encouraging the development and application of the following positive attitudes, the IB PYP helps to create successful citizens of the world.

We expect our students to develop and apply the following attitudes:

**Appreciation**  Appreciating the wonder and beauty of the world and its people.

**Commitment**  Being committed to their learning, preserving and showing self-discipline and responsibility.

**Confidence**  Feeling confident in their ability as learners, having the courage to take risks, applying what they have learned and making appropriate decisions.

**Co-operation**  Co-operating, collaborating and leading or following as the situation demands.

**Creativity**  Being creative and imaginative in their thinking and in their approach to problems and dilemmas.

**Curiosity**  Being curious about the nature of learning and the world, its people and cultures.

**Empathy**  Imaginatively projecting themselves into another's situation, in order to understand his or her thoughts, reasoning and emotions.

**Enthusiasm**  Enjoying learning.

**Independence**  Thinking and acting independently, making their own judgments based on reasoned principles and being able to defend their judgments.

**Integrity**  Having integrity and a firm sense of fairness and honesty.

**Respect**  Respecting themselves, others and the world around them.

**Tolerance**  Feeling sensitivity towards differences and diversity in the world and being responsive to the needs of others.
AusVELS AND AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

AusVELS is the single curriculum in all Victorian schools for levels Prep -10. AusVELS incorporates the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) and the Australian Curriculum. AusVELS is designed to ensure that schools and teachers are not required to manage two different curriculum and reporting frameworks during the development of the Australian Curriculum.

In 2014 the national Australian Curriculum has been introduced to all schools across Australia. The curriculum spans from Foundation (current Prep year) to Year 10. The VCAA has decided to merge aspects of VELS with the Australian Curriculum and it has named this AusVELS.

AusVELS is based on three interconnected areas of learning called strands:

- **Physical, Personal and Social Learning** - Students learn about themselves and their place in society. They learn how to stay healthy and active. Students develop skills in building social relationships and working with others. They take responsibility for their learning, and learn about their rights and responsibilities as global citizens.
- **Discipline-based Learning** - Students learn the knowledge, skills and behaviours in the arts, English, humanities, mathematics, science and other languages.
- **Interdisciplinary Learning** - Students explore different ways of thinking, solving problems and communicating. They learn to use a range of technologies to plan, analyse, evaluate and present their work. Students learn about creativity, design principles and processes.

The Australian Curriculum has been written to equip young Australians with the skills, knowledge and understanding that will enable them to engage effectively with and prosper in a globalised world. AusVELS also incorporates the following cross-curriculum priorities:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
- Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia
- Sustainability

ENGLISH AusVELS

The focus of AusVELS is now on the slightly different content areas of:

- Reading and Viewing
- Writing
- Speaking & Listening

The Australian Curriculum: English is organised into three interrelated strands that support students' growing understanding and use of Standard Australian English (English). Together the three strands focus on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking and writing. The three strands are:

- Language: knowing about the English language
- Literature: understanding, appreciating, responding to, analysing and creating literature
- Literacy: expanding the repertoire of English usage
Aims
The Australian Curriculum: English aims to ensure that students:

• learn to listen to, read, view, speak, write, create and reflect on increasingly complex and sophisticated spoken, written and multimodal texts across a growing range of contexts with accuracy, fluency and purpose
• appreciate, enjoy and use the English language in all its variations and develop a sense of its richness and power to evoke feelings, convey information, form ideas, facilitate interaction with others, entertain, persuade and argue
• understand how Standard Australian English works in its spoken and written forms and in combination with non-linguistic forms of communication to create meaning
• develop interest and skills in inquiring into the aesthetic aspects of texts, and develop an informed appreciation of literature.

MATHEMATICS (AusVELS)
The focus of AusVELS is now on the slightly different Content Strands of:

• Number and Algebra
• Measurement and Geometry
• Statistics and Probability

The Content Strands describe what is to be taught and learnt.
The major difference with the VELS to the new AusVELS is the focus on the Proficiency Strands of:

• Understanding
• Fluency
• Problem Solving
• Reasoning

The Proficiency Strands describe how content is explored or developed, that is, the thinking and doing of mathematics. They provide the language to build in the developmental aspects of the learning of mathematics and have been incorporated into the content descriptions of the three content strands described above. This approach has been adopted to ensure students’ proficiency in mathematical skills develops throughout the curriculum and becomes increasingly sophisticated over the levels of schooling.

Aims
The Australian Curriculum: Mathematics aims to ensure that students:

• are confident, creative users and communicators of mathematics, able to investigate, represent and interpret situations in their personal and work lives and as active citizens
• develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of mathematical concepts and fluency with processes, and are able to pose and solve problems and reason in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability
• recognise connections between the areas of mathematics and other disciplines and appreciate mathematics as an accessible and enjoyable discipline to study.
ENGLISH - YEAR 4 - LEARNING STANDARDS

Reading and Viewing
By the end of Year 4, students understand that texts have different structures depending on the purpose and audience. They explain how language features, images and vocabulary are used to engage the interest of audiences. They describe literal and implied meaning connecting ideas in different texts. They express preferences for particular texts, and respond to others’ viewpoints.

Writing
Students use language features to create coherence and add detail to their texts. They understand how to express an opinion based on information in a text. They create texts that show understanding of how images and detail can be used to extend key ideas. Students create structured texts to explain ideas for different audiences. They demonstrate understanding of grammar, select vocabulary from a range of resources and use accurate spelling and punctuation, editing their work to improve meaning.

Speaking and Listening
Students listen for key points in discussions. They use language features to create coherence and add detail to their texts. They understand how to express an opinion based on information in a text. They create texts that show understanding of how images and detail.

MATHEMATICS - YEAR 4 - LEARNING STANDARDS

Number and Algebra
Students recall multiplication facts to 10 x 10 and related division facts. They choose appropriate strategies for calculations involving multiplication and division, with and without the use of digital technology, and estimate answers accurately enough for the context. Students solve simple purchasing problems with and without the use of digital technology. They locate familiar fractions on a number line, recognise common equivalent fractions in familiar contexts and make connections between fractions and decimal notations up to two decimal places. Students identify unknown quantities in number sentences. They use the properties of odd and even numbers and describe number patterns resulting from multiplication. Students continue number sequences involving multiples of single-digit numbers and unit fractions, and locate them on a number line.

Measurement and Geometry
Students compare areas of regular and irregular shapes, using informal units. They solve problems involving time duration. Students use scaled instruments to measure length, angle, area, mass, capacity and temperature of shapes and objects. They convert between units of time. Students create symmetrical simple and composite shapes and patterns, with and without the use of digital technology. They classify angles in relation to a right angle. Students interpret information contained in maps.

Statistics and Probability
Students describe different methods for data collection and representation, and evaluate their effectiveness. They construct data displays from given or collected data, with and without the use of digital technology. Students list the probabilities of everyday events. They identify dependent and independent events.
THE ARTS
The domains within the Discipline-based Learning strand form a body of knowledge with associated ways of seeing the world and distinct methods of exploring, imagining and constructing that world. In line with the Essential Learning Standards, The Arts is one of the domains in the Discipline-based learning strand. The Arts domain encompasses a diverse and ever-changing range of disciplines and forms that can be used to structure teaching and learning programs. The domain allows students to create and critically explore the disciplines of Art, Dance, Drama, Media, Music and Visual Communication. All students attend specialist sessions in The Performing Arts and The Visual Arts. In addition The Arts will be integrated into many areas of the classroom program.

Music (Performing Arts)
Students will participate in a 50 minute Performing Arts session per week. Students make and share performing arts works including music, dance and drama. They will sing songs, move and listen to music, play listening and drama games and make music using tuned and untuned percussion instruments. A focus for Year 4 will include developing skills in reading formal music notation as they participate in music ensembles, including playing the recorder. There are also other performance opportunities including items at Assembly and the annual Milgate Christmas Carols concert.

Visual Arts
Visual Art is a unique and expressive subject that engages students in critical and creative thinking. Students are given the opportunity to refine fundamental motor skills, while expressing their ideas and feelings about themselves and their world. Students continue to develop their understanding in art elements such as line, shape, colour, texture, tone and pattern. They will reflect on their own and other people’s art and ideas, identifying key features and discussing the function of Art in the community. Visual Art areas covered include drawing, painting, printing, collage, modelling, construction and threads and textiles. Students will participate in one 50 minute Visual Art session per week.

MANDARIN LANGUAGE
At Milgate students are offered the opportunity to learn Mandarin as a second language in one 50 minute session per week. We aim to develop students’ language awareness and skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Our program also provides opportunities for students to learn about Chinese culture, and therefore increase their intercultural knowledge. Through comparison and reflection, students will then be able to understand language, culture and humanity in a broadened sense. Throughout the year students participate in wide range of learning activities such as stories, songs, games, role-plays, reading, writing and variety of cultural activities. Learning Technology activities will also be used in class for assisting learning where it is suitable.

E.A.L. (ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE)
The EAL Program supports students from grades Prep to 6 who are learning English as an additional language. The program focuses on supporting the learning, which takes place in the classroom and addresses the specific learning challenges faced by additional language learners. This varies from providing survival skills to enable new students to function in a classroom, to helping more competent students analyse different writing styles and improve the grammatical features of their writing and speech. After an initial assessment to identify learning needs, students participate in 1-3 sessions a week with a small group of students that are at a similar stage of learning. Additional support from the Blackburn English Language School is sought for eligible students, if appropriate. The EAL Program aims to develop the confidence and ability of our students in order for them to participate fully in the opportunities available to them at Milgate Primary School.
LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES
Milgate Primary School supports the belief that through Learning Technologies, children become equipped to participate in a rapidly changing world where work and leisure activities are increasingly transformed by technology. Students will find, explore, analyse, exchange and present information using their iPad and computers. Focus will be given to developing the skills necessary for children to be able to create and use information in a safe, discriminating, effective and creative way. All students will use Learning Technologies as a routine part of classroom activities across the curriculum.

All students are required to adhere to “The Student Code of Conduct when Using the Internet” and parents are asked to read and sign the School Internet Protocol form, which gives permission for their child/ren to use the Internet. Without this permission students will be unable to access the Internet for educational research and activities. The School Internet Protocol form will cover years Prep – 2 and then Years 3 – 6 so parents will only need to sign it twice during the 7 years the students are at Milgate Primary School. As part of the 1-1 iPad program, students in Years 3 – 6 are also required to have signed the “1-1 iPad Program Acceptable Use Agreement”.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/SPORT
Students will participate in a 50 minute PE session per week where the units covered will focus on student’s skill development and fitness. The sports program provides all students with the opportunity to learn and use skills in game situations. The emphasis of the program is on good sportsmanship and having fun.

Year 4 students have opportunities throughout the year to participate in the following sporting events: House Swimming, House Cross Country, House Athletics, District Swimming, District Cross Country, District Athletics and Hooptime Basketball competitions. Students also have the opportunity to attend a 10 day Intensive Swimming Program run at Aquarena in Term 2 and to attend camp at Mt Evelyn Recreation Camp in Term 3.

The “PHYSICAL EDUCATION PARENT HANDBOOK” is available on the school website.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
A variety of enrichment programs are offered to students in Years 1 – 6. These include: Wise Ones, Chess, Instrumental Music and School Choir. Information regarding any of these programs is available from the office.

LIBRARY
All classes have a 50 minute timetabled weekly Library lesson in the Library. Students are encouraged to borrow books weekly and may have them on loan for 2 weeks.
ENVIRONMENT
Think Globally – Act Locally – Respond Personally
At Milgate Primary school we are committed to educating and empowering our students when it comes to caring for the environment. To reduce our impact on the environment we are implementing a ‘Zero Waste’ policy. This involves:

• Continuing with our paper recycling program
• Implementing a recycling program for plastics
• Implementing a composting program for organic waste such as food scraps
• Implementing a “what you bring in, you take out” policy for rubbish in lunchboxes.

We ask that where possible, students bring ‘nude lunches’ to school- that is, lunch and snacks that are in reusable plastic lunchboxes, sandwich boxes and small containers. When our composting program is implemented, all food scraps will be recycled. Any other rubbish such as plastic cling wrap and plastic packets will return home in students’ lunchboxes. We are grateful for your support and partnership in educating your children about their environmental responsibilities.