



**Darnum Primary School**  
**Grade Three and Four Curriculum**  
**Overview**



**2020**

Welcome to Grades Three and Four!

This overview contains information about the Grade 3/4 curriculum for 2020. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about any aspects of your child's education.

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Classroom Teachers

### **Grade 3/4 Program**

#### **Reading**

Students will participate in a variety of reading activities each day that enable them to experience a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts in both print and electronic media. Reading may be independent, shared or in a small group. Student progress in reading is monitored and assessed on an ongoing basis.

In Grade 3 and 4, the expectation is that students will read at home at least five nights a week. Whilst we do encourage some independent reading, students still need to be reading aloud to an adult regularly and discussing the comprehension questions that are sent home. Students need to bring their readers and diaries to school each day, they will be checked regularly.

Your child will bring home a range of books this year. Students are responsible for choosing their own books and keeping a record of their home reading in their diaries. Students have access to levelled books at their individual levels. They also have access to the classroom library which includes a wider selection of mostly short novels. Based on students' individual interests, other texts may also be sourced from the main library and electronic media. Students are given the responsibility to select 'just right' books and books they enjoy (with some support and guidance). They are also welcome to seek reading material from the West Gippsland Library, their home library and the reading eggs library or read content from sites like [www.kidsnews.com.au](http://www.kidsnews.com.au). Having access to a wide variety of texts means occasionally students may be wanting to read texts that are too difficult or too easy. Please be aware that they will be reading books at their correct level with their teacher. If your child has selected a book that is too hard, this is a great opportunity for you to read to your child. This is still a valuable experience and can be recorded in the reading diary. Please see Liz, Anita or Leona if you have concerns at any stage. It is important that children are exploring a broad range of texts with the ultimate goal being enjoyment of reading.

#### **Writing**

Writing is a daily part of literacy activities in grades 3 and 4 and is incorporated into reading and integrated studies as well as focused writing lessons. This year we will be exploring the 6+1 Writing Traits as part of our writing program at Darnum Primary School. The traits explored include: Ideas, Organisation, Word Choice, Voice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions and Presentation. Students will explore a range of writing styles including narratives, persuasive writing, poetry, descriptive texts, recounts and reports. They will also have opportunities to write about reading in their reader's notebook and will be developing a writer's notebook where they can generate ideas, or seeds, for writing.

## **Grammar**

Grammar is taught as a component of reading, writing and oral language.

## **Spelling**

The Grade 3/4 spelling program will continue to expand each student's knowledge of spelling patterns and high frequency words. To do this, as a whole class, students will explore sounds and the different spelling patterns associated with them. Developing strategies beyond 'sounding out' is a major focus. These include identifying similar visual patterns in words and exploring word meanings and word families.

## **Oral Language**

Students are encouraged to be vigilant as to what is happening in the world around them and to bring newspaper articles or information about significant current events or issues to share with their peers. This can often form the basis of rich class discussions and literacy tasks. Students will be required to complete more formal oral language presentations during the year such as presentations relating to class themes during integrated studies.

## **Numeracy**

Throughout the year, students in Grades 3/4/5/6 are grouped according to needs across six key mathematical areas: place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions/decimals. Twice a week, students meet in these multilevel classes, where they work intensely with teachers and peers to address specific areas of need.

Grade 3/4 students also participate in other numeracy lessons each week which focus on measurement, geometry, statistics, probability as well as problem solving. Activities include textbook tasks, 'hands on' activities, and math games. There is also a strong focus on automatic response in relation to counting patterns, number facts and multiplication tables.

## **Integrated Studies**

Each term children will explore a theme that will be integrated with their mainstream learning, as well as providing them with an opportunity to research topics that are relevant to them. In term one our theme relates to climate and sustainability. In term two, our theme will be around the exploration of Australia and its neighbouring countries. During term three the students will look at citizenship and democracy and finally during term four they will explore the first fleet and convict settlement.

## **Art**

Students will participate in regular art lessons with Miss Campbell. Please send an art smock (an old shirt is fine) if your child has not yet brought one to school. During term one the students will focus on their water colour techniques and creating botanical artwork. Term two they will use charcoal and pencils to draw animals. Term three they will explore cubism and abstract artwork and in term four students will have flexible art lessons based on their class's interests.

## **Physical Education**

The students will participate in a thirty-minute physical education session every Thursday with Rob Ferguson and a 45-minute session of senior sport on Fridays.

## **Information Communication Technologies (ICT) /Design Technology**

Melanie Nicholls will take 60-minute ICT lessons with students each week in semester one with Design Technology commencing in semester two.

As well as stand-alone ICT classes, the use of computers, iPads and the internet will be integrated into many classroom activities.

### **Music/Drama**

Music/performing arts lessons are held each week with Melanie Nicholls with opportunities to participate in extra-curricular music activities throughout the week such as guitar and choir. Grade four also have the option of participating in a half hour drumming session once a week.

### **Science**

60-minute science lessons happen weekly with Kath Evans, they explore physical, biological, chemical and earth and space sciences.

### **L.O.T.E - Japanese**

Japanese lessons will commence in term two.

### **Homework**

Students are required to read at least 5 nights a week They are also encouraged to regularly practise their multiplication tables.

### **Students Of The Week (S.O.T.W.)**

We have one S.O.T.W. selected from each grade each week. Students can be chosen for academic reasons or for positive behaviour that upholds our school values.

### **School Values**

FROGS is the school values program and is an acronym for:

- Friendship
- Respect
- Organisation
- Growth
- Safety

These values form the basis of the behaviour standards expected in the classroom and school-ground.

### **Visible Learning**

This year, the Visible Learning approach will continue to underpin teaching and learning across the school. Visible Learning encourages students to articulate what they are learning and why. Visible learners can talk about the strategies they are using, identify the next steps in their learning and set goals accordingly. Students talk about their 'learning intentions' - what it is they are trying to achieve. They can measure their success against their 'success criteria' - the evidence they have developed to show that they have succeeded.

Visible Learners also focus on developing resilience. In particular, students are encouraged to view errors as opportunities for further learning; as challenges that they can aspire to. They know what to do when they are stuck by identifying strategies that will enable them to move on.

Visible Learning aims to maximise the learning opportunities for each individual child in the classroom.

### **SRC**

Grade 3 and 4 students are encouraged to apply to become members of the Student Representative Council which comprises students from Grade 2 through to Grade 6. The SRC enables students to become active citizens in the school community. They provide a student voice

by seeking the ideas and opinions of their peers and plan and implement projects and events that benefit the school community. SRC positions are for two school terms.

### **Important Dates for 2020**

#### School Term Dates

Term 1:	January 29 <sup>th</sup> - March 27 <sup>th</sup>
Term 2:	April 14 <sup>th</sup> - June 26 <sup>th</sup>
Term 3	July 13 <sup>th</sup> - September 18 <sup>th</sup>
Term 4:	October 5 <sup>th</sup> - December 18 <sup>th</sup>

#### Holidays

Labour Day:	Monday, March 9 <sup>th</sup>
Easter Monday	Monday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>
Queen's Birthday:	Monday, June 8 <sup>th</sup>
Melbourne Cup:	Tuesday, November 3 <sup>rd</sup>

#### Student Free Days

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March  
Others to be confirmed

#### Special Events

Informal Teacher Interviews	From Monday, March 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Athletic Sports	Friday, March 13 <sup>th</sup>
School Photos	To be confirmed
Grade 3/4 Camp	22 <sup>nd</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> October