Welcome to 2016

Welcome back to all students and parents/guardians. We hope you enjoyed your well-earned break and are ready to jump in to Term 1! We are looking forward to a very full and fun term with lots to see and do.

Sunsmart

We would like to remind all parents and students that Term 1 is a hat term. It is essential that all students bring a hat with them to school to be worn outside at recess and lunch. Together with your help, our aim is to ensure children are protected from the sun at all times. Students are required to bring a drink bottle to school with them also to ensure they are adequately hydrated during class time.

Staff Year 4 2016

We welcome some new members to the Year 4 team this year and would like to introduce them to you. During the year please feel free to touch base with classroom teachers. Teachers strive to know their students and do the best they can for them.

Jeff Wilson  Year 3/4 Neighbourhood Leader

The roll of the neighbourhood leader is to coordinate and lead learning within the teams. They will also liaise with families and the school community.

Classroom Teachers

4A  Ms Ning Kang        4D  Ms Daniella Gargano        4E  Ms Samantha Smith
4F  Ms Deanne Bowden    4B  Ms Wendy Scott           4C  Ms Vanessa Jalovec
4G  Ms Diana Gilevski (3 days) and Ms Britt Saunders (2 days)
**1-1 iPad Program**

The 1-1 iPad Program is gradually being integrated into the daily learning of students. Over the next week students will be enrolled in the school network and as such will have access to online learning. All students in year 4 this year will have access to our new learning management system called DB Primary. This system will allow for online, safe and engaging learning. During the year parents will also be able to access this system to view their child’s digital portfolio, give feedback about learning and participate in the learning of their child.

**Numeracy**

The focus areas for numeracy during term 1 are:

Place Value, Addition and Subtraction and Chance and Data. Students will be engaged in problem solving tasks throughout all units of work throughout the year. Students are encouraged to practice multiplication tables and number facts at home as this helps in building mathematical knowledge.

**English**

This term, during English sessions, students are investigating Persuasive Texts, narrative texts and learning about the ‘Seven Steps to Writing Success’. Persuasive texts are an important part of being a writer. Writing to persuade is important in being active members of community.

The ‘Seven Steps to Writing Success’, is a way of teaching students to write in interesting and exciting ways. Teachers will be introducing this work intensively so that students can engage in high-level writer’s craft. This work will be a major part of the year 3/4 program.

The Seven Steps are:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plan for Success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sizzling Starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tightening Tension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dynamic Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Show, Don’t Tell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ban the Boring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Exciting Endings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In reading students will be engaging in developing comprehension strategies through independent reading, explicit teaching and individualised goals. Reading at home frequently is very important to developing readers for life. Students should read for about 30 minutes at home every day.
Home Learning

Home Learning is an important part of your child’s learning as it allows them an extra opportunity to practise and apply the knowledge they have learnt in class. Each of the tasks they have been given are designed to reflect the program they are learning in the classroom.

Home Learning for Year 4 will include both English and Math tasks for each week. This was sent home on early in February. It is expected that students in Year 4 read for at least 30 minutes per night. This can be a book of their choice, magazines, comics or anything else that they may find engaging.

Students also have weekly spelling words which should be completed each night using the look, say, spell, cover, write, check method. Accompanying these we ask that students choose one English and one Maths task from the homework grid in their Home Learning books to complete each week (a total of two tasks per week).

This term students have two projects to complete by their respective due dates. Both projects require a fair amount of time and effort to complete and we remind students to ensure they leave enough time to complete their home learning tasks by the due date. We also ask that work be completed to the same standard expected in class, 5 star quality. If you complete a project ahead of time please feel free to bring it in early!

It is required that students put all information into their own words and list any references or resources which may have been used.

Home Learning is to be returned every Friday and students will receive new spelling words the following Monday.

INQUIRY

This term for Inquiry students will be exploring the big questions ‘What makes my mind happy?’ and ‘What makes cultures different’?

Throughout the term students will be learning about:

- Distinguishing between needs and wants (food, clothing and shelter and affection)
- Identity and self worth
- Strategies to support wellbeing and self-wealth
- Contribution of health services to well being
- Identification of risk and safety at home school and local community (specifically cyber bullying)
- Physiological, cultural, social and economical reasons for food choices
- Health and well being services in school community and local community

Get ready to gear up, this is going to be an amazing term!!
### Indonesian
This term in Indonesian, the Y4 students are learning about food and vegetables in Indonesia. They will look into the different stages of rice growing and harvesting rice and distribution of rice in the community. They will discuss the importance of rice in the life of Indonesian people. They will participate in cooking and tasting some special food of Indonesia such as tempe, nasi goreng, nasi campur or nasi kuning.

### Performing Arts
Students in Year 4 will spend one term on each of the Performing Arts Elements: Music, Dance and Drama. Drama is the focus in term 1. Students will participate in a unit called ‘Save the Planet’, where they will work individually and in teams to improvise, develop characters, create mimes and role-plays.

### Physical Education
In PE this term, year 4 students will be participating in a cooperative games unit. The focus for students will be to work effectively alongside peers to complete small tasks. Within each task, teamwork and effective communication will be essential for each team to be successful. These skills are viewed as critical qualities moving forward in physical education. Following the cooperative games unit, all students will learn the rules, skills and game strategies required to be successful in the game, Rounders.

Scan this QR code to view a PE semester 1 curriculum summary video of Year 4 at PCCP-9.

### Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden and Environmental Science
The aim of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden is to change the way children approach and think about food. Students engage in this by getting dirty and using their hands to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh, seasonal food. They begin to understand the integral role healthy food and lifestyles play in our physical and emotional wellbeing as well as experience the joys of new and exciting foods and flavours. As students move to Year 4 they are encouraged to develop more confidence with cooking and preparing techniques.

**Garden and Environmental Science – Robyn Cairns and Sarah Moore**

This term we are focusing on Insects, which are attracted, to our school gardens because of the habitats we have grown. The food garden, wetland and various other landscaped zones. Students will be investigating unique features of insects and how they can have both a negative and positive impact on our school food garden. They will also look at organic pest control.

Students will be taking part insect and bug audits using the quadrant method across different habitats in the schoolyard and comparing their results.

They will also be creating a model of an insect using recycled newspaper and investigating amazing facts about the insect, which can be displayed on the model for interactive learning for younger children.

I pads will be used for photographing insects and researching using the Melbourne Museum website.
The importance of Reading for Learning and Future Learning

Frequent and wide reading according to research has a direct correlation with successful learning. Students throughout the early and middle years of schooling need to acquire a range of vocabulary in order to be ready for the later years of schooling. Research suggests that students need to learn approximately 3000 new words each year.

Various researchers suggest that the richest source for building vocabulary for students who already have literacy is reading. Furthermore research suggests that students need about 5-7 encounters with a new word for it to become part of their language. (Graves, 2006; Wilson, 2012)

It is encouraged at Point Cook College for students to have daily reading routines. This will support the reading teaching that is done at school.

Some things you can do at home:

- Have a daily ritual. Many families have a specific time to read, such as just before bedtime.
- Make a trip to the local library and borrow plenty of books.
- Keep on reading to your children. Students can also build understanding in both English and the other languages that are spoken in the home.
- Read packages, read information in the supermarket.
- Use subtitles on the TV.
- Encourage children to carry books that they are reading to and from school, this allows them to continue their reading throughout the day.
- Let your children see you read, be it newspapers, magazines or Internet.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

In year 4 we are continue to build the SWPBS. Please talk to your children about how we can engage in positivie behaviour that promotes learning.

Behaviour Purpose Statement
At Point Cook College we develop academically, socially and emotionally within a safe, engaging and inclusive learning environment.

Expected Behaviours
We are Learners
We are Responsible
We are Respectful
We are Safe
**The Active Kids Program**

During Term two year 4 Students in partnership with the Wyndham Council, will be involved in the Active Kids program.

Active Kids is a Wyndham City initiative designed to encourage healthy eating habits and increased physical activity in children aged 8-12 years.

The objectives of the project are to:
1. Encourage greater participation in physical activity by Wyndham children aged 8-12 years;
2. Encourage healthy eating habits in Wyndham children aged 8-12 years;
3. Helps families be active and eat well by providing information and resources; and
4. Involve a range of agencies and groups (e.g. schools, local health professionals) in delivering the project.

The program will involve bringing in a range of community groups to work with students to give sporting and health related experiences. Keep an eye on our website, as more information will be available toward the end of term one.