



NEWS

FROM **Grade 3/4**

Literacy...

In Writing, the Grade 3/4 students have been re-visiting the writing process that we use as a whole school at Dorset. They have also been learning ways of making their writing more descriptive. The writing process at Dorset is the same throughout all levels. First we **plan** our Writing. Planning can be as simple as thinking about what you are going to write before you write. Next is the **draft**. After students have written a draft, they **revise** their writing by adding more detail or changing words. Then they **edit** their writing for spelling and punctuation errors. The final stage in the process is to **publish**.

In Reading, students have been thinking about the questions they ask before, during and after reading. They have also been focusing on making sure they choose books that are 'Just Right' for them during Independent Reading. It is very important that students are picking the correct books during Independent Reading at school. Generally, a good rule is: two or three words in a passage that I don't know is a 'Just Right' book. Anymore, the book is probably too hard and you may lose understanding. Any less: the book may be too easy and not challenging enough.

Maths...

In Maths, our focus has been on Number, Place Value and introducing Multiplication. We have had a variety of learning intentions including when to round up or down, writing numbers in words, ordering and comparing numbers on a number line and comparing numbers using the greater than (>) and less than (<) signs. We begin learning Multiplication by looking at Multiplication as arrays. Students will be learning their times tables through a program called 'Blast-Off'. For Quick Maths every second week, the students spend 7 minutes working towards learning all their times tables facts. It starts off easy (2x tables) and gets harder and harder, up to 12 times tables and onto 2-digit times 1-digit and 2-digit times 2-digit problems. Being able to recall basic facts efficiently is a necessary first step in the development of more advanced skills for computational fluency with larger numbers and algebraic expressions.

Coming Up...

Icy Pole Day	28 th February
Badge Ceremony	7 th March
World of Maths Incursion	6 th , 7 th , 8 th March
Family Movie Night	16 th March
School Photos	20 th March

Notes to Return...

- Icy Pole Day
- World of Maths Incursion
- Family Movie Night
- School Photo Form

3/4 Sport

On Thursday afternoons, all the Grade 3/4 students are mixed up into groups for Grade 3/4 Sport. This aims to prepare students for Grade 5/6 interschool sport. The games that are selected are modified for inclusivity. Sports included this term are variants of soccer, kick ball, volley ball and lawn bowls.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen / Garden

Something new for Grade 3 students this year is the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (Grade 4 students began as new Grade 3s last year). SAKG sessions alternate from Garden one week to Kitchen the next. This fantastic program provides opportunities for students to cut vegetables, measure ingredients, use a stove, plant seeds, weed gardens, learn about the composting process, harvest vegetables and much more. Parent helpers are welcomed and encouraged for both the Garden and the Kitchen sessions. More adult helpers allow Gregg, in the kitchen, and Jane, in the garden, to roam around and help out as many students as possible. If you are able to help out during SAKG, please see your child's teacher.