

Term 4 Overview

Stage 3



A focus on...attendance

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. Schools in partnership with parents work to encourage and support regular attendance of students. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children. Just one days' absence each fortnight amounts to nearly one and a half years of absence from school by the end of Year 12.

While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as part of their duty of care, record and monitor part and whole day absences. Communication of information about attendance to parents is also part of our responsibility. Schools, in providing a caring teaching and learning environment, which addresses the learning and support needs of students, including those with additional learning and support needs or complex health conditions, foster students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the school community.

In our school context, there are 5% of students currently presenting concerns with an attendance rate of less than 85% this year. There are a number of factors which appear to impact on the data related to significant student absence, which have been consistent across years - mainly sickness, family holidays and special needs. Despite this fact, the data represents a large improvement compared to the same period of time last year, when 13% of students were identified as attendance concerns.

Families are encouraged to plan travel during school holiday periods. We also invite parents to work with teachers and Executive to plan supports for their children when they are experiencing difficulties attending school or getting to school on time. We hope to continue in our efforts to communicate openly and honestly about the issue of attendance and work together to ensure students get the most from their educational opportunities at our school.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2 & 3 – Key Learning Area Content Summaries

4 – Stage 3 Business; Important Dates



KLA Content Summaries

English

Our Stage 3 writing focus will centre on the effective use of dialogue and how it is used in a narrative type of text. Students will establish their own criteria for the self-assessment of dialogue used within their own writing. This will be the starting point for a series of activities that develop understanding through collecting, classifying and generating opinions of how this is managed by established authors. This dynamic topic will be closely linked to many other areas of learning.

Our Stage 3 students continue to delve into the various strategies used by authors in their attempts to inform, persuade and entertain different audiences. Although our classes will focus on the purpose and success of traditional myths and legends, students will also reinforce their love of reading by evaluating strategies used by their own favourite authors and genres.

Linked to our writing focus, students will investigate how punctuation supports the use of effective dialogue and explore alternate vocabulary that provides greater understanding to their readers. For example, how might we change the use of 'said' to be clearer in our purpose?

Our speaking and listening activities will be closely linked to our writing focus. Active listening will be supported through lessons that include paraphrasing and taking notes of what is being heard. Summarising is a tricky skill. Students will practise this in both oral and written activities to reflect an understanding of key ideas.



Mathematics

In Stage 3, mental strategies are continually reinforced to solve addition and subtraction problems. Students may find recording (writing out) informal mental strategies to be more efficient than using formal written algorithms, particularly in the case of subtraction. This is similar when working on problems of multiplication and division. An inverse operation is an operation that reverses the effect of the original operation. This term, students will use inverse operations as a way to check the validity of their answers. Stage 3 students will also continue to develop an understanding of place value relationships, such as 10 thousand = 100 hundreds = 1000 tens = 10 000 ones. When using fractions and decimals, students study fractions with denominators of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 100. A unit fraction is any proper fraction in which the numerator is 1. Stage 3 students will take part in activities where they interpret a variety of word problems and translate them into mathematical diagrams and/or fraction notation.

Students will be provided with opportunities to discuss what information can be drawn from various data displays. They will try to identify the advantages and disadvantages of different representations of the same data in order to make successful choices when designing their own representations.

When investigating three-dimensional objects, students will compare, describe and name prisms and pyramids. To do this, they will identify and determine the number of pairs of parallel faces of 3D objects, e.g. 'A rectangular prism has three pairs of parallel faces' and identify the 'base' of prisms and pyramids. Students will be challenged to recognise that the base of a prism is not always the face where the prism touches the ground.

Science and Technology

Students will be investigating how matter is different and how the properties of a material can determine its range of purpose. A material might be found in different states. The most familiar states are solid, liquid or gas. Students will discover that the amount of energy the atoms or molecules of a material possess determines its state of matter and that a substance will exist as a particular state of matter in certain temperature and pressure conditions.

Our classes will also get the opportunity to experiment with the Lego Mindstorm EV3 kits. These kits provide hands-on opportunities for students to create designs, which can be then be actioned through coding instructions.

History

Students will learn about what life was like for different groups of people in the Australian colonies, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. They will examine settlement patterns, the environmental impact of colonisation and the daily lives of the early settlers. Employing strategies that develop their critical and visual thinking skills, the students will view and engage in stimulating original material and sources to develop their historical skills and concepts.

Later in the term, students will be looking at how non-English speaking communities have helped to shape Australian culture.

Creative Arts

In visual art, students will design and make a dream catcher. They will then look at Pop Art and create prints of a face in the style of Andy Warhol.

In music, students will expand on their understanding of the elements of written music. They will sing a range of songs and accompany them with xylophones, recorders, and other instruments. Students will also work with rhythm patterns and ostinatos in group percussion. Part of our music lessons will be allocated to supporting students with individual and group performances for the Art and Music Showcase.



PDHPE

As part of our Positive Behaviour for Learning initiative, Stage 3 students will spend time discussing the “PBL Value of the Week” and what these look like in various contexts within school life.

Students will take part in a growth and development unit covering physical, emotional and social changes at puberty. This is a sensitive unit of work and parents are encouraged to maintain regular discussions with their child/ren at home. We will look at influences on self-esteem and behaviour, gender images and expectations and increased responsibilities.

Weekly fitness activities will provide opportunities to reinforce learnt skills in throwing, catching, striking and sprinting. The lessons will also provide an opportunity for students to take part in small game play, where they are challenged to assess and change the rules to support all students.

Most importantly there will be weekly Stage 3 dance rehearsals for the Year 6 Farewell. Dancing in formation, with a partner and as a whole stage ensures student outcomes are being met and that we also have great fun in doing so.

Stage 3 Business:

Growth and Development: Students experience physical, social and emotional changes as they move from childhood to adolescence. The personal development and health unit this term will explore the predictable changes that occur at this time of the life course and students will devise strategies to cope with these changes. Students will benefit from conversations with a significant adult in their life to further discuss aspects such as puberty, changing friendships and commencing high school.

Student Leadership Speeches: Parents of students in Year 5 are encouraged to have conversations with their child about embarking on a student leadership journey. Every student in Year 6 is a leader in some aspect and several students will want to take this leadership role further to become a notable school captain or prefect. Discussions in class and at home will support students as they prepare their leadership speeches this term.

Transition from Year 6 to Year 7: Moving from primary to high school is an important next step in the education of our Year 6 students. It involves an adjustment to a new school - where students go from being the eldest in the school to the youngest, and the high school will be bigger in size and in the number of students than LPS. It is essential for students to feel supported in the transition and to develop a positive sense of belonging in their new school, as this will have implications for their emotional and academic development. Please contact staff if you would like more information to support your child on their transition to high school.



Important Term 4 Dates

25/10 – Cricket Skills Clinic

3/12 – KHS Orientation Day

1/11 – P&C Meeting

4/12 – Showcase

4/11 – Principal's Assembly

5/12 – Parent Helpers Afternoon Tea

7/11 – Outdoor Classroom Day

9/12 – Level 3 Reward

14/11 – S3 Operation Art Workshop

11/12 – Presentation Day Assembly

22/11 – Soccer Gala Day

13/12 – Student Reports go home

26/11 – Student Leader Elections

16/12 – Year 6 Farewell

26/11 – P&C Meeting

18/12 – S3 Movie Day

29/11 – Stage 3 Fun Day

18/12 – Last Day for students

2/12 – Principal's Assembly

Leura Public School

Corner Mount Hay Rd and Willow Park Ave
Leura, NSW, 2780
4784 1251
leura-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au