

# Grade 4 Newsletter



July 2018

## S.T.E.A.M.

We have recently expanded some of our mathematical investigations to incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. Our first mission was to create a Mars Lander that could safely descend without breaking apart on touchdown. This was extremely well received by the students as they worked collaboratively to; identify problems, design, create, problem solve, test then conduct a final launch of their designs.



The students used the understandings and problem solving skills they developed from the Mars lander activity to work their way through the second challenge of 'A Bridge too Far'. We have been impressed with the students' ability to question, identify and share the ideas and discoveries that they have uncovered through their engineering challenges.



We would like to thank all the people who visited the Grade 4 area during the RPS Maths night. We had a lot of fun teaching and playing dice games that could be used at home to continue to sharpen everyone's mathematical skills and understandings.



**MATHS IS FUN!**

## Inquiry

Last term finished with an amazing exhibition from our Endangered Animals unit. The entire school visited the Grade 4 ‘market’ stalls to learn about the plight of many endangered animals but most importantly, what can be done about the problem. The quality of work produced by the students was outstanding, but most impressive is the way in which students are embracing the concept of questioning ideas, concepts and habits.

We have introduced our new topic for inquiry this term that revolves around the central idea:

*Human made waste impacts the natural environment. What can I do to make a difference?*

The students have embraced the motto ‘pollution, what’s the solution?’ as we have begun our journey to understand waste and our ability to affect change. We were excited to welcome representatives from

Cleanaway who educated us all on the importance of recycling, what can be recycled and how we need to prepare things for the recycling bins.



The students will continue

to work collaboratively this term to explore

the concept in order to deliver a message about waste to the school community.

## English

The overwhelming feedback from parents and students has demonstrated a significant growth in reading participation, which is fantastic! We would love for this enthusiasm to continue and your support at home would be greatly appreciated. Please take a few minutes each day to discuss with your child the ‘at home’ text that they are reading, this can become part of the time that they have for their regular daily reading routine.



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## Wakakirri

Wakakirri has ramped up with full dress rehearsals taking place on Fridays. The costumes and sets look amazing thanks to the extra effort put in by Lorraine, Rachel, Lara, Jodie, Corey, Chloe and the parent helpers; Kate Rutherford, Kelly Davies, Kristy Dunne, Natalie Helford, Bree Austen, Susan Lyons. The assistance of other staff and parents has been greatly appreciated as the whole school has supported the program. We are very excited for the performance on Wednesday the 8th of August.

## Communication

Please feel free to come and see us for a brief hello but if you have concerns about your child that you would like to talk over please make an appointment with us to ensure our availability. Alternatively, you can ring the office to request we ring you back at a suitable time, send a note in with your child or we are contactable by email.

**4A - [woods.rachel.r@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:woods.rachel.r@edumail.vic.gov.au)**

**4B - [walkington.john.n@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:walkington.john.n@edumail.vic.gov.au)**

**4C - [ledger.david.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:ledger.david.d@edumail.vic.gov.au)**

If the matter is urgent we suggest you contact the office so the leadership team can be notified and take action. Best Wishes, Grade 4 Teachers