Welcome to 2013! The students have all settled in wonderfully and are keen to extend their learning. We are all looking forward to a fantastic year with the students under our care.

This year the Grade 3/4 classrooms have been set up as open classrooms where lots of flexible learning and team teaching will occur. The Grade 3/4 team this year is as follows:

Julie Hewison and Kathy Ristevska in Rooms 14 and 16
Natalie Jessop and Angela Pobjoy in Room 18 and 20

Each year level in the school has specific work requirements and this information sheet will provide you with an overview of the work we will be covering in Grade 3/4 in Term 1. If you have any queries throughout the year about the work we are covering or your child’s progress, please contact the school to arrange a time to chat with your child’s teacher. We encourage your support and welcome your feedback.

As part of our Sun Smart & Safety Policy students will be asked to go to a designated covered area if they are not wearing a wide brimmed hat during Terms 1 and 4. It is essential children keep a CLEARLY LABELLED and undamaged hat at school during these terms.

**HOME READING**

Take Home Reading books and Library books are available for borrowing. Students are encouraged to read at home nightly and we encourage parents to set aside some time to hear their children read orally on a regular basis. This will be of great benefit to their literacy development. The Home Reading Diary needs to be signed by a parent or guardian each night.

Please note that the Home Reading works on a system by the number of nights a student reads rather than the number of books read in a year.
**LITERACY**

Once assessment of the students’ skills has been completed they will be involved in small guided reading groups where a common text will be selected. Students will complete activities based on the texts to extend and develop their comprehension.

Our main **Writing** focuses this term are Recount Writing and Persuasive Writing. School dictionaries, thesauruses and class word lists are used during the literacy program.

**Grammar** will focus on nouns, sentence structure and the correct use of punctuation. Spelling / Word study activities will include student’s individual spelling words, theme words and words studied in chunks, letter groups and blends.

In grade 3 & 4, students will learn how to join letters and aim for a pen licence, therefore, formal **Handwriting** skills are continually being taught, practised and monitored.

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**NUMERACY**

Our focus for this term will be on **Place Value** as this forms the basis of all understanding in numeracy. Students will focus on:

- counting, pattern & order, skip counting
- number words and numerals, initially to 9,999 and then to 99,999
- decimal numbers to tenths
- automatic response to 20 and from 20
- addition /regrouping tens
- calendars, timetables & schedules
- capacity
- space & shape
- data & graphs.

Students will use of mathematical tools including calculators, rulers, measuring containers and computers.
INTEGRATED STUDIES
The year will begin with the Lalor East Primary School Start Up Program. The variety of different activities assists students in developing our classroom expectations and mission. The program helps students to clarify why we come to school and the steps we all need to take to ensure we can all be successful at school.

Each grade has also developed a beginning of the day and end of the day process chart to ensure we have a smooth start and end to our days. These activities have really helped set a positive tone in all the grades and will be an integral part of each grade for the year.

Our major focus for this Term is on Plants. Students will be studying how plants grow and what they need to survive and be healthy. They will be conducting experiments with plants and observing their growth.

ICT
Students have a 1 hour session in the computer lab and 2 sessions using the netbooks in the classroom each week. Sessions will focus on developing the students’ skills in logging on to the computer with their own personal code, being cyber safe and using the Internet to research information about plants.

HOMEWORK
It is expected that times tables, reading and spelling words will be practised daily. We rely on your help to listen to your child read and assist them with their tables.

Any homework sheets and projects should be supervised and returned by the due date.

SPECIALISTS
ART - Karren Moncur
The children will start with painting this year, water colour painting and acrylics. They will experiment with making shapes with glad wrap and other tools to create texture in the paint. Please provide your child with a smock (an old shirt) so they don’t get paint on their clothes.

The children will embroider a picture on material and make the material into a draw string bag.
**MUSIC - Ruth Lanigan**
Welcome to Term 1 music. I will be working with the Grade 3-6 in the music room while Mr Jones is away. This term we will be exploring the world of classical music and some of the famous composers through the ages. We will be looking at how classical music has made its way into our modern day life through movies and commercials. We will also be using tuned and un-tuned instruments to explore the different version of Mozart’s ‘Twinkle Twinkle Little Star’. We will be exploring some drama activities to help get to know each other a little better at the start of a brand new year.

**PHYS/ED - Lara Arsana**
During Term 1 the Grade 3/4 students will be learning and participating in Athletic events. These events include: sprinting, long jump, high jump, hurdles, shot put, discus, triple jump and relays. Students will be completing specific drills for each event that are designed to improve their ability and technique.

Students who are turning 9 or 10 in 2013 will have the opportunity to try out for the District Athletics Carnival which will be held on **Wednesday 24th April 2013**.

Please send your child to school wearing runners or sneakers on their P.E. day as this is the most appropriate footwear for the Multipurpose Centre.

**TERM 1 SPECIALIST TIMETABLE**

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<th>GRADE</th>
<th>ART</th>
<th>MUSIC</th>
<th>PHYS/ED</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/4 HEWISON</td>
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<td>Room 14</td>
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<td>3/4 RISTEVSKA</td>
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<td>3/4 MISS NATALIE</td>
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<td>3/4 POBJOY</td>
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We look forward to working with you to ensure your child achieves his/her personal best.

The 3/4 Team
Angela Pobjoy, Natalie Jessop
Kathy Ristevska and Julie Hewison