Is anybody happier because you passed this way?
Does anyone remember that you spoke to them today?
The day is almost over and its toiling time is through.
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?

Can you say tonight in parting with the day that's slipping fast,
That you helped a single person of the many that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
Does one whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day or use it? Was it well or sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say:
"You have earned one more tomorrow by what you did today?"

Author Unknown
**Key Information**

**Timetable**

**Monday**
**Tuesday**
**Wednesday**  Sports uniform, J-Time, Italian, Music, Choir, PE (wk 6-9)
**Thursday**  Homework due, Art, Library Borrowing (4W)
**Friday**  Sports uniform, Assembly, PE, Library Borrowing (4B)

**Assembly**
Unless otherwise advised, assemblies are held at 8.50 every Friday morning.

**Absences**
Please notify the school office or your teacher at kpatterson@bne.catholic.edu.au or spengo@bne.catholic.edu.au.

**Arriving late or leaving early**
Please go to the office and sign your child in/out.

**Medication**
All medication must be labelled with your child’s name, accompanied by a doctor’s letter and taken directly to the office. Children may keep asthma puffers in their bags.

**Key Learning Areas**

**Religious Studies**

Year 4 students are expected to participate in all school celebrations with reverence, exhibiting responsible behaviour. J-Time this term will be held within our own class group, with mixed groups beginning next term. Our Religion program is based on the Religious Education Guidelines and RE Modules. Our units this year are as follows, however they may vary with the introduction of the new Religious Education Curriculum.

- Scripture – Exploring the Texts
- Celebration and Prayer – Sacramental Celebrations: Origins and Practices
- Morality – People of Justice
Beliefs – Church Community: Words and Actions

English

Literacy tasks and activities will be drawn from a wide range of resources and completed in various manners in order to cater for the diverse range of learners in the class. The Grammar Conventions workbook, which will be completed weekly, focuses on the grammatical features of texts and the incorporation of this within students’ writing. A range of literacy activities are provided to enhance reading, comprehension, grammar and punctuation, spelling and writing skills.

There is a strong focus on reading chapter books in Year 4. In particular we try to engage students in different series of books and reading specific authors so that they become keen readers.

Mathematics

This year iMaths has been introduced as a mathematical resource for Years 4-7. In addition, Mental Maths and Maths Mate will be used to reinforce key mathematics skills and facts. Where possible, mathematical games will be incorporated consolidate learning, especially for the multiplication facts. Knowledge of times tables and the ability to apply these quickly is necessary as children progress through the maths program. The investigations used in iMaths complement the National Mathematics Curriculum requirements to apply their knowledge and understanding for mathematical concepts through inquiry based learning activities.

History

This key learning area is usually covered within the integrated unit each term and comprises of tasks and activities which will develop the students’ research, data collection and source evaluation skills.

Science

During the year students will participate in an inquiry based approach to science through research, observations and group experiments. Through this process they will develop and extend their understanding of key concepts across the science strands. There will be a focus on methodical and accurate recording of experiments, as well as the importance of fair testing.
Physical Education

Students participate in a 45 minute Physical Education class with Brenda Nohreiter each week on Fridays. Due to interschool sport for Years 5-7 on a Friday afternoon, both classes’ Physical Education lessons will be changed to a Wednesday afternoon from Week 6 through to mid Term 2.

LOTE

Students engage in weekly 45 minute Italian lessons with Connie Lammertsma. Some of the work they do builds up to the greatly anticipated Italian Day held annually in Term 2.

The Arts

Music is taught weekly for 45 minutes by Liesl Murray. Students will commence learning recorder in Semester 2. In Year 4 the children will also be joining the choir for the first time.

Students participate in Visual Art lessons with Wendy Nielson each fortnight as well as many class activities usually associated with the integrated unit.

Dance Fever will commence in Term 3. In previous years, students have enjoyed participating in the Dance Fever Challenge as the culmination to this program.

Speech and Drama is covered when preparing for orals, assemblies as well as presenting oneself in class. In addition, Year 4 students participate in weekly 30 minute classes with specialist teacher Louise Coman throughout Terms 2 and 3.

Library

Year 4 will be frequently be visiting the Manresa Enrichment Centre using the Oliver system to search for books, finding resources from the non-fiction area and just enjoying the simplicity of a story. Students can borrow fiction and non-fiction books during our borrowing time on a Thursday (4 White) or Friday (4 Blue). Please encourage your child to read these books and either return or re-borrow them the following week.
Homework

It is expected that children in Year 4 will be spending an average of 15 minutes on homework tasks each night and an additional 10 minutes reading. The whole school continues to be committed to Ian Lillico’s Homework Grid, which encourages students and parents to enjoy learning time together. In this way, homework is more flexible to suit the child and the demands of family life.

We have also structured the handing out and collection of homework to cater for the hectic lifestyles of families. Homework will be distributed each Friday and collected each Thursday, so that it can be spread out over days when the children have fewer extra-curricular commitments. The Homework Grid will be collected fortnightly on Thursdays and should be signed before being returned. This is just an easy way for us to ensure that you have seen the set work.

Literacy

Reading
It is vital that your child sets aside at least 10 minutes each day for purposeful reading. We really encourage you to help your child find a series of books with which they are engaged. It is also important that children are reading a wide range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction. They should also be reading aloud to increase their expression and fluency. This doesn’t always have to be to an adult, it could be to a sibling or a friend. Regardless of age, children all love to be read to. You might like to read part of their chapter book or their favourite picture book, but make sure you continue reading to them, even as they’re getting older and more independent with their reading.

Spelling
Each week the students will be pretested on words from Spelling Conventions and Letterland, as well as words related to the integrated unit. Weekly spelling words are broken up into colour lists. Students will be provided with different lists to learn depending on their pretest results and spelling ability and are required to learn the highlighted colours. This allows hesitant spellers to gain confidence as they succeed and confident spellers the opportunity to be extended. Spelling rules will also be incorporated into literacy worksheets each week.
Writing
The main focus will be writing sentences. Students will be using their spelling words in sentences where they will be asked to focus on the different linguistic features.

The set homework will also comprise of literacy worksheets focusing on spelling and grammatical concepts studied in class as well as some comprehension tasks.

Mathematics

Multiplication
By Year 4 the children should be reinforcing their understanding of multiplication and division as well as increasing their automatic recall. In order to practise, students will be downloading a game onto their laptop. Students will be given multiplication sheets during class time to be individually completed, with each student recording the time in which they completed the set of tables. This allows each individual to see the improvement in speed and accuracy as they consolidate their knowledge. It also encourages students to use multiplication, rather than addition, as the facts are provided out of order.

Key Skills
Each week, students will complete sheets in Maths Mate to consolidate knowledge, skills and problem solving abilities across the strands.

Homework Grid

The other activities in the homework grid will generally relate to current areas of study in class and general activities in which they may already be involved.

Homework is an important aspect of school life, as it reinforces class tasks and encourages appropriate study habits for the future. Homework and study are areas where the three partners in the educational triangle – parents, teachers and students – can contribute towards achieving set goals. The following are expectations for each partner:

The Student
1. Completes set tasks by the due date
2. Takes responsibility for bringing the correct materials to school
3. Finds out the homework given if absent
4. Sees or emails teacher prior to the next lesson if a problem is encountered
5. Develops a positive attitude towards homework - it is an educational aid, not a penalty

The Teacher
1. Sets homework that is meaningful
2. Sets it on a regular basis
3. Keeps an accurate record of set homework and assignment tasks
4. Checks homework on a regular basis
5. Monitors those students who do not follow class expectation.

The Parent
1. Provides a suitable workplace
2. Assists students to develop routines and time-management skills
3. Takes an active interest in homework, including providing assistance when required and checking homework

If students have not completed all the set homework, the school policy is for them to complete the work during their lunch break. Records are kept to ensure students are consistently completing their homework.

Laptops

So far the children have been wonderful in the care and responsibility they have taken with their laptops and the way they have embraced the task of recharging their computers at home.

In the first term of school, students will be using their laptops in many different ways and this will increase as the year progresses. They are becoming familiar with the computer programs and are sending and receiving emails using an apple computer. As class activities, students are using sites such as BBC Dance Mat Typing, Scootle and Spelling City, as well as the school portal environment. Having their own laptops ensures adequate time for online research, reinforcement of concepts and allows children to work both collaboratively and independently.

Behaviour Management

Each class has collaboratively decided upon expectations which they believe will provide them with the best learning environment. To reinforce these expectations, each class has its own reward system.
The school behavioural policy encourages positive behaviour through the use of the ‘steps’ process which is listed below.

**Step 1** – A warning that the incorrect behaviour is being demonstrated and remind the student of the correct behaviour.

**Step 2** – The student stands behind their chair or at the back of the classroom if they are obscuring another student’s vision of the board.

**Step 3** – Student is sent out of the class to complete work in another supervised classroom.

**Step 4** – Student is sent to the Principal’s Office.

Should a child reach Step 3 on numerous occasions, or reaches Step 4, parent(s) will be contacted to discuss their child’s behaviour and a meeting may be required.

**Parent Involvement**

It is rewarding to work in an environment where so many parents are involved in their children’s education. There are various opportunities for parental involvement throughout the year.

We welcome parent help in the classroom for various activities, as well as the support provided in preparation for assemblies and liturgies.

**Special Events & Celebrations**

There will be many opportunities for us to gather as a class and school community to celebrate the spiritual, intellectual and physical feats of the children. Each term we will send out a class calendar with key dates for any of the events and celebrations in which Year 4 will be involved. Below are some examples of such events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Liturgy</th>
<th>Athletics Carnival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year Level Mass</td>
<td>First Communion and Confirmation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Assembly</td>
<td>Book Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebration of Learning</td>
<td>RAP Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Italian Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country Carnival</td>
<td>Christmas Concert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you have any problems or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to let us know and we can make a suitable time to meet.

We look forward to working with you this year in supporting your child to be the best learner and person they can be.

Kerry Patterson & Siobhan Pengo