We warmly welcome families old and new to Garran Primary! During this term, we will be working with the students to develop productive and stimulating classrooms. We will also identify goals and learn new and exciting information and skills.

About the Year 4 Team

Mrs Kristina Delbridge
Hi! I am delighted to be teaching Year 4 and I am looking forward to sharing the students’ learning over the year. I enjoy teaching all areas of the curriculum, but I particularly love teaching History, Literacy and Science. I have a love of learning and I am keen to sharing this passion with the students. I have two adult boys who bring lots of joy into my life, and I love reading and travelling.

Mrs Kate Simpson
Hello! I am thrilled to be teaching Year 4 this year. I bring with me 11 years of teaching experience and I absolutely love teaching Maths and Spelling. At home I am a mum of two gorgeous children and they, along with my students, teach me something new every day! I look forward to all the exciting events and learning this year will bring.

Mrs Gina Turton
Hi. I’m excited to be teaching Year 4 this year. I enjoy teaching all subjects but I love to excite students in Mathematics and show them logical and fun ways to learn. I enjoy being active and outdoors, so am keen to foster the students’ enthusiasm for PE. Be ready for your child to come home, if they are in my class, talking about eating healthily since this is another important part of life to me. I’m looking forward to another great year at Garran Primary.

Mrs Suzanne Prowse
My name is Suzanne Prowse. This year I will be teaching music from Kindergarten to Year 6 and also taking the senior choir. I enjoy leading a choir out of school hours and have expertise in a range of dance genres. I am an experienced teacher and have taught all ages from Preschool to Year 12.

Ms Marina Fowler
It’s with pleasure I continue to teach amongst the Garran community. Like other teachers at our school I advocate for the holistic development of every student. I bring with that vision energy, a determination for best practises and years of experience within the disciplines of Drama. I’m determined, driven and celebrate life with a good laugh. A former dressage rider and eventer and currently training 3 young ponies, 2 puppies and 2 children in a rural setting… I am not frightened of much.

Mrs Sally Martin
My name is Sally Martin (Ibu Sally) and I am looking forward to teaching Indonesian this year in grades 3-6. I have recently returned from maternity leave as my husband (Trevor) and I have a 4 year old (Emilie) and a 1 year old (Oliver). Previous to that I was teaching at Monash Primary on a year 3/4 class. For nearly 5 years, I lived in Jakarta, Indonesia where I worked at an international school for 2 years. I also studied Bahasa Indonesia while I was there. We travelled to some lovely places in Indonesia, met wonderful people, and shared amazing experiences; all of which I hope to share with the students this year.

Mrs Mandy Lee – Team Leader
I am extremely thrilled to be at Garran Primary this year and I look forward to getting to know the children in Year 4. I enjoy PE and Mathematics and am excited to share my knowledge and enthusiasm with the students.
The Learning and Teaching Program

In the past weeks we have enjoyed planning together to ensure that all students’ learning needs are catered for. A brief overview of this planning is outlined below.

English
Our English program covers the strands of reading, writing, spelling and speaking. In reading, students will be presented with a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, and taught specific strategies to help develop thorough comprehension. Some reading texts will be selected to link with and enhance other areas of the curriculum, such as geography and writing. Students are strongly encouraged to borrow library books, and will be provided with regular time to read independently for enjoyment. Writing to persuade will be featured this term. Specific skills, such as vocabulary choice and exposition structure, will be taught to enable students to write persuasively. In addition, grammatical conventions and sentence structure will be revised and extended over the term. Spelling will be targeted at individual student level, with a focus on patterns and spelling rules. The formal speaking task for this term will be a speech to the class about animal adaptations.

Mathematics
In Mathematics this term, students have been pre-tested and placed in maths groups allowing for a comprehensive and differentiated program that will support students’ individual needs. This term we will cover various concepts including place value, addition, subtraction, area, 2D and 3D shapes, word-based problem-solving and symmetry. Mental computation strategies are explicitly taught to students, to encourage facility with basic number facts. Mathletics is an excellent tool for practising concepts, and we urge families to make the most of this well-designed program at home.

Integrated Studies – ‘The Long Way Here’
This term we will be completing a History unit based on Australian exploration and the First Fleet called; “The Long Way Here”. These key questions will be addressed:

1. Why did the great journeys of exploration occur?
2. What was life like for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples before the arrival of the Europeans?
3. Why did the Europeans settle in Australia?
4. What was the nature and consequence of contact between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and early traders, explorers and settlers?

This unit will focus on why cultures throughout history felt the need to explore the world, early life on the Australian continent, life in Britain in the 1700s, transportation of convicts to Australia and the nature of contact between Indigenous Australians and the Europeans. The children will develop an interest in finding out about Australia and the lives of Australians throughout early history as well as appreciating and respecting the diversity of Australians.

Science
This year we will continue to implement the Primary Connections program, which was developed by the Australian Academy of Science. Our term 1 unit, Plants in Action encourages students to explore the special relationship between plants and the environment. They will have opportunities to develop an understanding of flowering plants and how they can be affected by the environment.

Drama
Drama for Year 4 students this term will further build confidence and focus when speaking to an audience. Students will create dramatic action through sustained work and improvisation. Individually and in small groups they will plan, rehearse and present to their classmates and to familiar audiences. The two interrelated reporting strands will be about Making and then Responding, with an emphasis on the awareness of themselves and their peers.

Physical Education
Students will participate in daily physical education activities. Sessions will involve instruction in various fundamental movement skills, including throwing, catching, bouncing and dodging. Fitness activities and modified games will incorporate these skills and allow students to develop good sporting spirit. Students must wear a sun-smart hat during all physical education sessions. If your child is unable to participate in the daily sessions please inform their class teacher in writing, including the expected duration of the exception period.
Bounce Back
This term we will continue with our whole school wellbeing and resilience program titled ‘Bounce Back’. The program explores topics related to student resilience including: developing positive and pro-social values; developing strategies for coping and bouncing back; finding courage in everyday life as well as in difficult circumstances; optimistic thinking and looking on the bright side; developing relationship skills; and skills and attitudes for being successful. A whole school focus will occur in assemblies each week and then be unpacked through explicit teaching in class groups.

Indonesian
Students will create their own comic/cartoon strip using formulaic expressions and modelled language learnt during Bahasa lessons, which will be centred around greetings, numbers, colours, interests, family and home. In doing so, students will be given opportunities to interact with others using routine phrases and expressions, translate basic texts using textual cues, respond to questions and instructions, as well as contribute orally to class activities.

Music
In Year 4 the 'Upbeat' program by Jeffrey Leask will be used as a basis for the teaching of Music. Beat, rhythm and pitch will be the main focus for Term 1. Students will look at 4/4, 6/8 and 3/4 time through dance and song to demonstrate and awareness of beat and rhythm. Tuned and non-tuned percussion will be used as accompaniments to the songs and dances. Using the Kodaly method students will create counter-melodies (harmonies) and ostinato to accompany songs. The Curwen hand signs will be taught.

Library
The help of parents and carers in providing students with a library bag is very much appreciated. Encouraging your child to fully utilise the Library helps to promote an enjoyment of reading, and enables access to useful and informative texts to support in integrated units.

Homework
Homework goes home fortnightly on Thursdays starting in Week 5. This will include spelling, reading, maths, integrated unit, music and Indonesian activities. Due dates will be included on the homework grid.

Important Information

Student Requirements – It is important that students have a broad brimmed or legionnaire style sun-smart hat at school every day for recess, lunch and PE sessions. We encourage students to bring water bottles and a fresh fruit or vegetable snack for fruit break in the morning.

Absence Notes – It is a directorate requirement that a written note be provided following a student's absence from school. An email to your child's teacher or the front office is also acceptable, as is a message sent via the Garran Primary School app. Whilst a phone call to the school is appreciated, it does not meet the legal requirements for notification of absence.

To contact your child's teacher by email - firstname.lastname@ed.act.edu.au

Important Dates

Nude Food Day every Thursday

Wednesday 17 February Parent Information Evening
Thursday 18 February Year 3/4 Birrigai Camp
Friday 26 February Assembly, 11.30am
Tuesday 1 March Garran Government Excursion, Parliament House
Friday 4 March School Clean Up Australia Day, 11.30am
Wednesday 9 March Year 3/4 Larry Brandy Performance, Hall 11.30am-12.30pm
Friday 11 March Swimming Carnival (Year 3-6)
Monday 14 March Canberra Day
Friday 18 March Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am
Tuesday 22 March Christian Education in Schools (CEIS)
Wednesday 23 March CEIS
Friday 25 March Good Friday
Monday 28 March Easter Monday
Thursday 7 April Cross Country: 9am -11am (Year 3-6)
Friday 8 April Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am
Kind Regards,

Kristina Delbridge, Kate Simpson, Gina Turton, Suzanne Prowse, Marina Fowler, Sally Martin and Mandy Lee – Team Leader.

2016 P&C Meeting Dates

The P&C holds its meetings on Wednesday evenings in weeks 4 and 8 of each term commencing at 7.00pm in the school’s staff room.

Term 1
• 24 Feb
• 23 March

Term 2
• 18 May
• 15 June

Term 3
• 10 August
• 7 September

Term 4
• 2 November
• 30 Nov

You are cordially invited to attend.