

# Year 4 Balam Community Newsletter

## Term 1, 2019



It has been a busy start to the year in the Balam Community! To help set up the Community and learn how to work collaboratively, the students have been involved in our classroom start up program which has allowed students to contribute their ideas to our classroom processes, as well as getting to know each other and the teachers in the Balam Community. In our Community students have been working hard to ensure they continually display our expected school behaviours of *Being Respectful, Being Safe and Being Your Best* by earning 'Hero points' on a regular basis.

Across Harvest Home Primary School, we have an excellent Specialist program and have been lucky to introduce a new Specialist subject this year; Spanish. The students of Balam have been loving their new Specialist subject often coming back into the Community expressing what they have learned.

### Balam Community Specialist Timetable:

<b>4A Specialist Timetable – Term 1</b> Monday – PE, Science Tuesday – Spanish Friday – Performing Arts	<b>4B Specialist Timetable – Term 1</b> Monday – Spanish, Performing Arts Tuesday – Science Friday – PE
<b>4C Specialist Timetable – Term 1</b> Monday – Science, Spanish Tuesday – Performing Arts Friday – PE	<b>4D Specialist Timetable – Term 1</b> Monday – Performing Arts, Science Tuesday – PE Friday – Spanish

This term we are focusing on:

### Reading:

- Picking *Just Right* books, using the 5 finger rule
- Building our reading stamina during Independent Reading
- Using the iPick strategies when choosing books



Our reading focus this term is 'Predicting'. Students will be encouraged to make predictions about a text as well as character motivations and traits through a range of strategies and develop the ability to justify how they made that prediction through whole class focus and guided reading groups.

### Writing:

- Text type - Narrative

Throughout the term our students will have a strong focus on Narrative texts. We will be deconstructing many example texts to identify common and unique features of various narrative texts. The students will be encouraged to use descriptive language, character development and sizzling starts to ensure they are captivating the reader.

## Numeracy:

- Place value
- Addition and Subtraction
- Measurement and Geometry (Shape 2D & 3D)

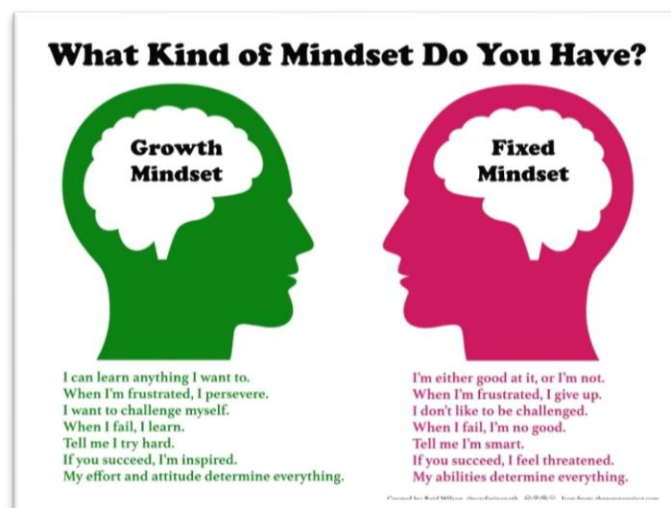
This term in Numeracy we have introduced a new concept of challenging tasks. These tasks are designed to get our students thinking hard about their maths and encourage them to have a go even if they're not sure about the answer. We have been looking closely at the 5 OK's of Maths during these challenging tasks and have seen students developing their growth mindsets.



## School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)

Throughout term 1 students will have a focus on online safety. We will be exploring how to be safe online both at home and at schools and ways of communicating respectfully. Students will be participating in tasks that involve them practising these skills through role plays, group work and individual tasks where they will be able to share ideas so we can learn alongside each other.

Across all our learning areas this term we have also been exploring what a fixed and growth mindset looks like.



## Home Learning Expectations:

Home learning will commence in Term 2. Our priority this term is to ensure that students are reading their take home books 5 nights a week and recording this in their school diaries. All students have been shown how to do this and home group teachers will be checking in on this every fortnight. Students should have received all their passwords to access our online learning programs as well which will be pasted in the back of their HHPS school diary. Students can access the following websites:

**Reading Eggs** - [www.readingeggs.com.au](http://www.readingeggs.com.au)

**Wushka** - [www.wushka.com.au](http://www.wushka.com.au)

**Mathletics** - [www.mathletics.com.au](http://www.mathletics.com.au)

**Spellodrome** - [www.spellodrome.com.au](http://www.spellodrome.com.au) (also using their Mathletics password)

There may be certain instances where unfinished class work will be sent home to be completed. Projects or oral presentations may need to be worked on at home, however we will provide more information if this is the case.

If for some reason your child is absent from school, you can explain the absence on Compass or make contact with the school on 8468 9000.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email one of us via Compass, or call the office to arrange a time to pop in for a chat.

Kind Regards,

**Lisa, Sophie, Diana, Courtney and Ange**

Year 4 Balam Community

