



Grade 2/3 Newsletter

May 5, 2017

Important Dates

May

- NAPLAN
Tues 11 - Thurs 11 May
- Parent Evening with Tom Brunzell
Wed 10th May
- Beebot Incursion
Thurs 18th May
- Education Week
Mon 22nd May
- Whole school open morning - sausage sizzle lunch
Tues 23rd May

JUNE

- Parents' Coffee Morning
Fri 2nd June
- Queen's Birthday
Mon 12th June
- Museum/Imax Excursion
Fri 23rd June
- Reports home
Fri 23rd June
- Three Way Conferences
Tues-Thurs 27-29 June

We have had a busy and productive start to Term 2. In the first week, we took the opportunity to read and talk about ANZAC Day. We looked at some photos of our early ANZACs and why they were so far from home in Gallipoli on April 25th 1915. Finally, thanks to some wonderful volunteers, we made some ANZAC biscuits (lots of handwashing, laughter and pride).



After ANZAC day and during last week, we included some NAPLAN preparation for the grade 3 students. While we don't "teach to the test", we do give the students the chance to look at the test format so they understand how to answer questions and how to work within the 45 minute time frame.

We really stress checking at the end to make sure that they have answered all the questions. We hope that by doing this preparation, the actual test is not frightening for anyone. Our suggestion for next week is to approach it in a very low key way.

Tom Brunzell is coming in to talk to parents on Wednesday night to explain the Berry Street Education Model and Behaviour Management Program. This will help everyone understand some of the innovations we have introduced this year (and last) including circle time in the morning and resilience plans.

Learning

Literacy

Reading: We are continuing with our reading group rotations. This includes groups in each class doing either Word Work (activities that reinforce their weekly spelling words); Reading Box (cards that contain levelled reading texts along with 20-30 comprehension questions); read-to-self and individual reading conferences with teachers. We usually begin with a mini-lesson on some aspect of reading.

Writing: After NAPLAN, the rest of the term will be focused on reading and writing poetry. Poetry can be a really powerful tool in writing. We will aim to give students a chance to express themselves as well as develop their vocabulary, use of language and take a few risks in their writing. For some students, the idea that poetry can play with words and punctuation gives them a feeling of freedom in their writing which can help when it comes to other forms of writing. We'll be looking at different types of poetry and having a go at some of these.

Numeracy

This term our focus is addition and subtraction and the relationship between these. We are working on helping students develop and use strategies to help them add and subtract such as using doubles, using friends of 10; adding and subtracting by 10s and 100s. Although all groups are learning these strategies, the numbers used vary according to student understanding. We use a variety of learning techniques including games, hands-on activities, problem solving and lots of written and oral practice.

Social Learning: Over the last weeks of term one and the first few weeks of this term, we have been working on some skills to help improve resilience and well-being. This has four elements, self-awareness; self-management; social awareness and social management. While it hasn't turned us all into well adapted humans yet, it is giving us a common language for discussing these important ideas.

Homework: We'd love you to make sure your child is reading daily and writing down which book they have read along with the page numbers in their diaries. (The expectation is that Grade 2 children read for at least 15 minutes and the Grade 3 children, 20 minutes). Diaries need to be brought to school every day.

Each Monday, 6 spelling words are sent home to be learnt and tested the following Monday. The words are a combination of words from their spelling lesson and their own words from the first 1000 most common words.

Mathletics and Reading Eggs are available on line and can be completed at any time.

ABSENCE NOTICES, PERMISSION FORMS ETC

We ask that you supply your classroom teacher with a written note or email when your child is absent. This is best done on the day that your child is away from school. It is a legal requirement that we collect this information from you. It takes countless hours for us teachers to chase up notices from parents regarding student absences. This is also the case for excursion/incursion permission forms. If forms are not handed in prior to the due date, it is the responsibility of the classroom teachers to follow-up. Hours we would much rather spend developing curriculum and learning opportunities for your children 😊.

Please help us by keeping track of your child's absences and when permission forms and payments are due.

Thank-YOU!



LOST PROPERTY

Can you please make sure that your child's clothing is labelled clearly with their name? A lot of clothing is ending up in lost property. If it is labelled, it is returned to its owner. If it isn't clearly labelled, it ends up sad and lonely in the lost property box - waiting for someone to claim it! If the clothing is pre-loved, can you please make sure that your child's name is clearly visible?

Thanks for your ongoing support everyone,
The Grade 2 & 3 Team 😊