



Grade 2/3 Newsletter

February 17th, 2017

Important Dates

- Get to Know you Interviews
Tues 21st – Wed 22nd
February, 4-7pm
- Community Morning Coffee for Parents
27th Feb, 9.00am
- Labour Day Holiday
Mon 13th March
- END OF TERM 1
Fri 31st March
Early finish 2.30pm

During Terms 1 & 4 students are required to wear their hats outside. Please ensure your child has a hat to bring to school each day.

Payment for our 'Mad about Science Incursion' is DUE no later than Wed 3rd May. (Cost per child: \$11) Payment via Qkr ☺

We are already at the end of our third week back and the children seem to be settling in well to their new classes. It was great to see many of you at our Parent Information Night on Monday. The Parent Information Booklet has been sent to you via email. If you have any questions after reading, please feel free to contact us. There was an error in the info booklet in reference to our 'Swimming Program' dates. It says September, but it is supposed to read, 8th-17th November.

We are still looking for parent helpers to get our 'Corrective Reading Program' underway. Information is provided below. Please fill in the form and send with your child to school if you can commit to a morning or more each week.

*We spent the first couple of weeks re-examining our 'school values'. The children worked in groups to discuss the meaning of **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY & INTEGRITY**. Questions included:*

- *How do we show respect to ourselves, friends, working in groups, adults, the environment?*
- *How can we take responsibility for ourselves, belongings, at school and at home?*
- *What is integrity? How can we act with integrity. Students were given a range of examples and asked to discuss how they would respond to these.*

Our school values underpin our new Behaviour Management Plan. With their teachers' support all students created their own 'Resilience Plan'. These plans help us and the children to identify when they may need a break (eg. trip to the toilet or to get a drink, time out in our sensory corner) and what is going on for them at the time.

With support, this knowledge will help them to be more aware of themselves and what is contributing to them feeling/behaving a certain way. Reasons the children used for 'off task' behavior were, lack of sleep, not enough lunch, anxious about making mistakes etc.

The 'resilience plans' are kept by the classroom teachers and are used by students when needed. Many children won't need to refer to their written plan, but the process of looking at what hinders them personally from functioning at their best and what we can do to help ourselves is a valuable one, even for us adults.

*This week we started looking at creating a **RECIPE for FRIENDSHIP** and what qualities make a good friend. The children came up with many qualities including: imaginative, clever, caring, funny, creative, free, honest, brave, understanding, cheeky, respectful, someone you can talk to... 😊*

Technology Morning Activities

The children are loving arriving at school and getting straight into their group's technology activities. Each week students will work on one activity for 10 minutes daily. Children are encouraged to design, construct, evaluate and modify their ideas individually and as a group.



Literacy

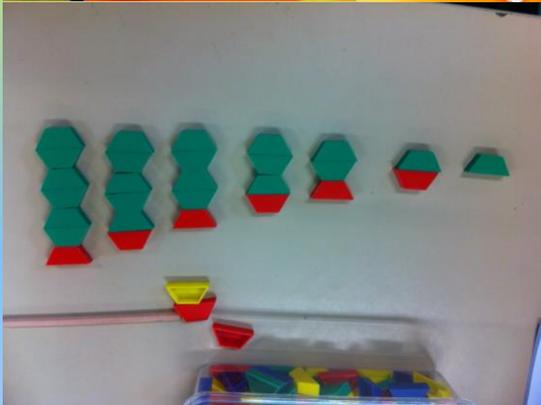
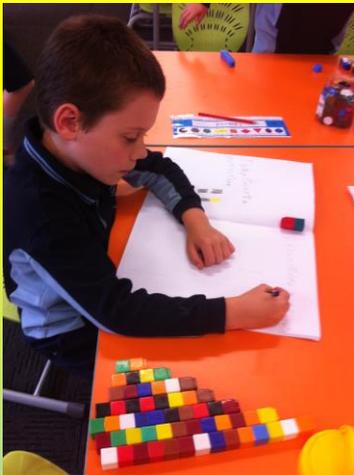
We have been working on establishing our classroom routines. The children have been placed into their reading groups and have been working on a range of reading comprehension tasks and word study activities. We are still reminding the children to choose 'Just Right Books' making sure what they are choosing to read is not 'too difficult' or 'too easy'.

Reading at home: please ensure your child is reading daily. The diaries were sent home this week and the children are expected to write the book they are reading down each day along with the pages read. The expectation is that Grade 2 children read for at least 15 minutes and the Grade 3 children, 20 minutes.

Writing: From day 1 the children started to use their writing journals. They have enjoyed decorating their journal covers with personal photos, stickers, drawings etc. Journals can continue to come home if your child hasn't done this as yet. We just need them on a Monday morning when we reflect on and write about our weekends. We've also introduced writing 'Personal Narratives' this week, starting off with the topic, "A time when I was really happy was..."

Numeracy

We have started off the year with being 'Pattern Detectives!' The children made their own patterns using materials such as unifix blocks, match sticks, playing cards and dominoes. We are working on developing our skip counting from various starting points, backwards and forwards, identifying the rule of a pattern and using patterns to help us problem solve.



The children working to create 'continuous' and 'growing' patterns.

ABSENCE NOTICES & PERMISSION FORMS

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!

Parent access to The Patch Parent/Student Portal & Get To Know You Interview Online Bookings

Booking "Get to Know You" Interviews and our new Parent/Student Portal

This year all bookings for Parent Teacher Interviews, including our "Get to Know You" Interviews, will be done online using The Patch Parent / Student Portal, through Sentral systems.

You should have all received an email with simple instructions to create a login and user name/password for Portal access.

If you have **not** received this information by email, it will be due to the school having incorrect email details for your family. Please contact Maddie in the office as soon as possible to update your information and receive your login key. Booking interview times can be done by clicking on the "Interview" tab, which will be at the top left of your screen. If you have more than one child, you can view them simultaneously by opening up the portal in separate tabs in your browser.

**Looking forward to meeting all our parents next Tuesday 21st February &
Wednesday 22nd February.**

Help with Reading Needed

Reading and writing skills are crucial for our children. They are not natural skills but need to be taught and reinforced. While all children develop reading and writing skills at different rates, for some children extra support is required – for some, this extra support will be needed throughout their primary schooling year.

We are seeking the help of parents/grandparents/others who can regularly donate at least 1 ½ hours once a week for two terms. This will enable us to set up a reading support program (initially for grade 2/3 students needing extra support). The program will run from 9.10 to 10.40am each day. If successful, a similar program will be extended grade 1 later in the year.

The program is based on the Corrective Reading program which uses direct instruction. Volunteers will be trained in how to run the program and will then work with 2-3 students.

If you can help out, either as a regular volunteer, or a replacement volunteer on days when someone is unable to come, or you just want to find out more, please fill in the attached form.

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I would like to help with Reading Support.

Name:

Contact email/phone:

Day/s available:

I would like to find out more about this program

Name:

*Communication between home and school is essential for a successful year.
We encourage you to keep us informed about celebrations, issues, problems
or questions that may arise during the year.*

*Email is an easy and effective way of keeping in touch. We can also arrange a
suitable time to meet to discuss any issues with you.*

Karen Robinson: robinson.karen.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Nina DeVreeze: devreeze.nina.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Hayden Chiswell: chiswell.hayden.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Thanking you for your support.

We look forward to working in partnership with you.

The Grade 2/3 Team 😊