



# Grade 1 & 2

## Newsletter

### March 2018

#### IMPORTANT DATES

**Thursday 29th March**

End of Term 1

**Monday 16th April**

Welcome to Term 2

**Stomp the Beat** starts today  
and continues for the next 5  
Mondays.

**Friday 20th April**

School Photos

**Tuesday 24th April**

Curriculum Day

**Wednesday 25th April**

Anzac Day

**Wednesday 30th May**

Incursion Gr. 1 & 2

Cost \$10 per child

#### Maths

*This term Grades one and two have looked at patterns (all mathematics is about recognising and using patterns). We have looked at creating and extending both picture and number patterns of increasing complexity. We have also looked at place value, the basis of our decimal number system. Grade ones have been using ten frames to extend their understanding of number from the teens to one hundred; and the grade twos have been working on the numbers up to 1000.*



## Reading Support

We are very grateful for the support and expertise of both Bunni and Jan who make time several days a week to assist our children. Bunni is a retired speech pathologist who has been volunteering and sharing her knowledge and love of learning with Patch children for many years now. Jan is new to our school after recently moving into the area. She has worked as a teacher, principal and education consultant. How lucky are we and the children to have these wonderful women onboard with us at The Patch?!

## Reading Strategies

Children have been introduced to a range of reading strategies via a group of fun characters whom some of you we are sure have heard about at home, like **Chunky Monkey** who reminds the children to chunk sounds in a word— **eg. plan/et, planet. Lips the Fish** reminds us to say the first sound, & Eagle Eye asks us to use the picture clues in the book. These characters are a fun way of helping children use de-coding strategies. Ask your children about these strategies and encourage them to use them when you read at home together.

**Keep up the at home reading!** We are very happy to see so many children reading everyday during the week. Reading is a great way of unwinding with your child after a big day. New reading journals will go home in the first week of Term 2.



**Writing** We have been familiarizing the children with the THRASS charts in our classrooms. The children have had a sound focus every fortnight and use the chart to identify sounds they say, hear, read and write and learn their various spelling choices. The children are learning **letters only make sounds when they are in words** and make different sounds in different words. Example, 'a' as in 'cat' and 'a' as in Swan.

Children have been drawing on personal experiences in their writing this term. Recounting the who, what, where and how of daily happenings and significant events.

The children are now in the routine of bringing their dictation sentences home in their diaries and practicing reading and writing them for their weekly spelling test. Help your child by finding the most difficult words and talking about the sounds and their spelling.

## Speaking and Listening

We began our speaking and listening work by looking at the characteristics of a good listener. These included facing and looking at the speaker; sitting still and not squirming; not interrupting; and most importantly, thinking about what the speaker is saying and trying to understand it. We have completed a number of listening activities including circle games and listening to descriptions of pictures, drawing them, and comparing them to the original.

We have also looked at some of the characteristics of a good speaker. These included thinking about what you wanted to say before you started; not wriggling or fidgeting or putting your hands over your mouth; looking at the audience, speaking clearly and loudly enough to be heard by everyone; and speaking at moderate speed. Many of the students had a turn at an impromptu imaginary "telephone" conversation where they had to do everything from ringing for a fire engine to booking movie tickets. To tie in with our recounts in writing, students have brought in 1-3 items from home to share with their classmates. Standing at the front of the class has been challenging for many of the students but they have faced their fears and we have been shown everything from baby photos, lots of much loved toys, to various pieces of sporting equipment and trophies.

We have also practised a number of tongue twisters to help our listening skills and diction. Well done Grades One and Two. I am looking forward to what we can achieve next term.

## **STEM**

*In STEM this term we have been focusing on sustainability in our homes and school. We have investigated how to recycle correctly and what happens to items when they are collected for recycling. We have gained insight into what common products such as glass and plastic are made out of and why looking after our resources is so important. We have brainstormed ways we can reduce the amount of waste we produce in our school, culminating in a nude food day the last week of this term. Please ask your kids if you have any questions about what can and cannot be recycle – they are very knowledgeable!*

## **Music**

*Recently in music we have been singing and dancing to the circle song 'Oats and Beans and Barley'. We have started playing the Marimbas and Xylophones as a whole class and are enjoying playing simple songs to help locate the notes 'If you're Happy and you know it play softly on C....' and Hot Cross Buns.*

*Leanne*

## **P.E**

*We have been playing games that require the children to work in small groups and teams. They have demonstrated fundamental movement skills in different movement situations and are testing alternatives to solve movement challenges. We are learning how some simple games and small group activities are organised and practising a variety of basic motor skills in a range of environments. During PE sessions students join in periods of moderate to vigorous physical activity and are developing an awareness of the important link between physical activity and one's health and wellbeing.*

## **Philosophy**

*The children have responded to various stimuli such as short stories, quotes and images to explore the concepts of happiness, responsibility, right and wrong and friendship.*

*Many wonderful conversations and insights have been shared. Children are encouraged to listen to each other, respect and understand one another's varying perspectives. Each session is a mini-investigation of a concept, the children are encouraged to question and give reasons for why they think what they think.*

*A small sample of the children's thinking...*

***"You can't buy right or wrong from the shops. No one can teach you it. It is in your heart."***  
**Abi**

***"Mistakes can be different to doing the wrong thing". Lily***

***"Good friends have the same sense of humour, sometimes they have a different sense of humour that the other person likes to try out. When they like it, they become friends." Jade.***

***"People respect each other in good friendships." Lochie.***





We would love volunteers to hear children read in the mornings. Could you spare an hour one morning a week?

### Plant Donations

Welcome!

We are hoping to green up the deck spaces outside our classrooms. Have you got some plants in pots that you would be happy to donate?



### ABSENCE NOTICES

*We ask that you use tiqbiz/flexibuzz/email to notify us when your child is absent from school on the day/s that they are absent. Please advise us too if you will be away for any period of time for a family holiday prior to going away.*

*Thank-YOU!*



*Term 1 certainly has flown by! May you all have an enjoyable and relaxing Easter break with your families.*

*We look forward to welcoming back  
all your beautiful smiling faces in Term 2.*



*If you have any issues/concerns or just want to meet with any of us for a chat about your child, please feel free to contact us via email.*

*We are always happy to make a time to meet with you.*

*The Grade 1 & 2 Team*

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