



Grade 1 & 2 Newsletter May 2018

IMPORTANT DATES

April

Mon 30th

Stomp the Beat (every Monday until the Disco)

May

Wed 2nd

School Assembly 2:30pm

Sat 5th

Working Bee 9am-1pm

Thu 10th - 17th

Book Fair

Wed 23rd

Disco

Thu 24th

School Open Morning
9:15 – 10:30am

Mon 28th

School Council

Wed 30th

Just One Day Incurion
9.00am – 10.40

School Assembly 2:30pm

Maths

In number this term, our focus is addition and subtraction.

This connects to our work with counting and patterns as we continue to expand our strategies for us-

ing numbers such as doubling, near doubling, friends of 10 (numbers that add to 10) bridging 10, and counting on by 10s and 100s. We explore the connection between addition and subtraction and solve simple addition and subtraction problems.



We will also be looking at shapes (including the number of sides and angles) as well as learning about maps i.e. that a map is a drawing which shows what a place looks like from above. They use a map keys and symbols and begin to identify the relative positions of key features using language such as left, right and later points of the compass.

Literacy

Our reading and writing this term is focussed on Information Text. Over the term we are looking at some of the features that distinguish information texts – such as tables of contents, pictures, captions, bold print, and glossaries. These characteristics help the reader find information, add to information presented in text, call the reader's attention to important words, and explain what words mean.

We consider the differences between narratives and information texts including the language used in informative descriptions and look at the difference between real and make-believe; between a fact and an opinion. As well as our weekly journal writing, we will be writing a number of simple information descriptions and reports.

Geography



Our inquiry unit this term is based on the geography curriculum. We will be attempting to answer the following questions:

What are places like?

How and why are people connected to their place and other places?

What makes a place special?

How can we care for places?

We are looking at maps of Australia and the world and making our own simple maps of the school. We study pictures of different environments and begin to use terms such as natural and managed landscapes.

During the unit, students will be bringing home some maps to discover and mark their connections to Australia and the rest of the world, and will share these during our geography sessions.

We also have the opportunity to look at children in another, poorer part of the world and to see how they are connected to their place. *Just For One Day* (May 30th) will give our students the chance to connect with these children and to begin to understand that other children do not always have the same opportunities as they do.

Science

Tying in with our Geography Inquiry Unit, this term students in Grades 1 and 2 are looking at our local habitats and the plants and animals that live in it. We look at how living things, such as small animals, have a variety of external features and live in different places where their needs are met. Students use observation and research to find the similarities and differences between small animals. Students will be producing an information text on one of those animals during the term.

TERRACYCLE

Terracycle is back! Our school is participating in the Colgate Oral Care Recycling Program. There is a box just outside the Uniform Shop for collection. Bring in **Toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrushes**, toothbrush and toothpaste tube outer packaging, floss containers. These items are not recyclable in kerbside recycling programs, so this is a great opportunity to keep them out of landfill. Once collected, the tubes and brushes are separated by composition, shredded and melted into hard plastic that can be remoulded to make new recycled products. We also get a small amount of money in exchange for number of items collected (\$0.02 per unit received) so the more items you bring, the more money we can receive!

Homework

Reading: Students are asked to read for 10-15 minutes at least 5 times a week and record this in their reading journals. Reading journals are handed in every day. We know that regular reading is invaluable. Besides practise improving fluency, vocabulary and comprehension, it is also a window on the world for our children.

Dictation: We use our weekly dictation to support the levelled spelling lessons which take place on a Friday and our work with the THRASS method.

Some of the reasons we are using dictation rather than a word list include:

It encourages students to learn new words and sounds in context;

It requires concentrated listening rather than just memory;

It encourages the correct use of punctuation and spacing between words which supports their learning;

It support spelling of words being dependent on context as well as sound (knight/night; deer/dear)

2-4 sentences are given out each week and are glued into diaries. The Grade 1's are tested the following week on Wednesdays and the Grade 2's sentences are tested the following Monday. Both Monday and Wednesdays are important diary days!

Writing the sentences out a couple of times a week can help students with learning their dictation. Looking for similarities in the words in the sentences and underlining them can help reinforce patterns. Rewriting difficult words can help.

PE

In PE students are using their fine motor skills to catch and throw balls. Most fine motor skills need children to be able to co-ordinate both sides of the body and practice with this helps students with task like writing and cutting.





We would love volunteers to hear children read in the mornings. Could you spare an hour one or two mornings this term?

ABSENCE NOTICES

We ask that you use 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!



Grade 1 & 2 students make Poppy Art to commemorate ANZAC Day.

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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