

# Grade 1 & 2 Newsletter May, 2019



## IMPORTANT DATES

May

Wednesday 15th

Museum/IMAX

Excursion

June

Monday 10th

Queen's Birthday (no school)



## TERM 2



It didn't take long to get back into full swing. We started the term commemorating ANZAC Day. We met as a 1/2 level to look at some Anzac photos and stories with Jessica Holden. She also taught the whole school the song "We Shall Overcome". Students from each level were invited to contribute a line to the song to be sung at our ANZAC service promoting peace in our school. Abby's excellent suggestion was "we will use our words". We are often reminding students to use their words to work out disagreements with others.

### MUSEUM & IMAX EXCURSION, NEXT WEDNESDAY 15th MAY

Next Wednesday, please ensure your children are at school at 8am sharp so that we can call the roll and be ready to depart the school grounds by 8.15am. We have a big day of activities planned at the museum and it's important we set off on time to be there for our first activity.

What to bring- We ask that the children bring a small backpack to carry their lunch, fruit/snacks and drink bottle. Please ensure these are clearly labelled. It makes it easier when it's time for the children to get their lunch and easy to find people when a bag/drink bottle is left behind.

We are so pleased with how well the students are recording their reading in their journals. Keep up the great work everyone and continue to enjoy books together at home each night :-).

If you have any issues and need to contact one of us, please contact us via email. We are more than happy to arrange a time to meet before or after school :-). Thank-you for your ongoing support.

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# Literacy

This term in reading we will continue to focus on decoding text as we add more sounds from our THRASS chart and practise blending and segmenting these into words.

We will also be adding to our reading strategies by looking at questioning. This is an important strategy which helps readers to make sense of and think about their reading. Good readers ask questions before, during and after reading. As the term progresses, we will develop better questions. We will use the terms thick and thin questions – the answers to thin questions are easily found (e.g. what is the dog's name?) Thick questions require deeper thinking (e.g. why did the boy want new friends?)



This term we are introducing the 6 traits of writing into our programme.

**Ideas.**

**Organization.**

**Voice.**

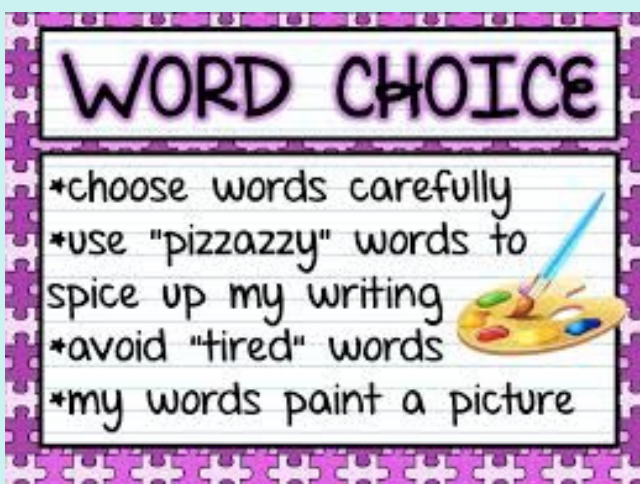
**Word Choice.**

**Sentence Fluency.**

**Conventions.**



These are the basic elements of writing and by looking specifically how to develop each element, we will help improve our students writing. We will be particularly working on improving our ideas and word choice.





# Mini-Lit

Mini-Lit is a synthetic phonics-based reading support program for children in Grades 1 and 2. Thanks to Josie Zwiers our librarian and a group of enthusiastic and committed parents, we are able to offer the program to 5 groups of 4 students this term. We are already beginning to see the impact this program is having on our students learning. We are so grateful to our parent volunteers. With their assistance, a lot of students are getting the extra support they need. If you are interested in helping too, please let your teacher know.



## Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and The Patch is excited to be participating.

The Challenge recognises the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 4 September 2019.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 6 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

If you and your child are interested in taking part in the Challenge, please let Jess know by emailing [holden.jessica.c@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:holden.jessica.c@edumail.vic.gov.au)



# Inquiry

Our inquiry focus for the term is History. This gives us knowledge, understanding and appreciation of people and ideas from the past.

In Levels 1 and 2, we study personal, family and local history. We learn about our own history and see how families such as ours have changed over time. We look at artefacts from the past and ask questions about how they were used and for what purpose. Next week's excursion to the museum is going to lay the foundation understanding both how daily life has changed for Wurundjeri people over time as well as looking at items that will tell us about the history of Melbourne.

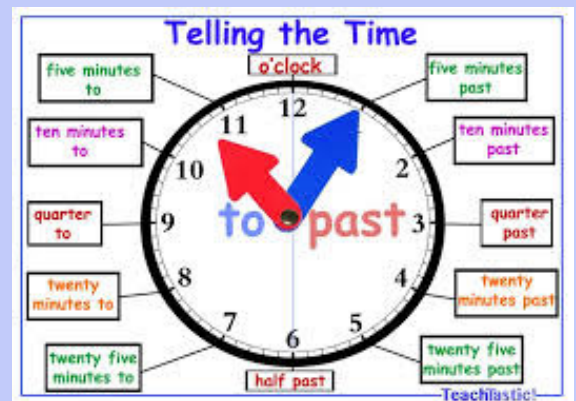
We would love it if you could share items you may have at home from the past. Last week I bought in some milk bottles from the 1920s. We talked about how they were made from glass, how they were recycled, milk being delivered to homes, and how children at school used to be given free milk. It's amazing what questions an old bottle can generate and how it can lead to new understanding.



# Mathematics

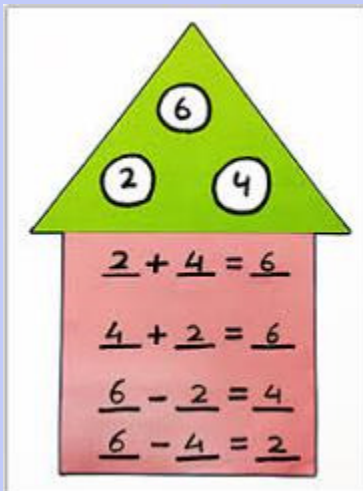
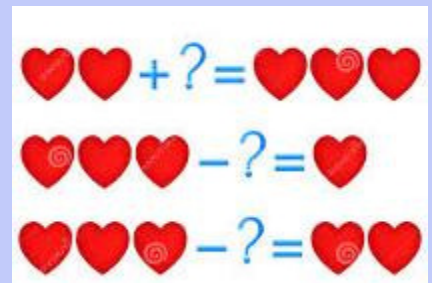
This term in maths we are working on:

- ⇒ Telling the time.
- ⇒ Strategies for addition and subtraction.
- ⇒ Giving directions and mapping.
- ⇒ Two-dimensional shapes.
- ⇒ Sharing, multiplication and division.



Our daily maths routines will continue to involve:

- ◆ Number talks- where students share and listen to each other's mathematical thinking and strategies.
- ◆ Counting circles/games.
- ◆ Practising and building number fact knowledge.
- ◆ Problem Solving.



What you can do at home?

At home, your child will benefit from practising :-

- counting by 2's, 5's and 10's backwards and forwards.
- Their number facts, such as what makes 10, eg.  $4 + 6$ ,  $2 + 8$ ,  $3 + 7$
- Doubles facts,  $5 + 5 = 10$ ,  $6 + 6$ ,  $25 + 25$  etc.
- Checking and telling the time on an analogue clock.

# Digital Technologies

This term in Digital Technologies, students will consolidate their basic computing skills, such as word processing, logging on and browsing the internet safely. They will then be working on understanding the varying digital systems and their inner workings, both through the lens of hardware and software. They will be learning about being cyber safe online as well as using keywords to browse the internet and find specific information, especially when it comes to their history work. The kids are very passionate about understanding computers and get very excited when it is time to work on them. It is great to see such enthusiasm!





# Art

In art we have been focussing on printmaking. We have used found materials from around our garden including, leaves, grasses, sticks, gumnuts, fruit and vegetables to create wildflowers. These gorgeous artworks are currently on display in the main corridor :-).





# Physical Education

This term in P.E., students will continue their work developing their basic and more advanced movement and motor skills. They will be learning about skipping and the amount of skills required to be able to do this at progressively different levels. They will continue working on their understanding of fair play by working in small teams, enjoying sports such as soccer. They will also be building their physical stamina by practicing a small cross country running course. Safe to say, we have an action packed term ahead! Kent



## S.T.E.M



This term in STEM we are looking at physical science: forces and motion, investigating what makes objects move, what impacts the speed and direction they move in and what makes them stop. We'll be learning about pushes and pulls, gravity and friction. These topics will be explored through creating some simple toys and Rube Goldberg machines. To make these we would appreciate donations of recycled or used goods such as cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, small balls such as

golf or ping pong balls, paper cups, and string this term. Emily

## Japanese

The Grade One / Two students loved the transport unit we were studying last term so much we will be continuing with it this term. We conducted a science experiment in Japanese, guessing, measuring and graphing the distances of toy cars, trains, aeroplanes etc. We have also read a variety of road safety stories in Japanese developed by Toyota for Japanese primary school students! This term we will move on to expressing opinions, and students will be able to ask and answer questions relating to whether they like a particular mode of transport, and will be able to independently read a short book about others opinions.



Towards the end of the term we should begin a new unit on body parts. Students will be labelling diagrams, describing body parts with simple adjectives, and eventually

be moving on to perform a role-play at a doctor's office, asking and describing what hurts. If you happen to have a toy doctors set at home your children no longer play with, we'd love to use it in the Japanese room!

Jess B



## *Philosophically Thinking...*

*What is a memory? Can you lose a memory? Can you find a memory? Do memories change over time? Where are your memories? If you lose your memory are you the same person? Can you choose to forget things?*

### **When does something become a memory?**

If it is just a second later and you remember it, it is a memory. Lochie

A memory is when you do something and you remember it. Bowie.

When you look at a memory you can vision it with your eyes. Reilly

Well you can have a memory and you keep it in your head and another memory can come in too. Bowie

Memories can be all sorts of things. Harper

Things and objects can be memories. Reilly & River

### **Do we need to remember?**

You need to remember somethings and not other things. Charlie Cameron.

I think that you need to remember everything. River.

A memory is a thought from a long ago. Lily

### **Can memories fall asleep?**

Well I not really. You know when you go to sleep...you are remembering in your dreams. So your memory is never off, or your thinking. Poppy.

Memories don't fall asleep. Verity.

I like remembering. If you don't have a brain, you can't remember. Reuben.

We remember the precious things that happen in our life. Jade

Never forget the people that you love. Gus

A memory is a symbol of your love. A memory can be anything really. Jade.

*After discussing people losing their memory...*

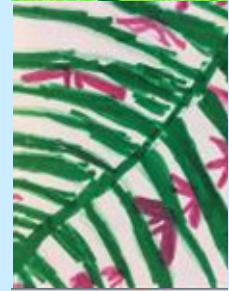
*"It's like a lost toy", says Gus.*

*"It's somewhere in your house," adds Rupert.*

*"But you just don't know where it is." concludes Gus.*

If you go into your brain trying to find your memories, it's like they are hiding somewhere. George

**Continued next page...**







Your memories are like...they're just thoughts, they are just hiding behind a wall, or they're camouflaged. Flynn S

There are lots of rows of memories and your brain is just not putting them where you can see them. Jasmine & Jude K

There's a big cliff and your memories have fallen down...and your brain is trying to find them but it doesn't look over the edge. Rupert.

**Is there are limit to what we can remember?**

Yes, because I can not remember the day I was born. Joop

Memories are important because they help you remember things in your lifetime. Ned.

Memories are important because they can make you happy. Tash.

Memories help you to remember people who have died and you can remember them in your mind. Luna







Australia Japan  
Society Victoria

Hi my name is Jarrah and I'm in Grade 6 and am writing to ask for some help. This year I have been selected to attend the 31<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka, Japan in July. This is an international camp for approximately 300 11 year old children from all over the Asia-Pacific region. This year 4 children, 1 young adult ambassador and 2 adult Chaperones have been chosen to represent Australia. This fantastic opportunity is facilitated by the Australia-Japan Society of Victoria. I had to go through many rounds against 100's of kids before I was offered my place. When I'm there I will be going to a homestay with a family for a week, attending school and going to a camp with over 500 kids. I am not allowed to take any devices or contact home while I'm away.

The Asian Pacific Children's Convention operates with the following vision:

*The Asian Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka (AAPC) is a non-profit organization, which aims to promote international exchange and mutual understanding between children and young people from all over the Asian Pacific region.*

*The children who take part have the opportunity to exchange ideas with children from countries where the culture and climate may be very different from their own. Through spending time together, they are able to break through barriers that divide people such as language and religion.*

*Through this program, we hope that children will grow up to become global citizens devoted to peace and understanding.*

When I'm in Japan we exchange small gifts with all the other children. Tiny things like stickers, pens, socks, key rings, small toys etc... If they have something to do with Australia that is great but anything is fantastic. If you think you or a company you know might be able to donate something for me to take I would be very grateful as I have a lot to collect.

Any donations can be given to class room teachers or the office. Please let me know who has donated so I can say thanks.

Thank you so much, I will be sharing my journey at assembly as I go along.

Jarrah x