



# Grade 1 & 2 Newsletter August, 2019



## IMPORTANT DATES

### August

Thursday 22nd

Free Dress Fundraiser

Friday 23rd

Book Week

Dress-Up Assembly

### September

Wednesday 4th

Premier's Reading Challenge  
Closes

Thursday 12th

Footy Colours Day

Friday 20th

**TERM 3 Ends**

### OCTOBER

Saturday 19th

**PATCH FEST!!**

### November

Monday 1st

**CURRICULUM DAY**

## TERM 3

Term 3 is well underway. In weeks 1 and 2 we brought together our history inquiry learning and artefacts and created our very own 'Time & Change Museum & Gallery'. The artefacts have been taken home now, but the students' artwork is still on display in the library. During the same week we ran our 3-way conferences. The children did a great job of sharing some work samples with you and discussing what and how they are learning and goals they have set for the rest of the year.

On Tuesday, Grade 2 had their Day Camp. It was a fabulous day and thankfully the weather was kind. All of the children took part with great enthusiasm and helped each other to rise to challenges and overcome fears. Riley, Brooke and Victoria were our terrific recreation leaders who guided us all with smiles, expertise and care. Cathy the camp's chef prepared a fabulous hamburger lunch complete with fresh fruit platter which was later followed by home baked muffins for afternoon tea. We thank Mason Fitzgerald our integration aide who is currently in his fourth year of a Bachelor of Education Degree who volunteered his time to join us for the day. The children loved having Mason join in the fun and watching him take the plunge and conquer the Giant Swing too!! :-)

Looking ahead, we have our PatchFest preparations beginning very soon. The grade 1 & 2's will be running a **Pendants & Pom Poms Stall** as well as a 'free play space' for our younger visitors to 'The Fest' :-). So there will be lots of 'making' and business planning happening in coming weeks.

Please send in any wool that you are happy to donate :-). We will also be needing some small glass jars for end of year activities, so please send them our way!!

Thanks for your ongoing support everyone. If you have any questions/concerns, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher via their email address, see below.

The Grade 1&2 Team.

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## The children who loved books



# Literacy

In term 3, our text focus is narrative in both our reading and writing. Over the term we will be looking at reading, creating and writing the main elements of narrative and coming up with better characters, settings, problems and solutions.



In reading, we are also looking at connecting to our reading because if we do this, we become better, more engaged readers. We look at three types of connections:

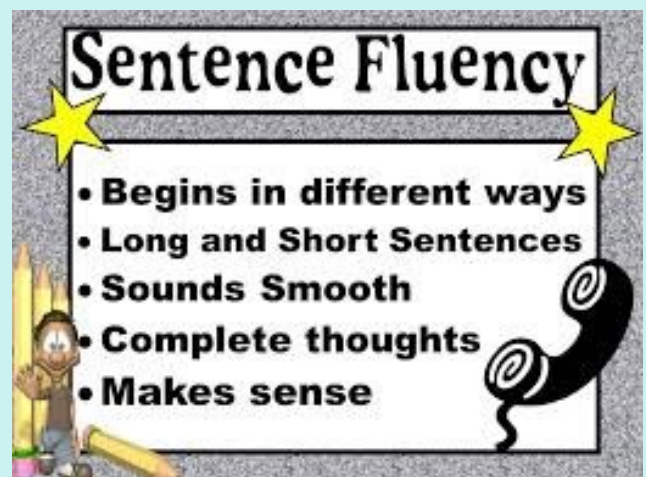
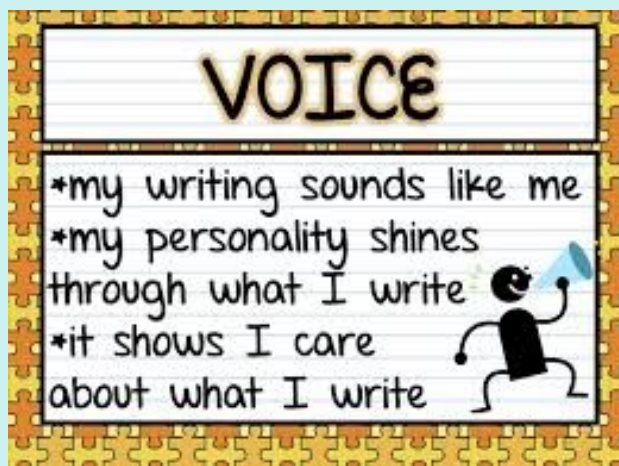
**Text-to-self:** We encourage and model for students how to make connections that resonate with their lives and draw them closer to the text. We focus on events and ideas that reoccur across the text, rather than minor details. (Miller, 2002).

**Text-to-world:** Many of the stories we read aloud to students may reflect issues and events taking place in the world beyond the classroom. World issues and events are often reflected books, such as living in families, being environmentally aware and caring about others.

**Text-to-text:** We encourage students to make connections between plot and characters in one text to similar ones in other texts (such as movies, other books, games, paintings or songs). It is an opportunity to look at how an author's books are the same and different.

In writing, we are also focusing on two traits of good writing – Sentence Fluency (different beginnings and different lengths) and Voice (making our writing fresh and original).

Our speaking and listening develops naturally from philosophy, from sharing our reading, writing, and ideas as well as from our Inquiry unit.





Our Inquiry focus this term in Creativity.

We are aiming for our students to

use initiative, be resourceful, flexible and open minded  
be problem solvers, innovative and enterprising  
be critical thinkers who can challenge and question propositions and theories

The unit covers the curriculum in Critical and Creative Thinking, as well as giving us the opportunity to develop our thinking and ideas. Between lots of creative activities, we are also using some of the Thinking Tools in class – such as the 6 Thinking Hats; applying SCAMPER to a design (Substitute, Combine, Adjust, Modify, Put to other uses, Eliminate, Rearrange) and a range of brainstorming activities.

Our aim is to help students think outside the box, develop their creativity, their design abilities and to improve on their own and other's ideas. These activities will often be completed in a co-operative group and always in a supportive way. There are no wrong answers (although some answers may be more useful than others). Jess Holden

## 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.

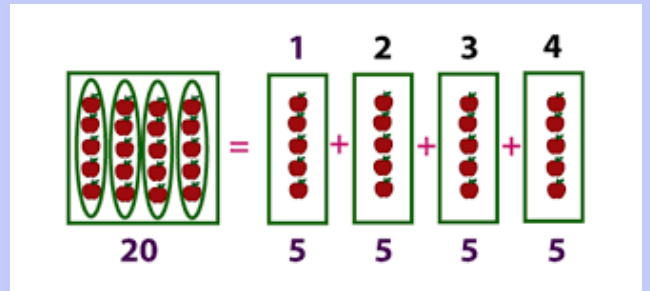
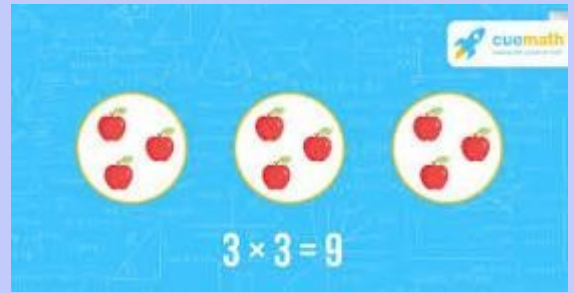
If you and your child are interested in taking part in the Challenge, please let Jess know by emailing [holden.jessica.c@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:holden.jessica.c@edumail.vic.gov.au)



# Mathematics

This term in maths we are focussing on:

- ⇒ Number sequences and skip counting
- ⇒ Addition and subtraction strategies
- ⇒ Sharing, multiplication and division.
- ⇒ Fractions– Halves, quarters and eighths of a whole
- ⇒ Collecting, showing and interpreting data
- ⇒ Measurement– Mass, Volume & Capacity
- ⇒ 2D & 3D Shapes



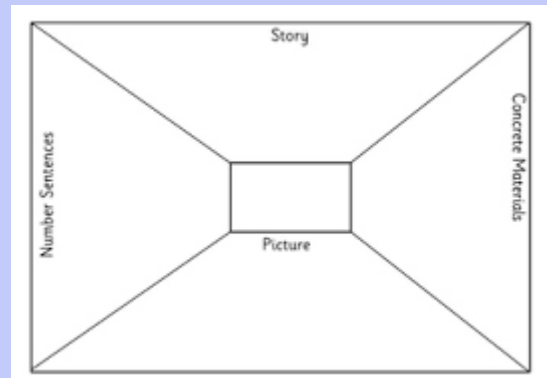
Our daily maths routines will continue to involve:

- ◆ Number talks- where students share and listen to each other's mathematical thinking and strategies.
- ◆ Counting circles/games.
- ◆ Practising and building number fact knowledge.
- ◆ THINKBOARDS (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 forwards and backwards.
- Number facts– what makes 10, 20 and 100 and beyond. Doubles facts.
- Telling the time on an analogue clock.



# Digital Technologies

This term in Digital Technologies, students have already created their very own museum labels as part of our previous history unit. They had to learn and consolidate many skills using the computers, including navigating to network drives to save and retrieve files as well as format documents in word. It was quite the achievement! They will be manipulating pictures and sounds in the coming weeks using cameras and microphones as well as exploring a range of peripherals. Fun and exciting times!

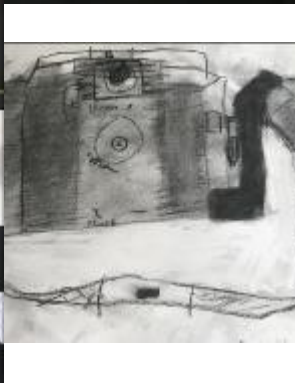


Toy Space Tank  
Circa. 1950's  
Found by Austin's Dad, who is a plumber,  
under a house while he was working. Made  
mostly of tin with small plastic parts.  
Belongs to Jackson Austin.



# Time & Change Museum

## By Grade 1 & 2



# Physical Education



This term in P.E, students will be continuing to develop their skills with the skipping rope as well as learn a range of skills aimed at introducing and consolidating their knowledge and abilities of some of the winter sports. This includes Netball, Soccer, Basketball and AFL. The kids have been having a great time playing a range of games that allow people who have never played the sport, to kids who are accomplished, to enjoy regardless of their level.

Kent Agis



This term in STEM we are completing a unit focused on chemical sciences. We're investigating the different physical characteristics and properties of materials. We're focusing on investigating the different ways that we can manipulate everyday items using techniques such as bending, stretching, folding, scrunching, ripping and twisting. Each week we explore different materials by conducting hands on experiments independently or in small teams. Our students are learning to make predictions, conduct accurate experiments and discuss their ideas with each other.

In the coming weeks you will be invited to join in our explorations by completing an at home investigation using some commonly used household items. This will be a great opportunity to start a conversation at home about all of the ideas and knowledge we have been gaining this term in our lessons. I look forward to hearing all about the activities you complete at home and creating connections between our scientific knowledge and the 'real world' beyond our classroom.

Vivien Hughes



# Japanese

This term in Japanese the 1/2s are studying a unit on body parts. They have completed a number of activities learning the different vocabulary, including singing songs and playing games such as Simon Says to identify body parts. After writing simple sentences describing body parts, we will soon begin to perform role-plays at the doctor's office, where students will be able to ask and describe what body part is hurting.

Jess Bretherton



Can you name these body parts?

atama	ashi	te
me	mimi	kuchi
hana	onaka	shippo



I am beginning to weave songs into our music classes that we will perform at The Patch Fest next term. Shortly children will be sanding and painting their own rhythm sticks in art which we will use to accompany some of our songs. Lots of body percussion and movement is keeping us warm on these chilly winter days. Passing songs – when everyone simultaneously passes an object around the circle whilst singing, are proving to be challenging and great fun!

Leanne Barton



# Grade 2 Day Camp!

Mt Evelyn YMCA Recreation Camp



## *Philosophically Thinking...*

*What is the right thing to do?*

*When is the right time?*

*Who is the most important one?*

## **What do you think are the 3 most important questions?**

*Will the world ever end? Gus*

*Who was the first one to be a really helpful person? Quinn?*

*Will the sun actually explode? Jade*

*Will space ever end? Rupert*

*Will the moon ever be blown up by rockets? Joop*

*Will life end on Earth? Quinn*

*Do numbers ever end? Jackson*

*How are we here? Lochie*

*Why is the sky blue? Harper*

*Who was the first one to go on the earth? Riley*

*What was the first planet in space? Noah*

*Why were we made? Poppy*

*How was the universe made? Bowie*

*How is the earth here? Did it grow or was it made? Lochie*

*How did people make people? Hayley*

*How are we alive? Ashlenn*

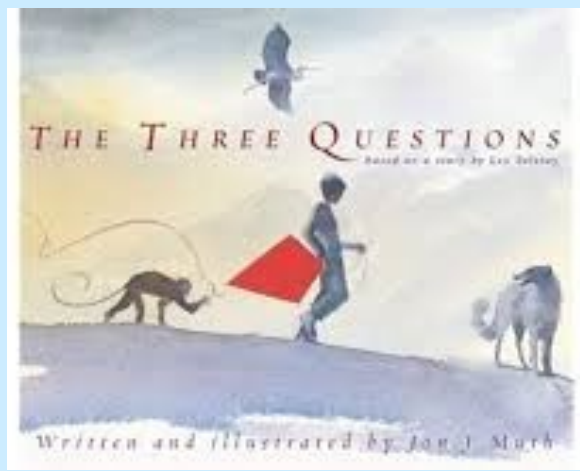
*When does a black hole appear? Lily M*

*Why is there only one universe? Charlie Cotter*

*There can be more (questions)...but these are just a few of them. Gus*

*I reckon they [the three questions] are the most important questions because helping people is the right thing to do. Ned*

*Me and my mum found an injured Sugar-Glider and we took it to my mum's friend's house who is a vet. Joop*



*What is it like running a ? Noah Fincher*

*What is it like living in the clouds? Evie*

*Why do we die? Joshy*

*Why do we have car crashes? Connor*

*What would help me calm down when I am angry? Lylah*

*Who's the oldest person in the world? Harper*

*How did we get alive? Milla*

*How were we made? Holly*

*How do you do a backflip while spinning at the same time? Jai*

*Who was the first ever person born? Ivy*



## **What is the right thing to do?**

*(The children discussed a situation where someone needed help on the street)*

*You can walk past when there is already a bunch of people helping. Iggy.*

*You can still help. Rupert*

*You can walk past them and then return with a teacher or adult. Gus*





## ***How do we know what the right thing to do is?***

*Respect, responsibility and integrity. Noah G*

*If you be kind, you'll be kind you'll be happy. They will be kind to you and then you will be happy. Lochie.*

*There are laws. Charlie Cotter*

*People get told. Bowie*

*You learn something and then if you do something bad, you learn a lesson not to do that again. Noah G*

*By using your brain like an enormous robot. Leo*

*Try your best. Skyla*

*You learn by the world and you watch other people and see how they react when someone's hurt and you know what the right thing to do is. Isabella*

## ***What is the most important thing you can do right now for the people you are with?***

*Listen. Harper.*

*Smile. Lochie.*

*Help them. Riley*

*Show integrity. Bowie*

*Saying something positive. Lily*

*Say hi! Noah*

*Be kind. Milla W*

*Ask them if they are okay. And ask if they would like a hug. Lylah*

*Make someone happy. Ivy*

*We can listen to eachother, be kind, be honest and be generous. Lylah*

*Turn the heater on. Arve J*

*Listen to the teacher. Reuben*

*Look out for others before yourself. Noah F*

*Help them. Evie*

*Have free time. Poppy*

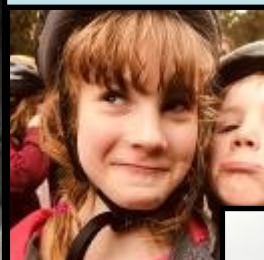
*Give everyone free lollies. Skyla*

*Be kind and listen and be grateful for what we have. Oliver A*

*Stick up for my friends (if they are bullied). Jai*

*Make them laugh. Fraser*





## Terracycle Update from Nina :-)

Our school is currently involved in three Terracycle programs:

### **Colgate oral care products**

*Any brand of toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, floss containers, mouthwash containers.*

Please note - bamboo tooth brushes should not be included in the program. With these, remove the bristles at home (place in landfill) and then reuse or compost the stick

### **Bread bag tags**

*As the name says, hard plastic bag clips, as you would normally find on a bread bag.*

### **Dish and air care products:**

*Any brand of dish care and air care packaging, including:*

- Dishwashing liquid bottles (including caps)
- Dishwashing tablets flexible packaging (including snap locks and zip locks)
- Air freshener aerosol cans and spray bottles (including spray and trigger heads)
- Plug-in air fresheners and refills (including plastic outer packaging)
- Clip-on car fresheners and refills (including plastic outer packaging)

The Terracycle collection bins are located outside the old uniform shop, near Tania's prep classroom. Please place bag tags inside the plastic bag in the labelled bin.

