



Grade 1/2 Newsletter

Term 1, 2016



New Staff

Please welcome Faith Teh (1/2T). Faith is a passionate Graduate teacher who joins the 1/2 team this year. We also have Gabby Hutchison joining our team as she shares the grade with Leanne Chidgey. It is a great pleasure to have Gabby join the team.

Maths

During Term One students' will further develop their skills in the two main areas of the maths curriculum:

- Number, Algebra and Measurement and
- Geometry, Statistics and Probability.

The focus in Number, Algebra and Measurement will be: counting, reading and writing numbers; understanding place value; number patterns and sequencing; comparing numbers; and simple addition and subtraction.

The focus in Geometry, Statistics and Probability will be: calendars; temperature; chance; 2D and 3D shapes; and collecting data and graphing.

Teachers will continue to support all students to further develop the knowledge and skills for continuous engagement and improvement in numeracy.

The lessons will be delivered in many styles and various combinations, including using concrete materials, working on the interactive white board, using the iPads, desktops and notebooks. The Mathletics website will be used in the classroom and we encourage students to use it at home.

Literacy

The writing focus for this term will be on recounts, lists and simple persuasive text. We have enjoyed reading recounts about all the wonderful adventures your families have had during the summer holidays.

Throughout the term, students will consolidate letter sound relationships. Students will be reading and working on comprehension strategies with a focus on identifying the main idea and determining the facts and details.

In grammar, students will explore the different aspects of sentence structure; the use of full stops, capital letters, identifying verbs, adjectives, singular and plural nouns, common and proper nouns and developing dictionary skills.

The lessons will incorporate many delivery styles using different media where appropriate. Students will have opportunities to work individually, in small groups or as a whole class. Some of their work will be assigned on the interactive white board, the iPads, desktops and notebooks. To further enhance their learning the Reading Eggs/Eggspres website will be used during classroom activities.

You will have noticed that students are bringing readers home, we encourage parents to hear their child read each night and sign the book when heard. Please remember to return reader folders to school each night.

Please note
The newsletters will only be available on the school website from now on.
www.syndalsp.vic.edu.au

Inquiry

Our term 1 inquiry unit is “What Makes Our Place Special?” The unit incorporates the study of geography and humanities as students explore wider and local communities and how communities have changed over time.

Students will visit the Mt Waverley Shopping Centre to consolidate their understanding that a community is made of many people undertaking many services who each have specific roles. On their journey, students will be able to observe how some things have changed and some have remained the same. This will give them an opportunity to discuss why things in a community change.

The understandings for this unit of study are:

- ◇ We are all part of local and broader communities.
- ◇ Communities change over time: some things remain, some change and others disappear.
- ◇ The past is important to the local community because it helps us understand and learn.

We seek your assistance in providing us with old and new photos of houses, building, roads and other developments you may have seen or experienced in the local area. Please send them to your child’s teacher.

Later in the term we will ask for Parent volunteers for our Inquiry Unit– a letter will come home.

In order to help our students to better understand this term’s theme on ‘What makes our place special’. We would appreciate it if you would come in and talk to our students about your area of expertise with a focus on how you help out in the community. You may like to prepare a five minute talk about your role. We will also allow some time for students to ask you questions.

Reading

My name is Jackie McArdle and I look forward to supporting the Level 1 /2 Literacy Program as the Reading Recovery Teacher.

Your child will have started bringing books home every day to practise reading. This shared time should be a happy part of the day. It is important that children develop fluency, comprehension and experience success. Therefore take home books will generally be a few levels lower than those being read in guided reading sessions in the classroom.

At Syndal South, parent assistance with listening to children read is always greatly appreciated. Please let your child’s teacher know if you can help.

Some Reading Tips

Praise and encourage your child’s reading efforts eg “I love the way you...”

Talk about the book - characters, feelings, the problem and resolution of the story.

If your child is unsure of a word, wait a moment, he/she may work it out. If not, say the word so they will not forget what the story is about.

Read favourites regularly and enjoy reading together.

**The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you’ll go.**



Grade1/2: Classroom instructions, self-introduction, family and introducing 15 hiragana

The focus is still on simple classroom interaction but more variation and on students' understanding single items of information (e.g. numbers, body parts, a limited numbers of descriptive words such as colours and sizes.) Students identify family words by pointing, singing, verbally naming, drawing or selecting from a set of pictures. Students will also be able to exchange personal information and make a simple oral presentation about themselves. They will learn to read 10~15 hiragana and related words.



Term 1 PE / PMP

The PE department is in full swing again this year. Joggers Club and Ride/Walk 2 School continue as usual, with points being tallied to see which house is most active. Pick up a passport before school at the Hall steps, or see Mr Kenez to register.

All students have two 30 minute sessions per week, one of PE and the other PMP. We are always looking for parental help with PMP on a Thursday, so please come along and join the fun.

Our major focus for the term in both PE and PMP is the fundamental motor skills used in Athletics events (running, jumping for distance, jumping for height and throwing) as we prepare for the House Athletics Carnival on Friday March 4th.

We will be looking for lots of help on the day, so keep an eye out in The Rocket as the date approaches.

Music

Students create music by singing and playing a variety of instruments. Many songs and tunes have associated games and activities to make the learning fun.

They begin to experience ways to notate and record music.

They listen and discuss a variety of music. This semester the focus is on the theme of Australian music, folk, pop and indigenous Aboriginal music.

They plan, experiment and select appropriate sounds and create their own music or soundscape.

Upcoming Events

February 18	Parent/Teacher Conference
March 17	Excursion to Mt Waverley Shopping Centre
March 14	Labour Day Holiday
March 4	House Sports
March 24	End of Term 1

Please ensure that each child has a:

- ◇ School hat
- ◇ Art Smock
- ◇ Library Bag
- ◇ Brain food - *please cut up fruits and vegetables.*
- ◇ *Reader pouch- for our new families these can be purchased at the office.*