

Grade 1/2 Newsletter

Term 1, 2014



New Staff

Please welcome Georgie Monaco (1/2M). Georgie brings many years of teaching experience and

has been sharing ideas with the team. It is a great pleasure to have Georgie 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 during classroom activities. Mathletics has been activated and can also be used at home.

Inquiry

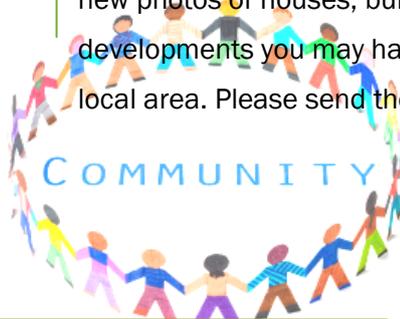
Our term 1 inquiry unit is "What Makes Our Place Special?" The unit incorporates the study of geography and humanities as students explore wider and local communities and how communities have changed over time.

Students will visit the Mt Waverley Shopping Centre to consolidate their understanding that a community is made of many people undertaking many services and they each have specific roles. On their journey, students will be able to observe how some things have changed and some have not. 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 take place in the local area. Please send them to your child's teacher.



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

Please ensure that each child at school has:

- ◇ School hat
- ◇ Art Smock
- ◇ Library Bag
- ◇ Brain food - please cut up fruits and vegetables.

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 and later in the term will work on letters that blend together such as 'bl'. 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 and 'a' and 'an'; learning about and identifying verbs, adjectives, singular and plural nouns, common and proper nouns; and learning about 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/Eggspress website will be used during classroom activities.



READING

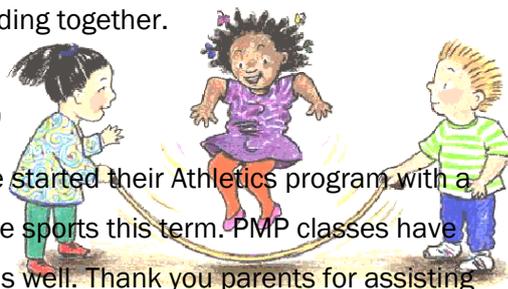
My name is Jackie McArdle and I look forward to supporting the Grade 1/2 Literacy Program as the Reading Recovery Teacher.

Your child will have started bringing books home every day to practise reading. This shared time should be a happy part of the day. The purpose of home reading is to build on skills taught in the classroom. It is vital that children experience success, which in turn aids enjoyment. Therefore take home books will often be several levels lower than those being read in the classroom.

How to help at home

- ◇ Praise and encourage all the efforts your child makes when reading a book.
- ◇ Talk with your child about the book: the characters, feelings, the problem and resolution of the story.
- ◇ If your child is unsure of a word, wait a moment and then say the word so that the meaning of the story isn't lost.
- ◇ Don't make it a chore. Try, "I'll read one page and you read the next."
- ◇ Read favourites regularly.
- ◇ Dads – read to your sons!
- ◇ Enjoy reading together.

Sports



Students have started their Athletics program with a focus on house sports this term. PMP classes have commenced as well. Thank you parents for assisting with this crucial skill development program. There are some vacancies left, please contact Mr Kenez if you are available to help.

Music

The Theme for term one in all music classes is learning to play and use The Federation Bells. The Bells are historic pieces of our Australian Heritage. They were specifically made to celebrate our 100 years of Federation, in 2001. "They provide an exciting way to engage people of all ages in a musical experience." Other activities will hone singing, planning and creating music. Year 2 students will have xylophone classes in terms 1, 2 and 3. Students will be rostered so they don't miss their specialist classes.

Upcoming Events

March 6	Excursion to Mt Waverley Shopping Centre
March 10	Labour Day Holiday
March 14	House Sports
April 2	School Photos
April 4	End of Term 1