



Grade 1/2 Newsletter

Term 1, 2015

Inquiry

This term we are exploring what makes us unique.

We will discuss why we are special, unique and different. We will look at how differences make us unique but we all have similar needs. There are a number of things that influence who we are, including culture, family and environment. We are similar to others in many ways but we are also our own person.

We will be exploring how we learn best in different ways. This helps us to understand ourselves and allows us to build better relationships with others

Some of the questions we will be thinking about include: What cultures are we from? What do we like about ourselves? How are we similar to others and how are we unique? How do I learn best? How does knowing myself help us understand ourselves? This is a great inquiry unit that will further enhance our acceptance of others.

Maths

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

Number, and Algebra

Measurement and Geometry

Statistics and Probability.

The focus will include counting, reading and writing numbers; understanding place value; number patterns and sequencing; comparing numbers; and simple addition and subtraction, temperature; chance; 2D and 3D shapes; and collecting data and graphing.

Teachers will support all students to further develop and improve in numeracy through fun and exciting practical activities.

We encourage all students to use **Mathletics** at home.

Please ensure that each child at school has:

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

Welcome!



Hi! Welcome to all of our new families to the Grade 1/2 area. It's been a very busy start to term! All of the children have settled in well and we have enjoyed meeting parents at the Parent Teacher "Getting to know you interviews" last week. Any time you are unsure of anything feel free to approach your child's teacher. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning.

Grade 1/2 Teaching Team 2015



Mrs Monaco
1/2 M



Mrs Chidgey
1/2 CP



Mrs Sen
1/2 V



Mrs Evans
1/2 ET



Mrs Panagopoulos
1/2 CP



Mrs Threadgold
1/2 ET



Mrs Stockdale
1/2 S

Check out more exciting Syndal News online!

www.syndal.sp.vic.edu.au

Literacy

The writing focus for this term will be on recounts, lists and simple informative 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 may be used during classroom activities.

READING

My name is Jackie McArdle and I look forward to supporting the L1/2 Literacy program as the Reading Recovery teacher.

Your child will have started bringing books home every day to read. This shared time should be a happy part of the day where lots of praise should be provided.

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 a reading session in the classroom.



Here is a You Tube video of a shared time between a teacher and student before he is asked to read a book for the first time.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFDyv4wzE9s>

HOW TO HELP AT HOME

Before reading a book for the first time, **predict** what the story might be about. **Look through the pictures** and **talk** about it first. **Ask questions** such as "What can you see? What do you think is happening? What do you think might happen next?" Use some of the harder words that you can see in the discussion. This shared time of looking at the pictures may spark an interest in the book and help your child to **connect** the pictures in the story **to their own experiences**. An understanding of the story enhances your child's literacy development as well as their reading enjoyment.

Sports

Term 1 PE / PMP- Parent Helpers Wanted!

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 or Ms Potter 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

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

Upcoming Events

March 9	Labour Day Holiday
March 13	House Sports
March 27	Last day of term 1
April 13	Start of term 2
April 22	School Photos