

GRADE 2 NEWSLETTER

Term 2, 2018

Our team for 2018 is Mrs Dornan (2/30), Mr Fathers (2/31), Mrs Thompson (2/33), Mrs Jackson (2/34) and Miss Bergman (2/35). A variety of other staff will also be working with your child across a range of specialist programs.



How time flies! Welcome back to Term 2, 2018! The next eleven weeks look set to be another incredibly busy, but exciting, time for the students of Grade 2. We look forward to offering your children many opportunities to consolidate and extend the enormous amount of learning that took place by all in Term 1. The teachers have planned a curriculum full of hands on learning experiences, that are engaging, motivational and educational.

We are sure that you will hear lots of talk in your homes over the upcoming weeks about many of the exciting experiences planned for the term. We encourage all parents and caregivers to make sure that find a few moments to talk to their child about what they are learning and enjoying during their time at school.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

We expect a high standard of behaviour and effort to be demonstrated by Grade 2 students including:

- Respectful and polite communication
- Care and consideration for others
- A willingness and enthusiasm to learn
- Responsibility for learning and actions
- Accountability for belongings
- Punctuality and regular attendance.

SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

- The following specialist timetable will be in place for Term 2

	Room 2/30 Mrs Dornan	Room 2/31 Mr Fathers	Room 2/33 Mrs Thompson	Room2/34 Mrs Jackson	Room2/35 Miss Bergman
Monday	LOTE Indonesian	LOTE Indonesian	LOTE Indonesian	LOTE Indonesian	LOTE Indonesian Music
Tuesday	Library ICT (fortnightly)	Art Library ICT (fortnightly)	Library	Library	Library
Wednesday	Art PE	PE Performing Arts	Art PE	Performing Arts Art PE	Art PE
Thursday			Music ICT (fortnightly)	Music ICT (fortnightly)	ICT (fortnightly)
Friday	Music	Music			

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 2

- ANZAC DAY Public Holiday- Wednesday 25th of April
- Parent Teacher Interview - Thursday 7th of June
- Curriculum Day - Friday 8th of June
- Queens Birthday - Friday 11th of June
- End of Term – Friday 29th of June

PARENT HELPERS

Parent helpers are welcomed and encouraged to volunteer in our Grade 2 classrooms. However, it is a legal requirement that all people who help in the classroom have a current Working with Children's check and that the office have a copy of this documentation. Parents are also required to attend sessions run by the school. If you are interested in helping in your child's classroom please contact their teacher for further details. If you are a parent who is unable to come in during school hours but still want to help speak to child's teacher about alternate ways in which you can be of assistance.

Thank you to all the parents who have assisted in the classroom so far this year. Your help has been appreciated and has made an invaluable contribution to the classroom curriculum. If you are not currently helping in the classroom (and fulfil the criteria mentioned above), but would like to do so, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

COMMUNICATION

Just a friendly reminder that Class Dojo messages need to be kept relatively short. Please feel free to use Class Dojo to make a time to talk (in person or on the phone- 9775 7533) with your child's teacher if you have more important or lengthy issues to discuss.

Also, please let the office know if you are going to be late for school pick up or have made different arrangements, as sometimes teachers do not have an opportunity to check messages during the day.

Please remember Class Dojo messages will be read and responded to between the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm on weekdays.

It is a legal requirement that absent notes or phone-calls are provided by a parent or care-giver in the instance of a student being away school. Please remember that this note or phone-call should state the reason that your child was away from school (i.e. illness, appointment or parent choice). It would be appreciated if these notes could be sent to school on the day that your child returns from being absent. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

ENGLISH

READING

The DAILY 5 and CAFÉ programs are key components of the reading curriculum at Langwarrin Park Primary School. Each day students will participate in a range of tasks to enhance their reading. In Grade 2 students are encouraged to be responsible for their own learning through goal setting, in conjunction with the teacher. This term, the Grade 2 teachers will specifically guide students in their ability to pick 'best fit' books in order to ensure that they are able to independently identify what they should be reading.

In Term 2 students are focussing on developing their comprehension skills, specifically identifying literal and inferred information within what they have read.

WRITING

'Big Write' is a school wide program aimed at enhancing children's writing skills. This program runs on a fortnightly schedule that includes directed teaching, practice of skills, brainstorming, planning and independent writing. Students are supported through the provision of 'stimulus', or hands on experiences to write about. 'Big Write' topics will be sent home with your child each fortnight. Please discuss the topic with your child and assist them in writing some ideas and 'WOW' words to share at our session on Big Write Day.

In Term 2 students are going to be writing a range of explanation and persuasive texts, with emphasis on using correct structure and punctuation and the incorporation of outstanding vocabulary choices.

SPELLING

The Grade 2 spelling program is individualized based on each students identified spelling needs. A list of words will be attached to your child's reader cover. The aim is that your child be able to confidently read and spell these words. Words should be practised - both at home and at school - in preparation for a test on Friday.

In Term 2 students will continue with the weekly spelling program. They will be offered choice in the way that these words are practised in the classroom as part of the Daily 5 routine.

MATHEMATICS

In Maths, our focus will be on improving each student's understanding of basic mathematical concepts, as well as developing the thinking skills required to solve real life problems. Research shows that children need to first have hands on experiences using manipulatives, before moving on

to more formal written and abstract processes. Therefore, in Grade 2 we create lessons that have hands on components which make constant links to prior knowledge. We acknowledge that students work at different levels and grasp concepts at different rates. We therefore plan a program to suit their various abilities. Games and open ended tasks are a regular part of our daily maths routine. Problem solving tasks are also considered vital in developing reasoning skills and an ability to apply knowledge to the world around them.

In Term 2 the mathematical concepts to be covered include place value, shape, addition and subtraction, data and questioning, time, area and mapping.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

During Integrated Studies sessions students will use an inquiry approach to take part in investigations that will evoke their interest. Students will be encouraged to ask questions and make their own discoveries during these lessons. The learning undertaken during Integrated Studies is linked to other curriculum areas where appropriate.

Our topics for this year are:

Term 1: Push – Pull [Physical Sciences]; Rock Pools- [Geography]

Term 2: All Mixed Up [Chemical Science]; Then and Now [History]

Term 3: Fruit and Vegetables [Design Technology]; Water Works [Earth Science];

Term 4: Watch It Grow [Biological Science]; Calendars [History]

ICT/DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Every fortnight each class is allocated one hour in the ICT Lab. This time gives teachers the opportunity to use computers on a one-to-one basis with their class. A range of skills will be taught during this time. Additionally, classrooms have access to a bank of laptop computers that can be used in the classroom each and every day. A range of other interactive devices, including interactive televisions and projectors, are available in the classrooms. These devices enhance the curriculum by allowing a digital component into the classroom, to assist in both teaching and learning.

In Term 2 students are beginning to learn the basics of coding - which is essentially the beginning of computer programming. The focus of these lessons will be on students creating simple instructions for a computer program to follow.

WELLBEING

Langwarrin Park Primary is committed to creating a healthy and safe environment for all members of our school community. We have partnered with Elisabeth Murdoch College, Langwarrin Primary School and Woodlands Primary School to create the Langwarrin Positive Education Network. As part of this partnership LLPS will be teaching a Positive Education Program throughout the school. The aim of this program is helping all students to reach their academic and personal potential through the provision of social skills and resilience. This program is based on the acronym THRIVE which stands for TRY your best, be HEALTHY, RELATE well, get INVOLVED, live your VALUES, ENJOY positive emotions. Regular Positive Education sessions will be run in each of the Grade 2 classrooms during 2018.

HOMEWORK

HOME READING

The importance of reading at home cannot be underestimated. Every child needs to read to an adult each night and be able to answer simple questions about the text. A Home Reading Page will be attached to your child's reader cover. Please sign this each night. Please send the reader satchel to school each day.

SPELLING

Students will also be given spelling homework each Monday. They will be required to complete a Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check each night and hand their book to their teacher on Friday. This practice will assist your child in being prepared for their weekly spelling test.

TECHNOLOGY

Mathletics and Reading Eggs are two ICT programs that are accessible at home and support your child's learning. It is worth spending some time exploring these with your child as there is so much that can be done on them. Please note that they are only available to those children whose parents selected to pay on the Grade 2 booklist. If you are unsure of payment, please check at the finance office. Access codes will be available shortly.

MATHEMATICS

In Term 2 students have been given an additional homework task to complete on a weekly basis. This homework relates to the speedy recollection of addition facts. Students are required to complete one column of the worksheet per night. It is a good idea if you assist your child in timing their effort and recording this in their book. This will demonstrate to students how their practise is directly allowing increased speed and accuracy over time.

FRUIT BREAK/WATER

Fruit break is at 10am each day. Please send a piece of fruit or serving of vegetables for your child to eat during this time. Please do not send fruit in jelly or yoghurt. The drinking of water is encouraged.