



## GRADE 2 NEWSLETTER Term 1, 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.



We are all excited to be back at school for another year of learning and can't wait to get to know the wonderful students in our classes. Being in Year 2 will be a very exciting and busy time for your child. This year we will focus on consolidating and extending your child's understandings and helping them to grow into versatile and enthusiastic learners. We will have a strong focus on developing students who are resilient and emotionally equipped to deal with life both in and out of the classroom environment. Our teaching program will be based upon the Victorian Curriculum. It will be designed to allow students to learn at their own level and aims to cater to the varied needs within each classroom.

### **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 1

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

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1**

- Water Safety - Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup> – Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup>
- Labour Day – NO SCHOOL – Monday March 12<sup>th</sup>
- Prep to Grade 2 Twilight Sports – Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>
- End of Term – Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup>

## **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.

## **COMMUNICATION**

At Langwarrin Park Primary School we acknowledge that students learn best when they have the ongoing support and involvement of their family. We look forward to working together to achieve maximum academic and social growth for your child throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

You are welcome to come into the classroom to see your child's teacher before 8.45am each morning (subject to availability) or on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday afternoons. If

you anticipate that the discussion is likely to take a long time or is private in nature, it may be best to book an appointment to ensure that you are able to be given the attention required. Alternatively, you can contact the school office and leave a message for your child's teacher to return your call.

Another form of communication used at LLPS is Class Dojo. Teachers will use this method to pass on important messages and reminders, as well as to let you know of special milestones or achievements. Class Dojo is designed to promote positive and open two way communication between home and school. As such, we ask that if you have serious concerns please use Class Dojo as a means of organising an interview (in person or on the telephone) to further discuss your concerns. Likewise, teachers will contact you directly regarding serious or behavioral concerns. We thank you for your support in this matter. It is important to note that teachers will only check and respond to Class Dojo messages between 8.30am and 4.30pm on school days and may not check messages during school hours, due to teaching commitments. However, we will endeavor to respond to messages within 24 hours of them being posted.

## **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.

## *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.

## *SPELLING*

The Grade 2 spelling program is individualized based on each student's 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.

## **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.

### **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.

### **WELL BEING**

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 Colloge, 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.

### **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.