

Heidelberg Primary School
Year 2 Newsletter Term 1, 2015

6 February 2015

Dates to remember

Parent Teacher Interviews Thursday February 19

Movie Night Thursday March 5

Labour Day Public Holiday Monday March 9

Pupil Free Day Tuesday March 10

End of Term 1 (early finish) Friday March 27

Dear Parents/Guardians,

WELCOME to the new school year! Please take a few moments to read the information contained in the newsletter. This is an outline of the term's curriculum focus, important dates and helpful reminders to ensure your child has a successful and comfortable start back at school. We ask all parents to provide a box of tissues for use in the classroom during the year. If you wish to help in the classroom on a regular basis, please speak to your child's teacher. Parent helpers are requested not to bring pre-schoolers into the classroom to ensure the students' learning routine is calm and focused. One of our priorities for Year 2 students is for them to continue to strengthen their independence skills – dressing themselves at the pool, coming into the classroom at bag bell time, independently following the printed classroom morning routine, being responsible for returning homework, library books and notices.

Swimming lessons have commenced for year 2 students in rooms 7 and 10 and will continue for the remainder of this term. Swimming is part of the physical education program and children are expected to participate in this activity.

A note explaining non-participation for any swimming session is required to be provided to the classroom teacher.

It will be essential for children from room 10 to be at school at 8.50am on Fridays, as our swimming lesson will begin promptly at 9.00am.



English

Each morning the children are involved in a block of Literacy activities, this occurs between 9.00am and 10.40am most days. For this reason we ask you to make sure that your child is in the classroom to prepare for learning at 8.50am (Bag bell). Students participate in whole class and small group reading, writing, speaking and listening activities. Your child will work in a small reading group suitable to their level of reading. In writing sessions this term, students will continue to further their skills in letter writing, procedural text and recount.

Grammar lessons will focus on punctuation. Handwriting lessons will emphasise the correct entry and exit points and formation of letters. Spelling lessons will follow a phonemic approach. Activities will be based on the Sound Waves National Curriculum program.

Mathematics

Numeracy lessons will begin with a whole class focus followed by directed activity groups, and then going further to make connections. Each lesson will consist of a range of oral and written activities with the emphasis on developing an understanding of mathematical concepts. Activities are drawn from the dimensions of Number, Space, Measurement and Statistics and Probability.

This term, numeracy activities will focus on:

- Ordering, counting and sequencing numbers
- Skip counting by 1, 2, 5, 10 and number patterns
- Place value of whole numbers
- Measurement – Time (seasons, days and months) and Length
- Space – two dimensional shapes
- Statistics and Probability – data collection

Integrated Studies

'Identity'- Growing Older and Wiser is the topic for this term. The rationale for teaching about 'Identity' is that by understanding how we grow, change and learn we can help ourselves to be the best that we can be. We will investigate:

- Personal change and growth over time
- Reaching potential as a learner
- Staying healthy and safe

Our essential questions will be:

- How can I control the way I change and grow over time?
- How can I be the best I can be?
- How can I make sure I'm always safe?
- How am I the same and different to others?

Students will participate in a variety of individual and group activities and will write a reflective journal during the term.

We will focus on the Habits of Mind- Thinking about Thinking (Metacognition) and Taking Responsible Risks.

Technology in the classroom

Students will have the opportunity to revise and further develop their ICT skills when completing small group and individual learning activities during Literacy, Numeracy and Integrated Studies. Activities will include composing, editing and publishing text types, exploring relevant search engines, Sunshine Online reading and a variety of educational Numeracy sites.

Homework

Homework consists of take home reading books, spelling and mathematics. Your child is expected to read with and to you each night for at least 15 minutes. Please take time to share, discuss and enjoy the book with your child. They need to return their take home book and HOME READING RECORD each day in their blue take home folder. Take home readers are meant to be enjoyable texts, which students can read independently, rather than reading at the instructional level of difficulty students encounter in guided reading lessons. Spelling and mathematics homework will be sent home on Monday and returned on Friday. Spelling words will be based on phonemes and graphemes learnt in our Sound Waves program, as well as a maths activity based on the week's focus. These activities are provided to reinforce and complement the learning that is happening in your child's classroom. Please encourage your child to complete homework tasks and return them to school as required. We encourage you to take the opportunity to discuss homework tasks with your child.

Japanese こんにちはみんなさん. (konnichiwa minnasan) Hello everyone and welcome to yet another year of Japanese at Heidelberg Primary School. This year promises to be packed with learning experiences and challenges. This term, boys and girls in grade two will revise and build on language they have learnt previously. This includes, using greetings, numbers and simple phrases such as, 'My name is....., I am.....years old, I am in grade.....' We will pick up from last year and continue to learn how to read and write hiragana. They will also be reunited with a popular Japanese speaking character called Chisai Pim, (Little Panda) through the Chisai Pim Japanese Language Program.
Dani Durando

Physical Education

Students in Grade Two will participate in one 50-minute session of Physical Education. During term one students will focus on the continual development of basic movement and physical oriental through skill based games. This term they will continue to develop The Catch and The Throw, each Fundamental Movement Skills essential for participation in many sports. Students are reminded to wear the school shorts or skorts, school polo or house t-shirts and runners to school on Physical Education days. They are also reminded bring a hat for outdoor activities.

All students in Grade Two will participate in 30-minutes of swimming lesson during the year. Students in grades 2G-7 and 2L-10 will commence lessons in week 2. Students in grade 2S-6 will participate in these lessons during term 3.

Miss Nyree Potter

ICT

This term students will visit the computer room for one fifty minute session per week. During ICT sessions we will be working with the school's laptop computers, learning how to keep the computers, and the students safe. We will reinforce the rules for using computers and being online, such as keeping personal details private, with students working towards gaining their Digital Technology License for 2015. Students will review their online passwords, revising how to log on to our school server to save and retrieve work, and how to use online communication tools such as blogs and email. If time permits we will also revise basic word processing skills, and how to print with assistance.

Please note that due my assistant principal duties and attendance at the 5/6 camp, ICT lessons will not commence until week 4.

Graham Jackson
ICT Coordinator

VISUAL ART

During Term 1 the students will participate in a range of activities designed to stimulate their curiosity, creativity and imagination. Using a variety of media, implements and materials, they will be encouraged to express their artistic individuality and ideas as they see fit. Concepts of colour, tone, shading and pattern will be progressively introduced for student consideration.

All students are expected to have their own art smocks, especially for the very messy aspects of art! These are to be clearly named and will be kept in the classrooms.

SCIENCE

During Term 1, students will participate in a range of activities that involve the use of selected pieces of simple science equipment, and occasional school yard rambles where they will be encouraged to use their senses to explore the world around them. The main focus for this term is "Water". The students will participate in activities and simple experiments relating to the properties of water, e.g. water pressure increases with depth; playing with Cartesian divers; water flows; water seeks its own level, etc. They will be encouraged to make observations, discuss the results of their investigations, and learn how to properly record their findings.

"Science Talk", often a source of lively discussion, will also be a regular feature of each lesson, with students being encouraged to contribute their ideas and observations, and to bring things of interest from home, the beach, etc., for display.

Specialist timetable

	2S-6	SG-7	2L-10
ART	Monday	Tuesday	Tuesday
SCIENCE	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
PHYS. ED	Tuesday	Tuesday	Thursday
JAPANESE	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday
LIBRARY	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday
SWIMMING		Friday	Friday

Class Blogs

Stay tuned to our class blogs to participate in our online questions and discussion on our integrated studies topics and classroom events.

Our blog addresses are:

Room 6- <http://hpshearar.global2.vic.edu.au/>

Room 7- <http://hpsgordon.global2.vic.edu.au/>

Room 10- <http://hpsleggatt.global2.vic.edu.au/>

Reminders

*No Hat No Play! Hats are compulsory this term. Children are required to wear a blue broad-brimmed school sunhat for all outside activities. Children without a hat will be requested to stay in the appropriate shade areas in the playground.

* Parents please encourage your child to be organised for their school day by having the necessary equipment ready as per the Specialist timetable. (Art smock, Library bag and appropriate clothing and footwear for P.E.).

We look forward to working with you and your child this year. If you have any queries or concerns please feel free to speak with your child's teacher. Please approach them before or after school so that a convenient time to meet can be arranged if necessary.

*Andrew Shearer, Heather Gordon and Ange Leggatt
Grade 2 Teachers*