Welcome back! Term 2 started off well, so a huge thank you to all parents for their support in settling their children into the new term.

We will be having an exciting start to term 2 with Education Week, a Mother’s Day Stall and upcoming events that will be organised to support the children’s learning.

As part of our Inquiry Topic ‘Then and Now’, the children will be taking part in an incursion called the ‘History Box’. This will be a valuable learning experience supporting students in developing their understanding of ‘While some things stay the same, some things change’.

Fairy Park Excursion
Towards the end of Term 1, the grade 1/2 students went to “Fairy Park” to see various characters explored in fairytales during term 1. It was wonderful to hear students discuss the differences between good and wicked characters using vocabulary from their learning.

English
Students will be focusing on the comprehension strategy: text structure and features to assist with their reading and writing. They will be reading and writing personal narratives, informative texts and poetry. They will be involved in identifying the features of texts and recording similarities and differences of the various text types they will reflect on their reading and in their Reading Journal.

As they continue using their Writer’s Notebook, they will develop into more independent, confident and responsible writers. You can continue to assist your child to have more ownership of their Writer’s Notebook by keeping little mementoes such as photos, movie ticket stubs and invitations, which are used as visual prompts for writing in their Memorabilia section.

A take home spelling program will be starting soon. Further information to come.

Mathematics
Units of work covered this term will be: addition and subtraction, fractions, division, location, shapes, time, area, and chance and data. Students will continue to demonstrate their understanding of the topics, using a variety of materials and strategies. They will record their thinking, explaining the strategies they used to approach the task. To assist your child in reinforcing their understandings of these topics you can engage your child in simple activities such as:

- Recognising and naming shapes in everyday life e.g. doors and windows.
- Telling the time using o’clock and half past relating to dinner time, going to bed and getting up in the morning.
- Handling and counting money, estimating the amount of change given when shopping.
- Measuring things around the home using personal units such as, hands

This term the children will be engaged in interesting and enlightening activities based on our Inquiry Unit “Then and Now”.

Inquiry
Our Major Topic Understanding is; ‘While some things stay the same, some things change’.

The children will be investigating aspects of life that have stayed the same and what has changed since their grandparents were young (their age).

Our Focus Questions are:

- What has stayed the same and what has changed since your grandparents were your age?
- How do things change?
- Why do some things stay the same and some things change?

They will need to think about ways of accessing information about life “then” eg transport, toys, leisure time, school, home, cooking, games. They could look through grandparents photos, magazines, interview their grandparents, bring items to school which are no longer used today but hold special memories for their grandparents eg postcards, books, toys, newspapers, videos.

1/2 Unit
Class Teachers: Jason Henry, Helen Myszka, Stephanie Kehoe,
Support staff: Mary Day, Madeline Pitcher
Visual Arts
Inspiration will be gained from the current inquiry unit of ‘Then and Now’. The children will become aware that before the advent of cameras, artists were commissioned to paint portraits. Children will have their photos taken and will view this when painting their own portrait. ‘Then and Now’ photos of Melbourne landmarks will be viewed and artworks of these will be created using a variety of skills and techniques. Puppet making will also become a focus for the term. They will be encouraged to plan and make appropriate choices to achieve the desired effect on a set project. They will also be encouraged to talk to their peers and in class discussions, using arts language, about how their artwork was created. The children will engage in drawing, painting, textiles and collage.

Deb Morgan

Physical Education
During term two the grade 1/2 students will continue to be immersed in a challenging and rewarding physical education program that will see them using a wide variety of sporting equipment. The students will be refining the skills of over arm throw and catch, previously learned in term one through game play. Term two will see the students learning and developing the Fundamental Motor Skills of kick and dodge in a modified Football and Soccer unit. Students will be taught the correct techniques for kicking and trapping a soccer ball, passing accurately, controlling the ball while running and kicking for goal. Students will be involved in playing modified games of Soccer and Footy during their class lesson time and will be given the opportunity to work as a team.

Vanessa Shiels

Music and Performing Arts
During term two in Music and Performing Arts, the focus will be primarily on DANCE and DRAMA. During the first five weeks, we will learn a variety of ways to dance and move, in order to express ourselves, to respond to different kinds of music, and to keep our bodies active & healthy. Grade one and two students will also be sharing their ideas as we develop movement and choreography together, working toward a complete performance piece in dance. Later in the term, our focus will move on to drama – with a close look at miming, acting and puppetry. We will be learning all about how puppets can help to tell a dramatic story, and will be working toward creating our very own puppet show! The children will have opportunities to perform in small groups for the class, as part of both the dance and drama units.

Jedda Davis

Sustainability
During term 2 the students at all year levels take a more practical, active and leading role in the organization and management of the recycling program. In the all classrooms students are encouraged to be sustainable in their use of all their resources. They are also responsible for the collection of water from buckets that are placed under the taps in the playground, and used to water newly planted native plants in the school gardens.

With parent support we ask that students are reminded to care for and maintain our environment during all school outdoor activities by ensuring that we reduce waste i.e. packaging / plastic wrapping etc. and placing any of their waste in the appropriate bins.

Developing a healthy school environment is an important part of student learning. All students are encouraged to care for our school flora and fauna in the hope that students develop positive links and appreciation of our natural environment.

Mr Raghdo

Computer
During this term, the children will use ‘Digital Resources’ to learn about ‘Then and Now’. They will create pictures of ‘Then and Now’, using ‘KidPix 4’ and ‘Kidspiration’. The children will develop the skills of using the paint, pencils, stamps, etc. during the creation of their work. They will be learning how to save and open their work.