Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th Feb</td>
<td>Hockey Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th Feb</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>Responsible Pets Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone, (parents, students and teachers), for the smooth beginning to the year in the 1/2 Unit. Ms Georgiou joins us this year in Room 8 (1/2G). We also welcome new students and their families.

To allow your child to become more independent and responsible for their belongings, it is important for parents to select a designated outside area for pickup. Thank you to all parents for your support in assisting your child to settle into their new grade and into classrooms and school routines.

Parents often ask about homework. The expectation is that your child reads their take home readers for at least 20 minutes every night. Please remember to record their nightly reading in their reading log books. Your child can also select reading items of interest from the local library, home library, magazines, cereal packets, brochures, information pamphlets, etc. Information about spelling homework is included in their homework book. Their home readers and homework books will be sent home every Monday and they need to be returned to school every Friday. Please speak to your child’s teacher when you have questions about homework.

Reminders

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time before the 8.45am bell as learning begins at this time.

Students need to wear hats in Term 1.

Water bottles and clothing need to be clearly labelled with your child’s name.

A healthy breakfast, prepared snack and lunch will assist with your child’s learning.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS:

Parents will have an opportunity to meet their child’s teacher on Wednesday 24th February to exchange information that will assist their child in their learning at school and at home. Please arrange another time with the teacher if you are unable to attend at this time.

ENGLISH

Students will continue to practise good reading behaviours. They will continue to select “Just Right Books” and practise effective strategies to become better readers.

In Writing, students will focus on two writing genres: Personal Narratives and Narratives.

The Writers Notebooks will consist of three sections: Writer’s Ideas List, Memorabilia and Powerful Language. Students are encouraged to bring memorabilia to school (photos, brochures, magazine cuttings, articles, pictures etc.) These can be pasted into their Writer’s Notebook and used as visual prompts for writing ideas e.g. “I have a picture of a rhinoceros because I saw one at Werribee Zoo and I think they’re amazing, so I want to learn more about them.”

MATHEMATICS

The topics we will be working on this term are Place Value, Addition, Subtraction, Length, Shapes, Statistics and Probability and Time (as related to the calendar). Activities you could do at home to support your child’s learning in maths include:

- Finding, reading and writing numbers in the environment. (house numbers, registration plates on cars) and identifying patterns in number.
- Putting objects in groups and bundles of 10s and 100s.
- Solving simple everyday addition and subtraction problems.
- Measuring length of items in the house and identifying shapes in everyday life.
- Using a calendar to record family events.

Our first topic for this term is ‘Getting Along’.

Our Major Topic Understanding is:

Our behaviours affect how we get along with others.

Our Focus Questions are:

- What are positive (acceptable) and negative (not acceptable) behaviors?
- How do we get along with others?
- Why is it important to get along with others?

Our 2nd inquiry topic for the term is ‘Healthy Me’.

Our Major Topic Understanding is: Looking after our health and our feelings is important to our wellbeing.

Our Focus Questions are:

- Why is our wellbeing important?
- What actions affect our health and how we feel?
- How can we live a happy and healthy life?

1/2 Unit

Class Teachers: Julie Georgiou, Chantal Touma, David Jaggard

Support Staff: Mary Day
**Visual Arts**

During Term 1, the children in the Grade 1 / 2 unit will be exposed to the use of lines, shapes, patterns and colour in artwork. Viewing the artwork of Wassily Kandinsky will enhance their learning and they will gain inspiration to create their own artwork. In the lead up to Harmony Day, the children will briefly learn about different cultures and complete activities, including the drawing of cultural body decorations, relating to the theme, ‘Everyone Belongs’. The children will contribute to the Art in Public Places display at the Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre. This year’s theme is ‘The Age of the Dinosaur’. Could children please be supplied with an art smock to protect their clothing during art? An old oversized shirt, clearly labelled with their name would be fine. Art smocks will not be stored in the art room and will become the responsibility of the child. Please become aware of the day that your child has art so that you may remind them to bring their art smock to school. Thank you.

Deb Morgan

**Computers**

During this term, the children will use the ‘eduSTAR’ toolbar to access different programs. They will be using the programs ‘KidPix4’ and ‘Kidspiration’ to produce pictures and visual representations of their learning, for their Inquiry Unit, ‘Getting Along / Healthy Me’. The children will further develop the skills of using the paint, pencils, stamps, etc. during the creation of their work and will be writing sentences and linking pictures about their learning. They will be learning how to save and open their work from their class file.

Joanne Jackson

---

**Music and Performing Arts**

Grade 1/2 students will continue to develop their musical ability and use percussion instruments and body percussion to play and create music, soundscapes and sound effects to stories. Students will develop their performance skills within small groups and perform to one another in the classroom. Students will also focus on singing, remembering and performing a variety of songs which will link to their inquiry topic of, ‘Getting Along’ and ‘Healthy Me’.

All students will use journals to record and reflect on their Music & Performing Arts lessons. These will also be used to write and keep any music, lyrics, practice schedules or ideas they may have in and out of class.

There will be opportunities for students to audition for the ANPS Junior choir.

Cassie McCawley

---

**Physical Education**

Term One will be an exciting time for the 1/2 students as they will be continuing to develop the fundamental skills of run, bounce, roll and trap. The students will begin to experiment with a wide variety of equipment to develop their skills, including hoops and small balls. Close attention will be placed on ball control with the introduction of modified sports. The students will explore movement through games that require them to run, gallop, skip and hop.

The students will continue to participate in the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP), which aims at developing the student’s ability to receive, interpret and respond successfully to sensory information. The PMP program is proven to assist with students learning within the classroom environment and can support the development in Literacy and Numeracy skills.

Lynette Solo

---

**Sustainability**

In grade P-2 the students will be introduced to the recycling programs at ANPS through the practical use of the paper, can/plastics, worm bins and waste bin. The students are encouraged to be aware of the need to care for the environment in which we live in, through everyday actions and behaviours. Monitors from each grade are responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products.

Throughout the year the students will participate in an environmental education session in the worm room, and be involved in the hands on practical understanding of how their waste is recycled at ANPS using the schools worm farms/paper and cans/plastic recycling programs.

In grade 3/4 the student are responsible for the management of the recycling bins in the eating areas of the schoolyard. Students are encouraged to show leadership with monitors from each grade being responsible for the weekly collection of classroom recycling products.

In grade 5/6 the students take an active and leading role in the organisation and management of the schools recycling program. Students are encouraged to be sustainable in their use of all their resources. Students are also responsible for the collection of water from the bucket that are placed under the taps in the playground, and used to water newly planted native plants in the school gardens.

This year we look forward to two major projects, the construction of our second “Garden wall” which will further enhance our school ground and learning landscape, and the building of the “Vegetable Garden”. Both projects are exciting initiatives in the development of the school’s environmental and sustainability program. We look forward to the student participation components in these projects throughout the 2014 school year.

Wal Raghdo