

Year 1/2 Term 1 Newsletter

Thursday 16th February, 2017

Important Dates

Thursday 16th February –
Information Exchange Night,
book online

Thursday 2nd March –
Twilight Sports, 5:30-7:00pm

Thursday 9th March –
Whole School Communication
Night with special guest Michael
Ymer

Monday 20th February –
 Parent Helpers Information
 Session
 Homework begins

Monday 13th March –
 Labor Day Public Holiday

Wednesday 15th to Friday 17th
March –
 Life Education Van visiting our
 school

TBA –
 *A walk around our neighbourhood

*Parent/Grandparent led talks
 about work they do in the
 community

Wednesday 29th March –
 'PB' – BBQ for students

Friday 31st March –
 Term 1 Ends
 Assembly at 2:00-2:30pm
 Easter Raffle

Lunchtime Clubs

Games – Monday
Origami (2-6) – Monday
Taiko Drumming (5/6) - Tuesday
Choir (3-6) – Wednesday
Choir (1-2) – Thursday
Sustainability/Garden - TBA
Homework – Friday
Library Open – Monday & Friday

Instrumental Program – Tuesday

We extend a warm welcome to all our existing students and families and our new students Leah, Ameer, Zac and John in 1/2TM and Paige, Jenny and Lazaros in 1/2A and their families. Our students have been sharing through circle time and postcards made in class, all the wonderful indoor and outdoor activities they were involved in during the summer break.

For the first three weeks we have been establishing our learning community based on the themes in the Dr. Seuss book "Oh! The places we'll go!" We are revisiting our school expectations: being responsible, respectful and inclusive in the classroom and in the playground, getting to know one another, our teachers and classrooms, establishing good routines in the morning and throughout the day, discussing what working together looks, sounds and feels like, setting up our reading programme, learning new math games and introducing this term's Habits of Minds and inquiry topic as well as making Valentine's Day cards for special children and adults in students' lives.



Please check our **Year 1/2 News**, located on the glass windows next to the orange doors the students use to enter our building. Just a reminder to label all personal belongings including: all clothing, hats and bags, food containers and drink bottles. Please bring labeled art smocks and library bags to school and blue communication satchels need to come to school every day. Please discourage your child from bringing personal stationery to school as we have all the tools we need to complete our work at school.

Despite tears shed on the first day by some students (and parents), our Year1/2s have settled in very well and we are all looking forward to an exciting year of learning ahead!

Emma Thomas, Julianne Marshall and Frieda Apostolopoulos
 Year1/2 Team

Term 1 at a glance...

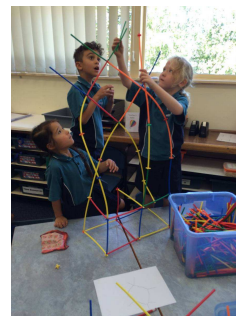
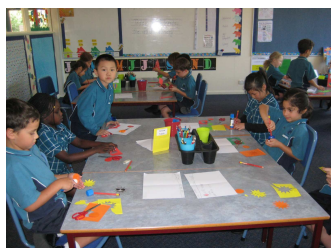
English

In Reading and Viewing this term students will be encouraged to develop good habits and a sense of personal responsibility. Students will be selecting, taking home, reading to members of the family and returning home readers to school daily. We are

looking forward to celebrating milestones in our home reading programme with certificates awarded at Monday assemblies for all students in Prep – 2 who read for 50, 100, 150 and 200 days. Reading strategies students will examine this term include: activate prior knowledge, check for understanding, make predictions, ask questions throughout and retell events in sequence. In Writing, students will begin most weeks writing a weekend journal entry. Please discuss at home which weekend activities they may enjoy writing about. This term we will be revisiting and learning more about recounts. Topics for writing may include: a time students helped a parent, a family trip, a memorable day at school, a visit to the doctor/dentist and Twilight Sports. Speaking and Listening topics, this year called 'Share and Chat' will be distributed at the Information Exchange Evening. This term, students will be encouraged to practise speaking clearly, making eye contact with their audience, greeting and thanking students for listening, asking appropriate questions and making relevant comments. Please support your child by listening to their prepared speech at home and offer advice on how they may improve on the goals discussed above. Students will also be provided with opportunities to learn about and practise communicating clearly, in person and on the telephone, in the event of an emergency e.g. police, fire, ambulance.

Mathematics

In December last year and again at the beginning of this year, teaching staff at MWHPS participated in professional learning led by specialist Mathematics consultant Michael Ymer. Michael has supported teachers and parents, across primary and secondary schools in Melbourne, interstate and overseas for many years. His approach is simple - make maths 'hands on', relevant, challenging and fun. This has always been our approach, however we are now working towards a more consistent whole school approach towards the learning and teaching of maths, keeping these elements at the forefront of our minds. This term in our classroom we will focus on place value, as well as some aspects of measurement and statistics and probability. We encourage all our parents to attend this year's **Whole School Communication Night with guest speaker Michael Ymer, held on Thursday 9th March.**



Inquiry

Our inquiry focus for this term is **Community – Places and Spaces**

In this unit, students will learn the importance of community, what services are available in their community and the way their community has been designed to help them get the most out of living in it. Essential questions for this inquiry unit include: What services are in our community? How can we use a map to navigate our community? Who in our community can help us in an emergency? How can we build with sustainability in mind? We are looking forward to building a whole class 3D model of a sustainable community, going on a walk in and around our school community, and listening to parents and grandparents share with students the various paid and volunteer roles they have or had to support their community. This term the students will be introduced to the **Habits of Mind: Persisting and Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision.**

Well Being

PBs (Personal Bests) are awarded to students who **consistently** display the school's expectations "Responsible, Respectful and Inclusive". This year our PB tokens are yellow and students need to earn 4 this term in order to share a sausage with Mrs. Reiss-Stone and Mrs. Datson. This term and throughout the year we will be reading books, viewing videos, discussing, role playing and recording the many ways we are responsible, respectful and inclusive in our classrooms, in the playground, in specialist classes, using ICT, during transitions between classes and within the wider community.

Whole School Activities

There are a number of whole school activities planned for this term including Twilights Sports, Prep to Year 4 students will be visiting the Life Ed Van and Easter activities. Please check the school's weekly newsletter 'The Heights Happenings' for more details.

Sun Smart, Drink Bottles and Brain Food

This term the 'No Hat No Play' rule applies. Please ensure your child wears their school approved hat to school each day, otherwise they will be asked to play undercover during recess and lunch breaks. Students are also encouraged to bring their own sunscreen to apply and reapply before going out to play. Drink bottles are allowed in the classroom throughout the year. We eat brain food each morning at approximately 10:00am. Brain food includes bananas, apples, grapes and other small portions of cut up fruit and/or vegetables. All packaged food items are considered snack food.



Parent Helpers in the classroom

We welcome and appreciate parent helpers in our classrooms, particularly during our reading session in the morning. Please note you require a Working with Children Check to be able to assist in the classroom as well as with excursions and our swimming programme. An information/training session will be held on Monday 20th February for all parents interested in assisting this year. For further details please ask at the school office. Please speak with your child's teacher if you are available to help, either on a regular basis or at different times during the year.

Homework and Diaries

Students are given homework on a Monday to be completed and handed in on Friday. They are required to read for 10-15 minutes each night to different members of the family and have their reading recorded/initialled inside the cover of their reading folder. In addition to reading, students should spend 10 minutes a night on their Spelling and Maths homework. Activities on Study Ladder will be aligned with work completed in the classroom. Students' individual username and password to access Study Ladder will be pasted inside their homework book. This year the Year 1/2 students will receive a school diary to use in the classroom for important dates and may also be used for parents and teachers to communicate.

If you have concerns about any aspect of your child's learning, please arrange a time via your child's diary or the school's email address to speak with us.

We are at school on the following days:

Emma Thomson, Monday and Tuesday
Julianne Marshall, Wednesday – Friday
Frieda Apostolopoulos, Monday – Friday