



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

GRADE 2 NEWSLETTER TERM 2

April, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope you have had an enjoyable and restful break. It has been great to see the children settle back into learning so quickly and with such positive attitudes, especially with the swimming program starting from their first day back. We thank you for your support with this important program, the children have been very organised and enthusiastic. We look forward to another exciting and productive term at Iramoo.

Each term you will receive a Grade 2 newsletter to keep you informed about special events and activities within the Grade 2 area and how you can help your child at home. The whole school newsletter is sent home on **Wednesdays**, on a fortnightly basis, with the eldest child in the family. Please read these newsletters carefully as they contain a lot of valuable information.

CURRICULUM

In **Literacy** students will focus on reading different text types, including both factual and fiction texts. They will be involved in reading activities that focus on comprehension (gaining an understanding of what they have been reading). Students will focus on asking questions, identifying the features of factual texts, summarising and inferring how a character is feeling to develop their comprehension skills. Children will also be continuing with our Independent Reading program where they concentrate on improving their reading skills and their reading 'stamina'. During this daily program children are reading books that are appropriate to their reading ability *for longer periods of time*. Children are being encouraged to select their own books from our classroom libraries to foster a love for books and an enjoyment of reading. The children will be focussing on developing their handwriting skills and learning how to write simple personal stories, poems and persuasive texts. They will learn about the importance of planning before writing and will be given opportunities to publish their writing. Children will also be encouraged to proof read their own writing to correct simple errors. In the area of spelling they will be extending their word knowledge and focussing on different vowel sounds and letter patterns found in words.

You can continue to support the skills your child learns in class by:

- Listening to your child read each night.
- Discussing illustrations in story books and predicting what might happen.
- Asking your child questions about what he/she has read to further develop comprehension.
- Encouraging your child to talk about daily events in the order they happened, staying on the topic and providing appropriate detail.
- Assisting your child to spell and write high frequency words.
- Encouraging your child to write about things they have done or topics that interest them.

In **Numeracy** the children will continue to develop their skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes, working with money, telling the time and simple fractions. Students will participate in weekly problem solving tasks and learn about different strategies to solve real life maths problems. They will continue to use Mathematics in the classroom on a regular basis.

Things that you can continue to do at home to support the skills learned in class include:

- Counting by ones, twos, fives and tens from different starting points.
- Recognising and writing numbers between 1 and 1000.
- Making and recognising number patterns.
- Recognising simple 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes in your home e.g. rectangular windows and doors, circular clock faces, cubes, spheres.
- Using *analogue* clocks and watches to tell the time to at least the hour and half past the hour.
- Practising counting money using coins and notes.
- Identifying simple fractions in your home e.g. half of an orange, a quarter of an apple.
- Ensuring that your child knows all of the months of the year and days of the week in the correct order.

Our **Integrated Studies** theme for Term 2 is **'Toys - Push and Pull'**. The children will be learning about similarities and differences between different toys. They will be undertaking investigations in the classroom and in Science lessons about how toys move, what materials they are made from and why they are important to us. This unit involves your child's participation in many enjoyable and educational learning experiences. The Grade 2 teachers would appreciate it if children could bring a variety of toy related items to school that will be placed on display and used to compliment our programs in the classroom.

MATHLETICS & ABC READING EGGS

At Iramoo we use two interactive e-learning resources called Mathletics and ABC Reading Eggs to compliment our teaching of Mathematics and English. Both programs originated in Australia.

Mathletics and Reading Eggs provide opportunities for your child to improve his/her mathematics and reading skills in an engaging and fun way. The primary goal is to improve mathematics results and essential reading skills.

Each child has their own username and password in order to access the programs.

Mathletics can be found at www.mathletics.com.au

ABC Reading Eggs can be found at www.readingeggs.com.au

If you require further information about Mathletics and Reading Eggs in order to use the programs at home, please contact your child's teacher.

PROGRAM ACHIEVE 'YOU CAN DO IT'



This term students will learn about the very important concepts of **Getting Along** and **Confidence** as part of our Program Achieve social skills program.

Getting Along is the ability to mix well with others, to be tolerant and non-judgemental, to be able to think through problems independently and to work within accepted rules of the school and classroom.

The activities on **Getting Along** are designed to teach students about helping others with schoolwork, working nicely in small groups, and managing our temper when someone is mean to us or does not do what we want. Examples include:

- listening when someone is talking in class
- not punching or retaliating when someone pushes you
- following the teacher's directions when working together with other classmates in a group.

Confidence is the ability to believe in yourself, to work independently, have an optimistic outlook and recognise mistake making as part of authentic learning. It means trying something new and not being afraid of making a mistake.

The activities on **Confidence** are designed to help our students develop a confident mindset. They are designed to not only teach students the importance of being confident but also to provide students with ways for maintaining their confidence in the face of difficult material and setbacks. Common examples of confident behaviours include:

- trying something new ("having a go")
- talking with a strong voice
- trying to do something hard without asking for help
- asking to play with others.

LIBRARY

Please send along a library bag for borrowing sessions from our school library. All students are expected to borrow a book from the library on a **fortnightly** basis. During the library sessions the students are introduced to new stories and learn how to recognise some popular authors and illustrators. We hope to promote a love and enjoyment of reading. If your child does not have a library bag, a reusable supermarket bag would be suitable.



Grades 2s borrowing day is Friday. Please ensure that children return their library books by Thursday.

HOME READING

We ask you to ensure that your child's *take home reading book* is read every day under your guidance and supervision and that the reading diary is signed and returned to school every day. Encourage and celebrate all of your child's efforts and ask them questions about each book they take home to ensure that they understand what they have read. Children should also be practising the high frequency words that are included in their diary. Please encourage your child to read these regularly and have a go at spelling known words from the list.



Book bags can be purchased from the school office or our uniform shop at a cost of \$10 for new students or any student who may have misplaced theirs.

HOMEWORK

Homework will start in the third week of this term. Homework will continue to be sent home each **Monday** and is to be completed and returned to school on **Thursday**. We will have discussed and explained the homework content in class with the children at school before it is sent home. We design revision activities and it is important that you encourage your child to undertake them each week so that the skills they have learned in class are reinforced. Please ensure that your child writes his/her name on their homework sheet before they return it.

START SMART

Last term the Grade 2 children attended the Start Smart program from the Commonwealth Bank. This program teaches children the value of money and other financial literacy skills in a way that students can understand and enjoy. This year the Commonwealth Bank has provided each of the Grade 2 students who attended the program with a **Teleporter Kit**. These kits include an educational storybook that provides a virtual reality experience for parents and children to enjoy together. More information and instructions on how to use the kit are included with the pack provided with this newsletter.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As the weather becomes cooler and our children change from wearing summer uniform to warmer winter uniform items, please encourage your child to put his/her jacket/coat on before going outside to play on colder days. These are not worn inside the classrooms. Please make sure that your child does not wear any non-uniform items *over* his/her uniform. If you feel that the weather is especially cold, he/she may wear additional items *beneath* their uniform provided they cannot be seen and ensure that all of these items of clothing are labelled clearly with your child's name.

PUNCTUALITY

School commences at 8.50 each morning. Children who are late to school are required to obtain a late pass from the office. If your child is absent from school, a signed note is required when they return to school to explain their absence. Continued absences from school will mean that your child will miss out on valuable experiences necessary for his/her learning progress. Your vigilance in ensuring that your child attends school every day and arrives before 8.45 a.m. is greatly appreciated.

CLASSROOM VIP PROGRAM

Each Grade 2 class will have a '**Very Important Person**' of the week. The VIP will be involved in various activities throughout the week, which will build their confidence and make them feel valued within their group of peers. This program will run throughout the year and you will be provided with more information when it is your child's turn.

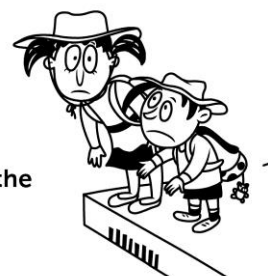
**APRIL ANAPLIOTIS, CAITLIN CLANCY (GRADE LEADER), SIMON DUNDAS,
LAUREN EWEN, & TAMARA KING
GRADE 2 TEACHERS**

Most children haven't developed the skills to be safe in traffic.

They may:

- not notice objects directly in front of them
- have trouble judging the speed of cars
- not behave safely.

If you drive or park near the school take extra care and keep on the lookout for children.



SPECIALIST CLASSES

Below is a brief outline of what all Grade 2 students will be learning about this term in our specialist areas.

Visual Arts

Students in Grade 2 will spend this term creating artworks inspired by something very dear to them - Toys. They will then design an image to go on their very own decorative kite in which they will have the opportunity to present at our annual kite parade. The students will have an opportunity to create and design their own Lego character in a drawing task. The students will then move onto creating a monster character to be a part of a colourful snow globe. The skill focus for this term will be drawing, design and construction.

Performing Arts

Grade 2 students will continue to participate in musical activities that involve listening, singing, moving, playing and creating. They will be assessed on their ability to recognise and identify key elements of and variations in musical pieces. The students will create a digital presentation using photographs and music that communicates four different emotions. Also this term, they will write and record a Rap using the Garage Band iPad application. They will then create a video clip to accompany their Rap using the Video Star iPad application.

Physical Education (Phys. Ed)

For the first two weeks of this term, students will be working on skipping using a rope. They will practise skipping independently and with a partner trying a variety of skipping styles. Each student will be given individual verbal feedback to assist his or her progress. We then move onto gymnastics, learning and practising basic gymnastic skills, focusing on body management, control and awareness. The program is aimed at developing coordination, mobility, strength, endurance, balance, health and good posture habits. Students will work in a group to create a sequence using a range of skills. For the final weeks of the term Grade 2 students will participate in a range of ball skills activities with the focus on basketball. Students will be aiming to improve their hand eye coordination, tracking skills and the using the correct technique when throwing, catching and controlling a bouncing ball.

Information & Communication Technology (I.C.T)

Throughout Term 1 students explored several new programs and practices, including working with the exciting new online version of Groovy Music. This term students will be working with digital cameras and using their photographs in different projects. The first task will be using their digital photography skills to create photos to be used in the Kid Pix graphics program, to produce pictures of real and imaginary mini beasts. They will then work on a combined ICT and Performing Arts project developing an emotions slideshow. This will involve the students taking pictures of themselves exhibiting different emotions and matching them in a slideshow with appropriate effects and music created in GarageBand. The students' work will then be combined into a class presentation.



Spanish Language

¡Bienvenidos! Term 2 holds many new and exciting learning experiences for the Grade 2 Spanish Club students. We will revisit colours, numbers and body parts as well as learning lots of new Spanish vocabulary that students can use in school or **La Escuela**.



We will also be learning a new Spanish song so please continue to encourage your children to practise and share the songs they learn at home. **¡Adios!**

Science

Toys: Push/Pull Science is an essential area of learning that allows students to have an understanding and make sense of the world around them. This year, Grade 2 students will once again have a specialist science teacher who will lead the teaching of science for Term 2. The lessons will be completed alongside students' classroom teacher and focus on scientific knowledge, human endeavour and enquiry learning.

Grade 2 will begin with the topic '**Toys: Push and Pull**'. Students explore how toys move with a push and/or a pull. They will learn scientific ideas in relation to forces such as gravity and friction. Students will work in co-operative learning teams to investigate how forces act in water, air and on the ground. They will continue to learn how to make predictions, plan and conduct an investigation and make conclusions based on results. Students will have the opportunity to throw a boomerang and learn some of the science about this.