



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

**GRADE 2 NEWSLETTER
TERM 2**

April, 2018

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 the beginning of term. We thank you for your support with this important program; the children have been very well organised and enthusiastic.

LITERACY CURRICULUM

Reading

In Reading this term we will be focussing on different types of poetry. Students will be immersed in the rhythmic pattern of poems as well as exploring colour poems and poetry from other cultures. Students will then move onto 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) as well as continued work on decoding strategies (how they can read unknown words).

We will focus on asking questions, identifying the features of factual texts, summarising and inferring how a character is feeling. Children will also continue the work they have been doing during Independent Reading in Term 1 on building 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 supported to select their own books of interest from our classroom libraries to foster a love of books and an enjoyment of reading.

Writing

Students will continue working on their handwriting in formal handwriting lessons each week. We will focus on the size and shape of letters as well as controlling movements in order to write legibly. Our spelling program will be extended this term we will be focusing on the sounds that long vowels can make as well as revising blends of letters including two vowels or two consonants.

Our daily writing program will be incorporated into our reading program where children will begin to write their own poems. Students will proof read, revise and edit their writing for simple errors before having the chance to publish their work and participate in publishing parties to celebrate their work. Moving on from poetry, children will begin a unit on persuasive writing. Students will 'argue' which books were more interesting, engaging their audience with valid reasons and evidence to support their claims.

Speaking & Listening

The children will be encouraged to talk about and describe their personal experiences in detail. They will learn to listen and take turns during class discussions, oral presentations and group work.

NUMERACY CURRICULUM

In Maths, children will explore different types of graphs including picture graphs, bar graphs and line graphs. We will cover the areas of mapping, 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes, multiplication, division, area and length. Activities will be hands-on and differentiated to suit individual student needs. We are very fortunate to have well resourced maths shelves in every classroom where children are encouraged to use materials to assist them in solving mathematical problems. This encourages problem-solving, assists with boosting confidence and independent learning behaviours.

INTEGRATED STUDIES CURRICULUM:

This term students will continue to attend specialist Science classes each week. They will learn about the topic of **'Toys: Push & Pull'** and the forces that help toys move i.e. push, pull. This will complement our classroom program through our Integrated Studies unit where children will plan, design, measure, build and evaluate their own toy. They will then give a brief oral presentation about their toy to the class.

HOMEWORK

Children are required to read a book each night. Parents are asked to record the name of the book in the student diary and track the number of nights read. When children have read for 25, 50, 75, 100 etc. nights, they earn a reading award where they receive a sticker and certificate in their diary. Students talk and discuss how many nights they have read in class. Please assist us by reading with your child each night.

To consolidate what children have been learning about in class, they will also receive an A4, double-sided sheet that includes Reading, Writing and Maths homework. Tasks are designed as revision and should take no longer than 15 - 20 minutes. Homework is explained to children before it is sent home each Monday and it is to be returned **in their homework folder** each Thursday.

VERY IMPORTANT PERSON PROGRAM

Our VIP program will continue after our swimming program has finished. The purpose of this program is to:

- assist our students' with their speaking and listening skills
- help develop their confidence
- give them a chance to celebrate their successes with their peers
- share information about themselves with others.

The VIP will continue to be selected each Friday and then be involved in various activities the following week. When your child is selected to have their turn they will be asked to bring in a photo of themselves and their family, a few special items to discuss with the class, their favourite book, something that made them feel good, such as a certificate or trophy and they can share a special talent or joke. You will receive more information when it is your child's turn to be VIP.

GLASSES IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Late last term, information regarding the Glasses for Kids Program was sent home with your child. If you want your child to participate in the program and have not already done so, please complete the Consent Form and Eye Health Questionnaire and return them both to our school as soon as possible. The optometrists will be attending our school to complete screening on **Thursday, May 3** and **Monday, May 21**.



BRAVEHEARTS

On **Thursday, April 19**, the Bravehearts organisation visited our school to perform the Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show to children in Grades Prep, 1 & 2. The 40-minute show provided children with the basic principles of *personal safety* and the tools to stay safe and to know what to do if they find themselves in a situation they are uncertain about. Themes covered during the show included; yes and no feelings, warning signs, private parts and privacy, it's ok to say no if you don't feel safe and what to do if you feel unsafe or unsure. Children were given a booklet to bring home and share with you to solidify key messages from the show.

**MRS LISA ALTIN, MRS ERICA CLARK, MRS AMY JAMES (TEAM LEADER),
MRS MORGAN LEWIS, MS DEB SHARROCK, MR DOUG WICKING
GRADE 2 TEACHERS**

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. The students will design an image to go on their very own decorative kite that they will have the opportunity to present at our annual kite parade. As stipulated in the Victorian Curriculum for the Visual Arts, students will *describe artworks they make and view, including where and why artworks are made and viewed*. The students will have an opportunity to create and design their own Lego character in a drawing task. They will then move onto a drawing task to create their own comic book using their imagination and creativity. The skill focus for this term will be drawing, design and construction.

Performing Arts

This term the Grade 2 students will participate in musical activities that relate to pitch and melody. They will use the Opera Maker iPad app to create their own opera. The Garage Band app will be used to write and record a rap culminating in the creation of their own video clip using the Video Star app. This is in line with the Victorian Curriculum for Music that states that *students use their voices and instruments to improvise, arrange and perform music as well as explore and make decisions about ways of organizing sounds to communicate ideas*. As part of our upcoming school concert on the evening of August 9, we are seeking students to perform a solo or small group act as part of the 'Iramoo's Got Talent' section of the night. If you think that your child shows potential in the Performing Arts field, please encourage them to see Mr Packham about auditioning for a slot in the show.

Physical Education (Phys. Ed)

The Victorian Curriculum stipulates that Grade 2 students will *develop personal and social skills such as co-operation, decision making, problem solving and persistence during movement activities*. To begin the term, the students will participate in a range of ball skills and teamwork activities with a focus on basketball. We will then be developing body management, control and awareness through Gymnastics. For the final weeks of the term, the students will be working with skipping ropes. They will practise skipping independently and with a partner experimenting with a variety of different skipping styles.

Digital Technologies

This term, Grade 2 Digital Technologies tasks will focus on the classroom Integrated Curriculum unit of **'Toys'**. The students will design their own toys created with cropped and manipulated photographs enhanced by drawn/painted details using the Kid Pix program. They will be involved in a combined Digital Technologies and Performing Arts project in line with the Victorian Curriculum for students to *create and organise ideas and information using information systems, and share these with known people in safe online environments*. This will take the form of an emotions slideshow using the iMovie program introduced in Grade 1. This experience will further extend their basic program navigation of iMovie by importing digital photographs of themselves displaying different emotions and then matching the images with appropriate music effects found in the GarageBand program.



Science

Grade 2 students will continue their learning in Science this term by beginning with the topic of **'Toys: Push and Pull'**. Students will explore how different toys move with a push or a pull. They will learn scientific ideas in relation to forces such as gravity and friction in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum. The students will work in co-operative learning teams to investigate how forces act differently in water, in the air and on the ground. They will continue to learn how to make predictions, plan and conduct an investigation on floating different objects in water and making spinners that are different sizes. They will make conclusions based on the results. The students will have the opportunity to throw a boomerang and learn some of the science involved in this.

****Spectators are welcome to take photographs at our school events but must of course be respectful of their use on social or other media, not taking or posting a photo of any child without permission from the child's parent/guardian.**

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.

