

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to all of the families of our Grade 5 students for 2017. We hope that you have enjoyed your holiday break. The Grade 5 teachers are **Mr Luke Dennerley (5LD)**, **Mrs Michelle Dorais (5MD)** and **Mr Shane Lambert (5LA - Grade Leader)**. In addition to classroom teachers, **Mr Graham Byworth** is the Grade 5 & 6 Area Leader and will also be supporting the learning of students in each of the Grade 5 classes.

Throughout this year the Grade 5 children will be involved in many interesting, exciting and educational learning experiences. We would like to congratulate all of our students on an enthusiastic and positive start to the school year.

Each term a Grade 5 newsletter will be sent home to keep you informed about special events and activities within the Grade 5 area and how you can help your child at home. The whole school newsletter will be sent home with the eldest child in the family fortnightly on **Wednesdays**. Please read these newsletters carefully as they contain valuable information.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, February 24	Summer Interschool Sport commences
Tuesday, March 7	Grade 3 - 6 Cross Country
Thursday, March 9	School Photos
Friday, March 10	Pupil Free Day
Monday, March 13	Labour Day (Public Holiday)
Monday, March 27	First Aid in Schools Program
Friday, March 31	Last day of Term 1 (2.30 p.m. finish)
Tuesday, April 18	First day Term 2

LITERACY

This term students will focus on building both their reading and writing 'stamina'. During the daily **Reading** lessons, students will revise strategies necessary for selecting 'just right' books. Students will be encouraged to use a variety of reading strategies, such as making predictions, questioning and clarifying the meaning of unfamiliar words. Students will also be required to complete reading responses related to the texts, encouraging a deeper level of comprehension and thinking about their reading.

In **Writing** lessons students will learn more about the structures and features of persuasive and narrative writing and publish several pieces. Students will also have the opportunity to generate writing of their own choice during Independent Writing sessions. Students will be encouraged and expected to record ideas in their Writer's Notebooks and further develop their editing skills. In addition, students will participate in weekly spelling investigations where they will learn about a particular spelling pattern or rule.

NUMERACY

In Term 1 students will be exposed to many different mathematical concepts. As students progress through the year they will build upon their knowledge of many key areas that have been introduced in the Early and Junior Years (Prep – Grade 4). Below are some of the topics that students will be learning about:

- Place Value
- Data Representation & Interpretation
- Shape (2D and 3D)
- Addition & Subtraction
- Pattern & Algebra
- Multiplication
- Perimeter & Area
- Fractions & Decimals

Part of the Middle Years Numeracy Strategy is to expose students to the importance of recording their working out and to check their calculations using various strategies. This aims to develop a greater degree of independence in work habits and to challenge each individual student, *irrespective of what level they are currently working at.*

MATHLETICS & ABC READING EGGS

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.

These programs can be used online from home. Each child can use their Mathletics username and password to access both of 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 please contact your child's teacher.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

This term students will participate in a unit of work about **Civics and Citizenship**. This unit will enable students to learn about Federation, the three levels of government in Australia, understand what democracy means and recognise the qualities of a proactive citizen.

HOMEWORK

Students will receive homework each Monday and it is to be completed and returned to school by Thursday of the same week. We will have discussed the homework content in class with the children at school before it is sent home. Tasks will consist of a literacy and a numeracy-based activity. These activities will be designed to reinforce the concepts that have been taught at school in the previous week.

LIBRARY

Students visit the library once each fortnight, on a Thursday, and are expected to borrow up to three books in Grade 5. **Please ensure that the children return their library books by Monday of their library-borrowing week.** This timely return of books assists library staff to complete book returns, therefore providing a wider range of book selection for the students. It is an expectation that **every child** borrows from the library and classroom teachers will monitor this closely. Please ensure that your child has a library bag for their fortnightly borrowing.

FIRST AID IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Our students in Grades 5 & 6 are fortunate to have St John Ambulance visit and deliver their First Aid in Schools Program. The program will be conducted on **Monday, March 27**, with sessions lasting for around 50 minutes. There is no charge to parents.

The sessions aim to expose students to some basic First Aid training, with an emphasis on how to recognise and respond to someone who is unconscious and not breathing. Please spend some time speaking to your child about the importance of memorising their address, suburb they live in and some main roads in case they ever need to call an ambulance. Some of the basics covered in First Aid In Schools include:

- DRSABC of the DRSABCD Action Plan
- Recovery position
- Cardio Pulmonary Rescue (CPR)
- Basic management of bleeding
- Bandage a bleeding hand
- Management of a nose bleed.

STUDENT DIARIES & NIGHTLY READING

Each Grade 5 student has received an Iramoo Primary School student diary. Students are to use their diaries as a reading record, a reminder for notes/items that they need to bring to school and as a means of becoming more organised and independent. Parents are also encouraged to use the diary as a means of communicating between school and home. We ask that parents check the student diary on a nightly basis and that it is signed each evening. Please ensure that you promote the expectation that diaries are not to be graffitied in any form.

A reminder to parents that nightly reading is an important part of our Literacy program. Students in Grade 5 are expected to read for a *minimum* of 25 minutes per night and write a short response about what they read as well as the number of pages they read.

Another option for nightly reading could be to utilise the Reading Eggspress website (<http://readingeggspress.com.au>). Students have a personalised log in and password to access the site, where they can complete a Reading Comprehension lesson. Each lesson should take approximately 20 minutes.

SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

School and classroom rights and responsibilities have been discussed and students understand the appropriate behaviour that they need to demonstrate at school. We encourage all students to be co-operative and caring members of our school community both in the classroom and in the playground.

Throughout the year there will be an ongoing emphasis on values education, particularly in relation to the following:

- The school values of *Respect, Responsibility and Relationships*
- The Iramoo 'Top 10 Not Negotiable Social Skills'
- Student Learning Behaviours.

CLASS SUPPLIES

Thank you to all of the children who have returned to school with all of their classroom supplies. If you have not already done so, please send along a box of tissues, a sponge, soap, art smock and a library bag.

PUNCTUALITY

School commences at 8.50 a.m. It is very important for children to be punctual each morning. They need to be at school before 8.45 a.m. to ensure that learning programs run smoothly and so that children do not miss out on valuable learning opportunities.

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 he/she returns to school to explain their absence. Your vigilance in ensuring that your child attends school every day is greatly appreciated.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

Grade 5/6 Summer Interschool Sport will commence on **Friday, February 24**. There will be 3 rounds of summer sport this term, with the remaining 5 rounds to take place in Term 3. Sport will be held in the mornings as stated in our school SunSmart School policy.

This year all Grade 5 & 6 children will be participating in sporting activities for at least an hour each Friday. Children not selected in an interschool sporting team will participate in an alternative sports program that may include activities such as cricket, netball, yoga, golf, walking, orienteering and badminton.

Permission notes will be sent home in the coming weeks. The cost for students selected in an interschool sporting team will be **\$15**. This will cover the costs of transportation, venue and equipment hire for eight rounds of summer sport. The cost for students participating in the alternative sports program will be **\$5**. This will cover lessons and tutorials from outside instructors.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

As our senior students are role models for the younger children, it is imperative that they are in correct school uniform at all times and we ask for your support with enforcing this at home. We will be monitoring uniform closely at school. Please be aware that nail polish, jewellery and sweatbands are not to be worn as fashion accessories. Please also be aware also that students are **not to bring** electronic devices such as mobile phones and iPods as these devices are not permitted at school.

FRUIT AND WATER



Water and fruit are a great way to get the brain working! The Kids & Fruit program has been a very successful program at Iramoo for many years. Through this program the children will become familiar with different types of fruit as well as the different varieties. The eating of fruit becomes an important and eagerly awaited part of the morning. If there is some reason why your child does not participate in the Kids & Fruit program please provide a note for your child's teacher. It is essential that he/she have a piece of fruit (or healthy snack such as sultanas, carrots, etc.) from home so that it can be eaten at the same time the other children have their fruit.

Eating a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables is a very important part of establishing healthy eating patterns throughout life.

We encourage all students to have a plastic or metal bottle of **plain** water at their table that they can drink throughout the day. **No cordial or juice please.** *Healthy* lunches and snacks are also strongly encouraged.



SUNSMART



During Term 1 and Term 4 every child is required to wear a broad brimmed or legionnaires hat when outside. Children will require a hat every day during this term for all play times and Physical Education sessions. Please also ensure that your child's name is written clearly inside his/her hat. New hats can be purchased at our uniform shop.

**LUKE DENNERLEY, MICHELLE DORAIS & SHANE LAMBERT (GRADE LEADER)
GRADE 5 TEACHERS**

DRUMMOND STREET SERVICES - HELPING YOUR CHILD SETTLE INTO SECONDARY SCHOOL – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8 6.30 – 8 P.M.

To be held at the Plaza Library, Pacific Werribee Shopping Centre, Level 1 Derrimut Road Werribee. This is a free seminar but bookings are essential. Contact www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/libraries or  **8734 2600**

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Below is a brief outline of what all Grade 5 students will be learning this term in our specialist areas:

Visual Arts

This term in Visual Arts students in Grade 5 will be focusing on the theme of *'Me and My Future'*. They will begin the term with a unique self-portrait that involves them capturing themselves as they are now and then envisioning themselves in the future. Students will then be asked to consider what makes a good role model and what constitutes a *'Hero'*. They will visually respond to these concepts with a painting of someone they consider their hero. The skills focus will be on drawing, painting and collage as well as thinking about art in a more sophisticated manner and using it as a mode of visual communication.

Performing Arts

Students at this level are encouraged to join our Morning Assembly Band. After a brief introductory lesson on the various instruments available to play children are given the opportunity to select a piece, borrow an instrument and practise at home. If you would like your child to play at Morning Assembly and would support home practise, please let Mr Packham know and he will ensure he/she is given the opportunity. As well as the Assembly Band, students will have an opportunity to participate in a school rock group this year. If you believe that your child shows talent and commitment in the field of singing or playing musical instruments, please encourage and support them to audition. Auditions will be held in the next few weeks.

This term the students begin work on producing a TV Commercial. This task will involve students analysing what makes a good commercial, developing original ideas and converting their ideas into a storyboard format. They will also be providing costumes and props where needed, and learn how to operate a camera and develop terminology and techniques related to the project. Finally, students will rehearse, film/perform and edit their recorded footage. This year's touring performance will take place in Term 1. The performers are a Spanish group and students will prepare for the performance by singing and playing accompaniment to songs that will be included in the show.

Physical Education (P.E.)

To begin Term 1 Grade 5 students will participate in a range of co-operative games which will encourage teamwork and 'getting along' skills. The games are designed to assist group collaboration as well as being challenging for each individual. The major focus throughout the term will be learning the 'game sense' of striking and fielding sports. *'Game sense'* is the ability to read the play, to have a good understanding of where the ball is going and to know where to hit the ball in order to achieve a run or point. Cricket, softball and bat tennis will be the sports used throughout the unit. Students will play a range of modified games and activities to assist in learning these skills. Students will also be training for our Iramoo Senior Cross Country, they will be developing their running endurance and setting personal goals for long distance running. Parents are encouraged to help prepare students by supporting training at home. Our Cross Country will be held on **Tuesday, March 7** and students are encouraged to do their best.

****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 posting a photo of any child without permission from the child's parent.**

Information & Communication Technology (I.C.T.)

Grade 5 students will start the year using their computer lesson time to do some very important testing for **Numeracy** and **English**. The results from these activities will be very helpful to the classroom teachers in their planning. We will then revise the basic features and introduce some more advanced functions of iCal, a calendar program. Students will also review the **STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE of DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AGREEMENT** and follow up working through the Budd:e Cybersmart Online Program. Time permitting we will prepare a budget for a child's party using the basic settings and addition and multiplication functions in a spreadsheet.



Spanish

¡Hola y Bienvenidos! As we look forward to another fantastic year ahead there are many exciting topics to be covered in Spanish. Students will be discussing the many benefits of learning another language and look at the cultural similarities and differences among many of the Spanish speaking countries. We will cover topics such as the Spanish alphabet, simple greetings, numbers and colours as well as have the students participate in many engaging activities that will have them speaking Spanish in no time. Our cultural awareness topic for this term is *'The Sounds of South America'*. Iramoo has partnered with Musica Viva In School to bring a musical group *'Tigramuna'* to perform for all our year levels in March. Iramoo is very excited to be able to provide our students with a sensational cultural experience such as this and look forward to the students' participation and eagerness to continue to learn Spanish. **¡Hasta luego!**