

IMPORTANT DATES

February 24	Summer Interschool Sport commences (Iramoo V Thomas Chirnside)
March 7	Grades 3 - 6 School Cross Country @ Wyndham Vale Reserve
March 27	First Aid in Schools program
March 9	School Photos
March 10	Student Free Day
March 13	Labour Day Public Holiday
March 31	Last Day Term 1 (2.30 pm finish)
April 18	First Day Term 2 (8:50 am start)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to all families of Grade 6 students for 2017. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful holiday break. This, your child's last year of primary school education, will be an extremely busy, exciting and challenging one. The aim this year will be to make sure each and every Grade 6 student is ready for secondary education in 2018. The Grade 6 teachers for 2017 are **Ms Cynthia Giuffrida (6CG - Grade Leader)**, **Mr Alistair Burrell (6AB)**, **Ms Liesel McGregor (6LM)** and **Mr Doug Wicking (6DW)**. **Mr Graham Byworth (Grade 5 & 6 Area Co-ordinator)** will also be working very closely with the Grade 6 children.

Each term you will receive a Grade 6 newsletter to keep you informed about special events and activities within the Grade 6 area and how you can help your child at home. The whole school newsletter will be sent home on **Wednesdays**, each fortnight, with the eldest child in the family. Please read these newsletters carefully as they contain a lot of valuable information.

Throughout this year the Grade 6 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. As the eldest students in the school we are expecting that the Grade 6 students continue to set positive and respectful examples to younger students at all times.

Congratulations once again to the students named School Captains for 2017. We look forward to them setting good examples for not only their peers in Grade 6, but as positive role models for every Iramoo Primary School student.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS – Joshua Bowen & Megan Pini
SCHOOL VICE-CAPTAINS – Caleb Kennedy & Ashleigh Furphy

We will also be selecting captains for our four houses: Gaze (Yellow), Hughes (Red), Freeman (Blue) and Lewis (Green). The students were asked to nominate themselves, if they wished to be leaders, last week and the selection process will be completed over the coming fortnight.

LITERACY

The text types that students will focus on this term will be Narratives and Autobiographies. They will study texts written by professional authors and will then write their own life stories. Students will have a strong focus on personal, independent writing. They will also be exposed to strategies to get them ready for writing, such as planning writing, revising & editing, the writing process and summarising. We will focus on different grammar rules that are important for students to know when completing written work and a focus on students taking responsibility for proof reading their own work.

NUMERACY

In Numeracy, our learning goals will focus on extending fundamental number concepts. Over the coming weeks we will assess and closely monitor each student's ability to work with numbers. In the Middle Years it is particularly important for students to be able to:

- read, write and say large numbers to the millions and beyond
- use mental and written mathematics to calculate addition and subtraction of positive numbers
- use mental and written mathematics to multiply and divide large numbers by a single digit
- link fractions, decimals and percentages
- multiply different numbers up to 10×10 .

Part of the Middle Years Numeracy Strategy is to expose students to problems that require them to challenge their own thinking and to look for more than one solution. This aims to develop more independent work habits and to challenge each individual student, *no matter what level they are working at*.

STUDENT DIARIES & NIGHTLY READING

Every Grade 6 student will receive an Iramoo Primary School student diary. Children are to use their diaries as a reading diary, a reminder for things they need to bring to school and as 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 each night and sign it each evening. Please ensure that you promote the expectation that diaries are not to be graffitied.

A reminder to parents that nightly reading will once again be an important part of our Literacy program. Students have a question card that is pasted into the front of their diary and this is to be used to respond to the text they are reading. Only one sentence is required each night and can be written in the diary. Students in Grade 6 should be reading for a *minimum* of 25 minutes per night. Magazines, comics, digital texts and certain newspapers are great sources of information and make a nice change from reading a novel every night. 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 RULES

School and classroom rights and responsibilities were discussed last week and students know and understand the appropriate behaviour that they need to demonstrate at school. We encourage all students to be cooperative and caring members of the school community both in the classroom and in the playground.

Over the course of the year, there will be an ongoing emphasis on values education, especially related to the school values of *Respect, Responsibility and Relationships*, the Iramoo 'Top 10 Not Negotiable Social Skills' and the 'You Can Do It' program.

STUDENT DRESS CODE & GRADE 6 SHIRTS

As our senior students are role models to the younger children, it is imperative they are in full school uniform at all times. The children have started the year on a really positive note and we ask for your support with enforcing this at home. We will be monitoring uniform closely at school. All items of clothing should be clearly labelled. Please be aware that nail polish, jewellery and sweatbands are not to be worn as fashion accessories.

The order for Grade 6 polo shirts and windcheaters is currently being finalised. Please make sure you have your payment and sizing organised. For further assistance please contact Mrs Sandra Cameron in our school office. Students usually receive their special uniforms towards the end of Term 1.

SUNSMART



A reminder that students need to bring and wear a legionnaire or broad brimmed hat at recess and lunchtime during Term 1. They will also need these hats for all school and inter school sport. Hats can be purchased from our uniform shop.

LIBRARY

The Grade 6 students will visit the Library on **Tuesdays, once a fortnight**. Students will need to return their borrowed books the day before they are due to visit the library. Grade 6 students are able to borrow up to four books each fortnight. There is an expectation that **every child** borrows from the library each fortnight. Classroom teachers will monitor this closely. Please ensure that your child has a library bag to protect the books that they borrow.

CLASS SUPPLIES

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

HOMEWORK

Students will receive homework each Monday and it is to be completed and returned to school every Thursday. We will have discussed the homework content in class with the children at school before it is sent home. It will consist of a mixture of Numeracy, Writing, Reading, Spelling and Integrated Studies activities that will be related to the in-class curriculum. A Grade 6 staff member is available each lunchtime to help students with their homework if they need extra assistance or guidance.

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 to promote active and healthy living 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.

ROUND	DATE	OPPONENT
1	February 24	Thomas Chirnside
2	March 3	Manorvale
3	March 17	Werribee
4	August 4	Manor Lakes
5	August 11	Corpus Christi
6	August 18	Westgrove
7	August 25	St Andrews
8	September 1	Wyndham Vale

GRADE 6 SCHOOL CAMP

Grade 6 camp at The Briars in Mt Martha has been booked for the week of **Monday, May 8 – Friday, May 12**. Please begin factoring the cost, approximately \$350 into your family budget now. This is a wonderful week and no doubt the highlight of most students' primary school years. We highly recommend that every Grade 6 child attends.

Please remember that only students who display appropriate behaviours are invited to camp.

FIRST AID IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Our students are fortunate to have St John Ambulance visit and deliver their First Aid in Schools program again this year. The program will be held 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. Some of the basics of First Aid In Schools covered 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

GETTING YOUR CHILD READY FOR SECONDARY COLLEGE IN 2018

As stated in the opening paragraph, one of the major aims of the Grade 6 teachers this year is to prepare your child for their successful transition into secondary college at the beginning of next year. Some key aspects of this include:

- keeping an organised learning space
- being able to explain the learning intention and the task to be completed in each lesson
- persisting when learning gets difficult
- using student diaries to plan and prioritise work
- finishing work within allocated time to minimise homework.

Please discuss these aspects of personal learning with your child at home and encourage them to continually improve in these areas.

LOCAL SECONDARY COLLEGE VISITS

Over the coming months, representatives from some of our local secondary colleges will be coming to our school to speak to the children about what secondary college is like. In addition, students will have the opportunity to visit some of the colleges to participate in the **'A Day in the Life of a Secondary College Student'** program. Further information will be sent home about this as dates are confirmed.

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.

**MR ALISTAIR BURRELL, MS CYNTHIA GIUFFRIDA, MS LIESEL MCGREGOR & MR DOUG WICKING
GRADE 6 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 6 students will be learning this term in our specialist areas:

Visual Arts

In Grade 6 Visual Art this term students will begin to adopt a more mature approach to art making and thinking. Students will be given their own 'Folio' that they will contribute to throughout the year and will complete reflections on their work as an introduction to art writing. Their first task will involve them being introduced to the 'Rules of Art' - the Elements and Principles. They will decorate the face of their Art folio with elements such as line and texture before moving onto colour theory activities where they will create a colour wheel and learn the difference between tints and tones. The skill focus will be on drawing, and the students' grasp of the elements and principles of Art.

Performing Arts

Students at this level are encouraged to join our Morning Assembly Band. After a brief introductory lesson on the various instrumental pieces 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 practice, 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 will also be doing activities in preparation for the production of a News/Current Affairs Program. This will include public speaking, formatting stories, writing storyboards, camera operation and performing for the camera. 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 6 students will participate in a range of co-operative games which are designed to challenge the group to work together in order to complete the task. The major focus throughout the term will be learning the 'game sense' of striking and fielding sports. During the lessons students will be learning the strategies and skills that a good striker and fielder uses. Knowing where to hit the ball, judging a run, reading the play, anticipating where the ball is going and moving into position quickly will all be discussed and demonstrated and student will participate in a range of modified activities designed to learn 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 6 students will start the year using the computer lab 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. Students will review the **ACCEPTABLE USE of DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AGREEMENT** and reinforce the CyberSafety message using online resources including the Budd:e Cybersmart Program. We will then revise the basic features and introduce more advanced functions of iCal, a calendar program. These will include managing regularly occurring events, sending invitations, setting up notifications and adding attachments. Time permitting, we will finish the term using Internet resources, ComicLife and a spreadsheet to plan and promote a class excursion to Luna Park.



Spanish

¡Hola a todos! There are many new and exciting topics to be covered in Spanish this year. In Term 1 Students will further develop their knowledge and understanding of the Spanish language by building on prior topics from last year. The topics of moods and feelings will be discussed using adjectives in Spanish. The students will participate in engaging activities such as role plays 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!