

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, February 23	Summer Interschool Sport commences (Iramoo V Thomas Chirnside)
Wednesday, February 28	SSVWD Swimming Carnival
Monday, March 5	First Aid in Schools program
Wednesday, March 7	StartSmart Financial literacy program
Thursday, March 8	School Photos
Friday, March 9	Grades 3 - 6 School Cross Country @ Wyndham Vale Reserve (a.m.)
Monday, March 12	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday, March 20	Cybersafety presentation
Thursday, March 29	Last Day Term 1 (2.30 p.m. finish)
Monday, April 16	First Day Term 2 (8:50 a.m. start)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to all families of Grade 6 students for 2018. 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 prepare Grade 6 students for their secondary school education in 2019. The Grade 6 teachers for 2018 are **Ms Cynthia Giuffrida (6CG - Grade Leader)**, **Mr Alistair Burrell (6AB)** and **Ms Lauren Ewen (6LE)**. **Mr Graham Byworth (Grade 5 & 6 Learning Improvement Coordinator)** 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 and exciting 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 2018. We look forward to them setting excellent examples for their peers in Grade 6 and being positive role models for students throughout our school.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS
SCHOOL VICE-CAPTAINS

Matthew Wilkinson-Barrons & Paige Williams
Sophie Madden & Christina Pantelidis

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

LITERACY

This term our key focuses in Literacy will be:

- recording thinking processes when reading and writing
- continuing to build reading and writing stamina
- understanding ourselves as readers and writers.

In **Writing**, we will be composing autobiographies and narratives. We will also continue to focus on the writers' notebooks, the writing process (i.e. planning, composing, revising, editing and publishing) and handwriting. Students will be involved in daily writing sessions. 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.

In **Reading**, students will continue to practise various strategies to support their understanding of the material they read. They will respond to their reading using a variety of approaches including writing detailed summaries, creating character maps and making connections.

NUMERACY

In Numeracy, our learning goals will focus on extending fundamental number concepts. Over the coming weeks we will assess and monitor each student's ability to work with numbers closely. In Grade 6 it is particularly important for students to be able to:

- read, write and say large numbers to the millions
- 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 our 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 has received an Iramoo Primary School student diary. Children are to use their diaries to record their nightly reading and write reminders 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 and sign their child's student diary each night.

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 at least 20 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 is 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.

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 Numeracy, Reading and Spelling 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.

iPADS

The Grade 6 students will be using their iPads regularly as an engaging learning tool for a wide range of learning activities. Expectations of how to use the iPads appropriately and cyber safety will be a continual focus throughout the year. We encourage you to continue this discussion at home and monitor your child's Internet use very carefully, particularly in the area of social media. Students will be using Google Apps to explore, create and upload documents online as a part of an interactive 'classroom'.

When your child takes his/her iPad home, please ensure that they have it fully charged ready to use and return it to school the following day.

ATTENDANCE & 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.

If your child must be absent from school, a note detailing the reason for his/her absence is required when returning to school. If a student is absent our school attendance officer, Mr Shane Hamilton will contact you via telephone.

If your child has a history of poor attendance, a member of our school leadership team will endeavour to make contact when your child is absent from school. Please remember that we aim for fewer than 10 days absence per child per year, which equates to roughly two days per term.

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 that you have your payment and sizing organised. For further assistance please contact Mrs Sandra Cameron in our school office. Students should 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 **Wednesdays (6CG & 6LE) and Fridays (6AB)**, once a fortnight. Students will need to return their borrowed books to school 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.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

Grade 5/6 Summer Interschool Sport will commence on **Friday, February 23**. 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 in keeping with 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 have been sent home this week. The cost for students selected in an interschool sporting team will be **\$18**. 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 tuition from outside instructors.

GRADE 6 SCHOOL CAMP

Grade 6 camp at The Briars in Mt Martha has been pre-booked for the week of **Monday, May 14 – Friday, May 18**. 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 school camp at Iramoo.

FIRST AID IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Our students are fortunate to have St Johns Ambulance visit and deliver their First Aid in Schools program again this year. The program will be held on **Monday, March 5**, 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 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 2019

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 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 intentions and the tasks to be completed
- 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.

MR ALISTAIR BURRELL, LAUREN EWEN & MS CYNTHIA GIUFFRIDA (GRADE LEADER) GRADE 6 TEACHERS

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 Visual Arts this term, students will have the opportunity to create the front cover for their art folios. There will be a strong focus on the rules of Art, known as The Elements. Students will also explore a diversity of ideas, concepts and viewpoints. They will draw ideas from other artists, artworks, symbolic systems, beliefs and visual arts practices in other cultures, societies and times. To address these concepts from the Victorian Curriculum, Grade 6 students will explore the Art of Africa. They will begin with a tribal inspired mask that employs colour, line and texture, before moving onto a beautiful safari sunset painting.

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 practice 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 that he/she is given the opportunity. As well as the assembly band, students will have an opportunity to participate in our school rock group. 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 complies with the *Victorian Curriculum* for Media and Drama that recommends students plan, produce and present media artworks for specific audiences and purposes and that they use skills and techniques of voice and movement to create character and mood.

Physical Education (P.E.)

To begin Term 1, Grade 6 students will participate in a range of co-operative games, which will encourage teamwork and 'getting along' skills. In conjunction with the Victorian Curriculum that states *students will refine and further develop a wide range of fundamental movement skills in more complex movement patterns*, students will be developing their ball striking. They will be introduced to the modified tennis game called 'red ball' with the focus on using the correct body position for serving, the forehand and the backhand as well as covering the court for defense and offense. Throughout the term, students will be training for our Iramoo Senior Cross Country, by developing their running endurance and setting personal goals for long distance running. Our cross country will be held on **Friday, March 9** and parents are encouraged to help prepare students by supporting some running training at home. At the end of Term 1, students will be developing their golf swing with the focus on correct body position, controlling the club speed, accuracy and distance.

****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.**

Digital Technologies

Grade 6 students will start the year using the computer lab to do some very important testing for Mathematics and English. The results from these activities will be very helpful to the classroom teachers in their planning. The students will then review the Student Acceptable Use of Digital Technologies Agreement and follow up working through more modules of the Budd:e Cybersmart internet program. We will then revise familiar basic features and introduce some more advanced functions of iCal, the digital calendar program that students have used in previous years to help them organize weekly and monthly events. These will include managing regularly occurring events, sending invitations, setting up notifications and adding attachments. In accordance with problem solving and data presentation aspects of the Victorian Curriculum, the students will conclude the term using internet resources, the Comic Life program and a spreadsheet to plan and promote an end of the year class excursion.

Spanish

¡Hola y Bienvenidos! In Term 1, students will focus on grammar, vocabulary building, and pronunciation through purposeful communicative activities. Students will focus on bilingual storytelling and use classic children's books such as *Too Many Pears!* and *Where The Wild Things Are* to compare and learn more about the language. This will assist in building new vocabulary during lessons and help students to create simple, written texts about themselves and their families. The Victorian Curriculum states that learning Spanish contributes to students' general literacy development. As they encounter the varieties of Spanish language and cultures represented in the Spanish-speaking world, they can make comparisons with their own language(s) and culture(s) and consider their own ways of communicating. We look forward to the students' continued participation and eagerness to learn during Spanish lessons. **¡Hasta luego!**

**HOW TO HAVE FUN AND STAY SAFE ONLINE
GRADE 4, 5 & 6 STUDENT WORKSHOPS
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018**

Grade 4, 5 & 6 students are very fortunate to have Susan Mclean, an expert in the area of cybersafety coming to our school to discuss how to be respectful and responsible digital citizens and how to stay safe online. Students will participate in a 90 minute, age appropriate workshop and complete a comprehensive workbook with key learnings to bring home to share with parent/guardians.

Susan will explore and discuss the following topics during the student workshop:

- Online rules and laws: where to find them, why they are important and what happens if they are broken. Students will be challenged to think clearly about their online activity and decisions.
- Cyberbullying: what it is and what to do if we see it happening, or if it is happening to us.
- Online friends who are not really friends: how strangers find us online and what they might ask us to do.
- Sites and apps that students are using: the age requirements for each site and why it is important that rules are NOT broken or disobeyed.
- Staying safe online.
- What being respectful and responsible digital citizens really means.
- Time for discussion and student questions.

GROWING UP ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

***FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS & CARERS OF IRAMOO STUDENTS*
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018 – EVENING SESSION AT IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL
6.30 P.M.**

Susan will also be presenting a very important and informative session for parents/guardians that will cover the positive benefits of technology as well as things we need to be aware of regarding children and their use of technology including:

- What children are doing online: popular social networking sites and apps such as KiK, Musical.ly, Instagram and Yellow. What they are, what the legal ages to use them are and why the rules should be obeyed.
- The difference between an 'online friend' and a 'stranger'.
- Online grooming: what it is and when/how does it occur. What are the warning signs and what to do if you suspect this is happening to your child.
- Cyberbullying: what it is, where it happens, what it looks like, how to prevent it and what to do if it occurs. Also the legal consequences and the possible criminal charges.
- The real consequences of taking and sending of explicit images.
- Potential dangers and safety tips: how to assist the children in your care to stay safe online via parental controls and restriction passcodes.
- Problematic Internet use and gaming issues.
- The Office of the e-Safety Commissioner: the roles, resources and how to make a report.
- How to set rules and boundaries around Internet use in the home.
- The session will conclude with time for questions.

Parents/guardians will receive further details about this session later in the term. The significant cost of the workshops and the parent information session will be covered by the school and provided at **no cost** to parent/guardians.

***NOTE** – this session is for Iramoo parent/guardians only. No child will be permitted to attend, as some of the information covered is explicit.

**KARYN HENWOOD
STUDENT WELLBEING CO-ORDINATOR**