



## IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

### GRADE 6 NEWSLETTER TERM 2

April 2017

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Friday, April 28	Winter Interschool Sport competition begins
Tuesday, May 2	Final Camp Payment Due
Wednesday, May 3	Werribee District Cross Country Carnival
Friday, May 5	Grade 6- Year 7 Transition Forms due to be returned to school
Monday, May 8 - Friday, May 12	Grade 6 Camp at Mount Martha
<b>Monday, June 12</b>	<b>Queens Birthday Public Holiday</b>
<b>Thursday, June 29</b>	<b>Pupil Free Day- Parent/Teacher Interviews</b>
<b>Friday, June 30</b>	<b>Roll-a-thon, Last day Term 2 (2:30 p.m. finish)</b>
Monday, July 17	First day, Term 3

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope everyone had an enjoyable break. The Grade 6 teachers would like to congratulate the students on the fantastic start they have made to their final year of primary education. The majority of our students have set a wonderful example to the younger children through demonstrating our school values of *Respect, Responsibility and Relationships*. We expect that the children will continue to be positive role models and challenge themselves academically throughout this term.

#### **LITERACY**

This term, our key focuses in literacy will be:

- information report writing
- persuasive writing
- letter writing
- reading in literature circles and
- summarising and paraphrasing non-fiction information.

In **Writing**, we will be exploring and composing information reports, letters and persuasive pieces. Students will also participate in weekly structured lessons where they continue to develop themselves as independent writers. They will be given time and support to develop any piece of writing they choose, be it a recount, poem, exposition, narrative, report or diary entry. They will also continue to develop their Writers' Notebooks. This is an individual place for students to reflect on and respond in writing to their thoughts, feelings and experiences.

In **Reading**, students will learn and practise how to paraphrase and summarise non-fiction information. This allows students to gain meaning and remember what they have read. They will also learn about and take on the roles of a literature circle group. The roles include the director, predictor, clarifier, connector, literary observer, question master and summariser. Literature circles encourage thoughtful discussion regarding a shared reading and allows students to practise and develop the skills and strategies of good readers. They will also continue to work in small groups and individually with the teacher to develop their thinking and to continue to collect evidence about the books they have read.

#### **READING AT HOME**

It is extremely important that your child reads at home each evening. Encourage your child to read literature that is of interest to him/her. Besides school library books, magazines and newspapers are good 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. Children are required to have their *student diary* signed by an adult after reading and returned to school each day. To provide evidence of their nightly reading and to think about what they are reading, students are required to write a short response or comment into their diary. Each student is required to **read between 20-30 minutes each night**.

## NUMERACY

Students in Grade 6 have had a strong focus on number skills during Term 1 and this will continue throughout Term 2 with an emphasis on fractions, decimals and percentages. The majority of students are capable of tackling mathematical problems (at their academic level) that only involve numbers and symbols. The focus now is to have the same success with problems that include words. Students will begin to tackle more challenging problems that are based around the following problem solving strategies:

- make a list or table
- work backwards
- draw a picture or diagram and,
- break a problem into smaller parts.

Practising skills such as noticing shapes within the environment, giving directions, locating destinations on a map and involving themselves with real life numeracy based tasks will benefit students in developing their knowledge and vocabulary of these areas.

## MATHS OLYMPIAD

A small group of the best problem solvers in Grade 6 will have the opportunity to be involved in the Australasian Mathematics Olympiad this year. They will utilise time in a small group developing and extending their problem solving skills and strategies to assist them when attempting different mathematical concepts. The students then compete individually in five different contests across the year that will target the areas they have learnt in class.

## INTEGRATED STUDIES

The Integrated Studies theme for Grades 6 this term is '**Australian History.**' Students will be studying Integrated Studies each Monday and Wednesday. Reading, writing and mathematical concepts and activities will be based around Australian History.

### **Our focus questions include:**

*Why and how did Australia become a nation?*

*What were the effects of World War I and II on Australia?*

*How did Australian society change throughout the twentieth century?*

*Who were the people who migrated to Australia? Why did they come?*

*What contributions have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian society?*

## WHAT CAN YOU DO AT HOME TO HELP YOUR CHILD?

It is essential that children are consolidating areas of development at home. We ask you to assist in this by encouraging children to read nightly, ensure that they are completing their weekly homework and play simple number and word games with them.

For example:

- multiplication games
- encouraging children to think about money, saving money and how they spend money
- real life numeracy based activities – e.g. measuring quantities, analyse statistics (sports scores), reading timetables
- reading newspapers/magazines together and discussing issues or items of interest
- solve crosswords, word puzzles, brain teasers, play word games and quizzes together and,
- talking about world events and encouraging your child to look at different sides of each story to form their own opinions.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for any assistance or other ideas for you to help your child at home.

## STUDENT ORGANISATION

Students transitioning from Grade 6 in 2017 to Year 7 in 2018 need to make sure they are developing their organisational skills. Year 7 students need to be far more organised than what is expected of a Grade 6 student. This will be a major focus of Term 2.

The students in Grade 6 have made an excellent start to their homework, reading and diary organisation. Students record homework requirements, reminders and upcoming events into their diary to help them stay prepared and organised. We hope that student diaries will continue to assist the students to organise their time and commitments responsibly.

## STUDENT DRESS CODE

As our senior students are role models to the younger children, it is imperative they are in full and correct school uniform at all times. We ask for your support with enforcing this at home. We will be monitoring uniform closely at school. Please be aware that nail polish and jewellery are not to be worn as fashion accessories. Children are to leave electronic devices such as mobile phones and iPods at home. Children who ride bikes to school are to ensure they ride sensibly and wear a helmet.

## HOMEWORK

Students will continue to receive homework each Monday, which is to be completed and returned to school every Thursday. It will consist of weekly spelling words, a literacy based activity and a numeracy based activity.

You can help your child with their homework by:

- ensuring that your child takes responsibility for returning their homework to school by the due date
- encouraging a regular routine in relation to where and when they do their homework
- discussing the requirements and content of their homework before they begin.

## LIBRARY

Although most students have utilised the school library and borrowed books during Term 1, we are hoping to see an even greater improvement during this term. It was great to witness some students borrowing non-fiction books related to our upcoming Integrated Studies topic so that they were '*ahead of the game*' when the topic started. There are lots of fantastic books in our school library for students to access, so **please remind your child to bring his/her library bag and return any completed books to school.**

## INTERSCHOOL & ALTERNATIVE SPORT PROGRAMS

During this term, the students will begin the winter sports competition. The sports included are football, soccer, hockey, netball and tee-ball. The competition runs on Friday mornings where we travel to various local schools and also host some home matches. A note has been sent home regarding costs and these must be paid before the season begins. Students need to ensure that they wear the correct uniform and shoes and behave in the appropriate way, as they will be representing Iramoo during these times.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A YEAR 7 STUDENT PROGRAM

Last Monday the Grade 6 students attended the '*A Day in the Life of a Year 7 Student*' program at Werribee Secondary College. This was a unique opportunity for students to experience and sample some of the various programs and facilities that secondary colleges have to offer. They participated in different classes and various hands-on activities as well as a tour of the college grounds.

## GRADE 6- YEAR 7 TRANSITION

This week parents/guardians received detailed information regarding the process involved in placing children in a secondary college for Year 7 in 2018. This included an *Application for a Year 7 Placement Form*, a Frequently Asked Questions document, a list of our local government secondary colleges and information regarding important dates. Please read the information carefully. Your child's application form is due back to Iramoo Primary School before **Friday May 5, 2017**. We have brought the date forward due to our children being away at camp when the application forms are due back.

## GRADE 6 CAMP

Grade 6 camp will be here before we know it, from **Monday, May 8 until Friday, May 12**. We would like to thank all families for the hard work and organisation in helping prepare the students for camp.

Payment 3 (**\$100**) was due on Thursday of last week and the entire cost of camp is due on **Tuesday, May 2**. Please finalise the payments as soon as possible and ensure that your child has returned the completed medical form.

**MR ALISTAIR BURRELL, MS CYNTHIA GIUFFRIDA,  
MS LIESEL MCGREGOR & MR DOUG WICKING  
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

This term Grade 6 students will participate in a very exciting unit on street art that will involve students exploring the difference between graffiti and street art, before painting a skateboard deck with some of the techniques used by street artists. The task will run for most of the term and will require students to design a 'Piece' that they have carefully sketched and refined. Students will need to complete colour scheme trials and detailed reflection before being allowed to paint their decks. This process is one that is crucial to the design process followed in senior art studies. The skill focus will be on painting, visual communication and design as well as planning and reflection.

### Performing Arts

Students will begin the term participating in Theatre Sports. Theatre Sports involve students in teams performing an improvisation based on specific criteria provided by an opposing team. This helps develop confidence, group cooperation, improvisation and performing skills. Musically, the students will select an instrument (guitar, bass guitar, drums, ukulele, keyboard or vocals) and learn to play the rhythm patterns, chords and/or the melody to a chosen song. They will then form a musical group with their classmates and practise playing a popular song on their chosen instrument. The aim will be to perform the song as a group to an audience.

### Physical Education (P.E.)

To begin Term 2 the first 5 weeks will be devoted to athletics training. The lessons will be aimed at developing the students' skills in sprints, relay, hurdles, long jump, triple jump, high jump, shot put and discus. Each event will be broken down into simple steps and students will be given the opportunity to practise the skills required. Students can look forward to participating in these events at the Iramoo Athletic Day held on **Tuesday, May 30** at the VUT Athletics track. The major focus for the rest of 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. To consolidate these skills, the students will participate in a range of modified activities designed to learn these skills.

**\*\*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 begin the term reviewing safe and responsible use of the internet, in particular looking at the 'Acceptable User Agreement' that all students and parents have signed. The students will then be exploring the different functions of a spreadsheet program, first by completing a budget for the end of year excursion to Luna Park and then by developing some number puzzles. Students will finish the term working on a very challenging ICT/Performing Arts collaboration in which students work in small groups to use their scripting, filming and digital editing skills to create a news broadcast segment. Each group's news segment will then be put together to create a class news broadcast.



### Spanish

**¡Bienvenidos Amigos!** Last term we ended on a great note with the Tigramuna musical performance. In Term 2 students will travel to Madrid! They will be using an interactive virtual reality website titled '**Mi Vida Loca**'. The students are placed in real life scenarios and must use their Spanish to get around Madrid. Students will also be revisiting past topics by learning about famous Spanish artists.

