

Welcome back to Term 3 and we hope everyone had an enjoyable break.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Friday, July 28	Roll-A-Thon money with forms to be returned
Friday, August 4	Interschool Summer Sports Competition resumes
Wednesday, August 9	Secondary Schools communicate to parents directly to confirm secondary college enrolments
Friday, August 25	Senior Basketball Hoop Time Competition
Monday, September 4 – Wednesday Sept. 6	Life Education sessions
Friday, September 22	Last day of Term 3 – <b>2.30 p.m. finish</b>
Monday, October 9	First day of Term 4

The Grade 6 teachers would like to congratulate students on the wonderful improvements in their work and fantastic effort they have put into the first half-year. We expect that students will continue to act as positive role models and continue to challenge themselves in Term 3.

We would like to thank all of the parents who participated in the Parent/Teacher interviews during the final week of Term 2. Being able to meet with parents is an excellent opportunity for us to discuss student progress, achievements and suggestions for future learning. If you wish to schedule further meetings with your child's teacher please make a note in your child's student diary or contact the school directly.

**LITERACY**

This term our key focuses in literacy will continue to be:

- Building reading and writing stamina
- Understanding ourselves as readers and writers.

In **Writing**, we will be exploring poetry and fictional narratives. We will continue to focus on writer's notebooks. The writer's notebook is an individual place for students to reflect on and respond to their thoughts, feelings and experiences. We will also continue to focus on the writing process (planning, drafting/composing, revising, editing and publishing) to produce independent writing pieces.

In **Reading**, students will continue to practise various comprehension strategies to support their understanding of books and articles read. Each Grade 6 class will also begin a novel study this term. During the novel study, each student in the class will be required to participate in shared reading and analysis of the same book, much like secondary college English classes.

**READING AT HOME**

It is very important that your child continues to read at home each evening. Encourage them to read literature 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. Students are required to have their *student diary* signed each night after reading and returned to school each day. Each Grade 6 student is required to **read between 30 - 45 minutes each night**. All students are encouraged to think about what they are reading and are required to write a short response or comment into their diary **each night**.

Students who do not complete their nightly reading activity and provide evidence in their diaries, will be required to complete their 20 minutes of reading and a comprehension activity before they go outside for their lunch break.

**MATHS**

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

Maths topics that will be covered during Term 3 include:

- **Measurement & Geometry** - Units of measurement including volume and capacity; interpreting and using timetables and calculating elapsed time
- **Number & Algebra** – Further development of the 4 processes (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division); comparing and placing fractions on a number line; and calculating equivalent fractions.
- **Problem solving strategies**
- **Statistics & Probability** – Conducting chance experiments; posing questions to collect categorical, numerical, primary and secondary data.

Practising skills such as noticing shapes in the environment, giving directions or locating destinations on a map and involving themselves with real life numeracy based tasks (e.g. adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing money) will benefit students in developing their knowledge and vocabulary of these areas.

## MATHS OLYMPIAD

Last term, a group of Grade 5 & 6 students had the opportunity to be involved in the Australasian Mathematical Olympiad and this will continue in Term 3. The students work in small groups developing and extending their problem solving skills and strategies to assist them when attempting to solve challenging mathematical concepts. The students have completed two Olympiads and will compete in a further three Olympiads this term.

## INTEGRATED THEMES

### CATCHING ON EARLY

**Catching On Early** is an evidence-based program founded on the latest research into sexuality education and child personal development. The program has been developed by the Victorian Department of Education and Training and is currently being delivered to Grade 5 and 6 students throughout our region.

The program provides a basic introduction to aspects of sexuality education as a lead-in to the Year 7 & 8 curriculum. It aims to educate and prepare students about the physical, social and emotional changes they will experience during puberty. Ms Giuffrida and Mr Byworth will deliver this program.

Parents who would like further information can access the Department's website at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/social/physed/Pages/about.aspx>

### TALKING TACTICS TOGETHER

**Talking Tactics Together** is an interactive, harm-minimisation program where students undertake a series of activities relating to issues associated with drugs (tobacco and prescription drugs) and alcohol. The program objectives are to promote and maximise student health and wellbeing and assist them in making healthy and safe choices. The activities aim to support the development of life skills and protective behaviours and promote the development of positive relationships with family and peers. Mr Wicking will deliver the program.

Parents who would like further information can access the Department's website at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/health/Pages/drugeduengage.aspx>

### IT'S ELECTRIFYING

**It's Electrifying** is a hands on, interactive program where students have the opportunity to learn about specific components of physical sciences. Students will explore what electricity is, how energy is produced and alternative energy sources. They will discover information on the history of batteries as well as create and test basic circuits. Students will also focus on some of the safety issues that are important when working with electricity. Mr Alistair Burrell will deliver the program.

### ECONOMICS: Responsible Consumers

**Responsible Consumers** is a unit of work that teaches students about the economy and to help them understand what it means to be a consumer. In these lessons, students will learn about what a consumer is, how to become responsible consumers in our everyday lives, how they are influenced as consumers, how to manage a personal budget and how to make ethical decisions when purchasing consumables.

### LIFE EDUCATION SESSION

This term Life Education Australia will be visiting our school. The Life Education Program is a mobile classroom staffed by a specially trained teacher. The Life Education van will be visiting our school from Monday, August 28 to Thursday, September 14.

All Grade 6 students will attend a Life Education session designed to empower them to make safer and healthier choices now and in the future. Grade 6 students will be receiving the **'It's Your Call'** module which focuses on improving students' decision making skills by looking at choices, consequences, responsibility, facts, information and influences. Peer influence, cyber safety and cyber ethics are themes used to explore decision-making.

Parents who would like further information regarding this session can access the following Life Education website at:

[http://www.lifeeducation.org.au/?gclid=CN\\_VnPLX2dMCFYcDKgodhV0IAg](http://www.lifeeducation.org.au/?gclid=CN_VnPLX2dMCFYcDKgodhV0IAg)

## **HOMEWORK**

Children will continue to receive homework each Monday that must be completed and returned each Thursday. Homework usually consists of reading, weekly spelling words and a maths based activity. You can continue to help your child with their homework by:

- ensuring that your child takes responsibility for returning their homework to school by Thursday of each week
- 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**

Students enjoyed borrowing books from the library during Term 2, and we will continue to encourage this during Term 3. There are lots of fantastic books for our students to access, so please remind your child to bring his/her library bag and return books every second **Thursday**.

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

In addition to specific activities discussed during Parent/Teacher interviews, 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/word games with them.

For example:

- Multiplication games
- Encouraging children to think about money, saving money and how they spend money (financial literacy)
- Real life numeracy based activities – e.g. measuring quantities, analyse statistics (sports scores), reading timetables
- Reading the newspaper/magazines together and discussing issues or items of interest
- Solve crosswords, word puzzles, brain teasers, play word games and quizzes together
- Talk about world events and encourage your child to look at different sides of each story to form their own opinions.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher for any assistance or other ideas to help support your child.

## **INTERSCHOOL SPORTS COMPETITION**

The winter season for Interschool Sport gave the Grade 6 students the opportunity to be involved in sports such as football, softball/tee-ball, hockey, netball and soccer. The students participated enthusiastically and should be proud of the way they performed. It was especially pleasing to see the students' knowledge and skills develop in their particular sports as the season progressed. Well done to our football team who played in the Wyndham Division finals last Thursday. They made it through to the Grand Final but unfortunately lost 13 - 6 to The Grange. The girls and boys hockey teams are due to play in the Western Region finals on **Tuesday, August 8**.

The summer sports season will resume on **Friday, August 4** and continue for 4 weeks. Students will participate in the sports started in Term 1- cricket, bat tennis, volleyball, basketball or softball.

The games will again be played on Friday mornings and the payment that was made in Term 1 will cover the costs for bus hire. It is important that students wear the correct uniform and behave in an appropriate manner at all times when they are involved in sports and representing our school.

## **PUNCTUALITY/ATTENDANCE**

It is important for students to be punctual in the morning. They need to be at school by 8.45 a.m. otherwise it causes them to miss out on valuable Literacy and Numeracy teaching and learning.

Your child's attendance was printed in their mid-year report that was sent home last term. Your child's attendance was highlighted if they had currently missed more days of school than the average state attendance for a half year. If your child's attendance was highlighted, *please make a concerted effort to have them attend school every day in the second half of the year.*

## **WET DAY GAMES**

We encourage parents to let their children bring board or card games and DVDs (**G rating only**) to school in Term 3 for during lunch times on wet weather days.

## **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 to school must ensure that they ride sensibly and wear a helmet.

## 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 in Art, Grade 6 students will create their own **Artists' book**. Artists' books are works of art realised in the form of a book. They are often produced as one-of-a-kind object and are a precious sample of an artist's creativity and individuality. Students will learn how to '**lino print**' before making their own print to include as a series in their books. They will add to their series of prints to make each one its own unique work of art. Throughout the design process students will reflect on their own progress as a way to further develop their own thinking about Art, something they will be expected to do in secondary college Art. Students will demonstrate the use of different techniques and processes in planning and making artworks, as stipulated by the Victorian Curriculum for Visual Arts. The skill focus will be on planning, printing, drawing and painting.

### Performing Arts

This term in Performing Arts, students will be using skills developed previously such as interpreting musical charts to play various instruments. Students will select an instrument (electric guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, keyboard, electric drums or vocals) and learn to play the rhythm patterns, chords and/or the melody to a chosen popular song. The aim will be to perform the song as a group to an audience, therefore addressing the Victorian Curriculum for Music. The curriculum stipulates that students rehearse and perform songs and music they have learnt, using the elements of music, their voices, instruments and technologies.

### Physical Education (P.E.)

As stipulated in the Victorian Curriculum Health and Physical Education students will be practising specialist movement skills through an 8-day intensive swimming program held at Aquapulse in Hoppers Crossing. During P.E lessons, the students will be building on their knowledge of game sense with the focus on invasion games. Invasion games include sports where one team who is in possession of the ball moves into another team's defensive area in an attempt to score a goal. Soccer and basketball will be the sports used to develop the student's strategies and teamwork. The lessons will focus on decision making when a student has the ball, which requires the ability to survey and scan while deciding when and where to pass. Students will also learn about what good players do *when not in possession of the ball*, which will assist in the students' offensive and defensive positioning.

**\*\*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 (I.C.T.)

Grade 6 students will begin Term 3 by completing their 'News Broadcast' clips and combining them to produce a class news program. The next project will involve students revising work covered last year in computer programming, also known as coding. Teaching students coding helps them gain basic understandings of the logic behind the programming of the variety of digital devices. It also helps students to develop and reinforce skills such as problem solving, designing projects, collaborating effectively with others and communicating ideas. In line with the Victorian Curriculum, we will be using the Scratch program to plan and develop a simple computer game suitable for younger children, requiring the user to make decisions and select different options.

### Spanish

**¡Bienvenidos Amigos!** In Term 3 students will be learning about the rich history and famous landmarks of Spain. Students will write a postcard from one of their favourite cities in Spain and describe some of their favourite sights in **Spanish!** We will continue with our Spanish series '**Mi Vida Loca**' and focus on practising our new vocabulary in conversations with each other. We look forward to a fantastic Term 3. **¡Adios Amigos!**



**ALISTAIR BURRELL, CYNTHIA GIUFFRIDA, LIESEL MCGREGOR & DOUG WICKING  
GRADE 6 TEACHERS**

## VISION PORTRAITS FAMILY PHOTOS

at Iramoo Primary School

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017**

Limited sessions available, bookings are essential.

\$15 includes a 10" x 13" with frame.

Order forms available from our school office or if you would like to book online go to

<https://www.trybooking.com/QGKK>

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