

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, February 20
Thursday, February 22
Thursday, March 8
Monday, March 12
Thursday, March 29
Monday, April 16

Hockey Clinic- 1EH, 1MM, 1EA
Hockey Clinic- 1JZ, 1ND
School Photos
Labour Day- Public Holiday
Last day of Term 1 (2:30 p.m. finish)
First Day of Term 2

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back! We hope that you have had an enjoyable and restful break. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

The Grade 1 teachers for 2018 are:

- Mrs Jordan Zukan (1JZ) - Team Leader
- Ms Elise Hultgren (1EH)
- Ms Nellie Driscoll (1ND)
- Ms Emma Anderson (1EA)
- Mr Mitchell Miller (1MM)

In addition to the classroom teachers, **Ms Alisha Jessop** is the Grade Prep, 1 & 2 Learning Improvement Co-ordinator and **Mrs Kelli Bishop-Worn** (Education Support Staff) will also be working in the Grade 1 area.

At the start of every term your child will bring home a Grade 1 newsletter similar to this one. Please read these newsletters carefully as they contain valuable information.

CURRICULUM

Literacy

Our children participate in a two-hour literacy program every day. This program starts at 8.50 each morning. During the two-hour session, children participate in comprehensive reading and writing activities which are targeted to their individual needs.

Our main focus during **Reading** sessions this term will be revising good habits for reading and practising to read independently for longer periods of time. They will also be learning a variety of strategies to help them read unfamiliar words. In **Writing**, the children will be recounting personal experiences and practising how to express one idea in detail. We will be revising the alphabet letters and sounds and reading and writing three letter words such as **cat, dog, mum, red, pig**. Your child is encouraged to continue practising to read and write high frequency words such as **and, at, you, it, in, like, play** at home. The students will continue their spelling and handwriting development as part of our program each week.

To assist your child with literacy at home you can:

- visit your local library with your child and select books to read together
- provide a quiet place for your child to read (away from television)
- provide paper and pencils for your child to use at home
- encourage your child to write about family experiences or events
- allow them to make and write birthday cards, letters and thank you notes
- discuss school topics with your child.

Numeracy

During this term, we will be concentrating on revising and understanding numbers from 0 to 50. We will be covering counting forwards and backwards, as well as recalling the numbers before and after 1 through to 50. The children will practise solving simple addition problems and will be revising place value. They will also be exploring the length of different objects and using materials such as counters and blocks to assist them with measuring.

To assist your child with numeracy at home you can:

- give encouragement and praise to your child for a job well done
- talk about maths in real life situations with your child
- ask your child, "What is one thing you did in Maths today?"

Integrated Studies

The topics for this term are '**This Is Me**' and '**Past & Present**'.

'This Is Me' The children will explore some of their favourite things, feelings, likes, dislikes and how they are similar and different to others. They will also learn about the importance of being SunSmart, particularly the 5 Ss- **Slip** on a t-shirt, **Slap** on sunscreen, **Slap** on a hat, **Seek** shade and **Slide** on sunglasses.

'Past & Present' During this unit of work children will investigate what life was like in the past for their parents and grandparents. They will investigate how daily life has changed over time and focus on the changes in schools,

games, toys, clothes, transport and technology. The children will also listen to guest speakers discuss what life was like in the past. Children are encouraged to bring along photographs or any other items they may be able to find relating to the unit of work.

SCHOOL VALUES

Our school values are **Respect, Responsibility and Relationships**. These values will be promoted at school on a daily basis. The children will be participating in activities to help develop their understanding of the values, including the Iramoo Top Ten Not Negotiable Social Skills that our school community has put into place.

SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

In class the Grade 1 students will be focusing on two of the 'Top 10 Not Negotiables' each week. These are the social skills that all of the Iramoo learning community follow and they provide a platform for our classes to be calm and provide an appropriate learning environment for your child.

TAKE HOME READING

Our children are encouraged to take home books that are '*Just Right*' to help develop their confidence and fluency. The reading diary is used to record your child's reading. It can also be used by you or your child's teacher as a means of communication.

A blue take home book bag is used for taking books and the reading diary to and from school each day. If your child does not have a *take home book bag*, one can be purchased at the uniform shop or the school office for \$10.

You can help your child with their home reading by:

- Reading in a quiet area (television off)
- Discussing the book first by looking at the pictures and talking about what might happen in the story
- Encouraging attempts at challenging words and concentrating on the positives
- Signing the reading diary each night after your child has read their book
- Ensuring that your child takes responsibility for returning their take home book every day.

Show & Tell

In order for 'Show & Tell' to be an interesting and relevant learning experience there will be a range of different topics. We would like your child to bring to school a maximum of two items on their Show & Tell day. You can help your child to be prepared by discussing what they intend to say during their presentation and helping them to find the relevant item they are going to show.

Week beginning Topic

Feb 12	Bring in something from your holidays. This may be a toy, picture or a story.
Feb 19	Discuss what you would like to be when you are older.
Feb 26	Bring a picture or tell a story about when you were younger.
March 5	Free Choice.
March 12	Bring an object or a drawing that is associated with the past.
March 19	Share information collected through the interview with parent/grandparent.
March 26	Free Choice.

MATHLETICS & ABC READING EGGS

At Iramoo 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.

REMINDERS

All children are expected to have an art smock and library bag at school. Library bags need to be cotton or fabric and large enough to hold a regular sized picture storybook. Children can use an old shirt or t-shirt for their art smock. Thank you to those parents who have already sent tissues, headphones and hand sanitiser to school. It is greatly appreciated. If you haven't, please do so as soon as possible as we make very good use of them during the year.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We ask for your co-operation at the commencement of each school day by ensuring that your child is in the correct school uniform, including hair that is longer than shoulder length being tied back. Please be aware that nail polish and jewellery are not permitted. Only a watch and small stud or sleeper type earrings are acceptable.

SUNSMART



A broad brimmed or legionnaire type hat must be worn outside every day during Terms 1 and 4. Children who do not have a hat at school have to report to the library during lunchtimes and are not allowed to participate in any outdoor activities. Please check that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. This is especially important during the hot weather with children taking their jumpers off during the day.

KIDS & FRUIT



The Kids & Fruit program has been a very successful program at Iramoo. The eating of fruit is an important part of the day. If there is some particular reason why your child does not participate in the Kids & Fruit program it is essential that he/she has 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 students have their fruit. Eating a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables is a very important part of establishing healthy eating patterns throughout life.

WATER BOTTLES

The children are encouraged to bring a plastic or metal bottle of *plain water* to school, which they can leave on their tables and drink throughout the day so that they are well hydrated. (No sweet drinks)



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

School starts at 8.50 a.m. each morning. 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 they return to school to explain their absence. Continued absences from school will affect the learning of your child. *It is very important that your child attends school every day and arrives by 8.45 a.m. to ensure that they do not miss valuable learning experiences.* If your child is being picked up early please report to the office before collecting your child from their classroom.

MEDICATION

Any medication that your child needs to take at school must be in its original container and given to the sick bay staff at the start of the day. A signed Medication Authorisation note (available from our school office) needs to be filled in stating dosage and when the medication is to be taken.

PARENT HELPERS

The Grade 1 teachers would greatly appreciate assistance in the classroom during the Literacy program in Term 2. This would involve assisting children with reading, letter and sound identification and high frequency word recognition. If you are able to assist, please complete the attached form with details regarding when you are available and return it to your child's teacher. You will be notified when the parent helpers program will commence in your child's grade.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to an enjoyable and successful first term.

**MRS EMMA ANDERSON, MS NELLIE DRISCOLL, MS ELISE HULTGREN,
MR MITCHELL MILLER & MRS JORDAN ZUKAN
GRADE 1 TEACHERS**

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Grade 1 Specialist Timetable

	Computer/ICT	Visual Arts	Physical Education	Performing Arts	Science	Library
1ND	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
1EH	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
1EA	Monday	Monday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Thursday
1MM	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
1JZ	Monday	Monday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Thursday

Below is a brief outline of what all Grade 1 students will be learning about this term in our specialist areas.

LIBRARY

Grade 1 children have library every second **Thursday**, on the even weeks of term. They should return their books each fortnight before their library day. We encourage you to ask your child to read the books they have borrowed and ensure that they have a library bag for their fortnightly borrowing. It is part of the school curriculum that **every child** borrows one book from the library each fortnight and this will be monitored closely.

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Below is a brief outline of what all Grade 1 students will be learning about this term in our specialist areas.

Visual Arts

In Visual Arts this term, the Grade 1 students will be exploring the theme of *'Dinosaurs.'* They will create several fun artworks, including a colourful Stegosaurus and a paper plate Brontosaurus. To address the elements of the Victorian Curriculum, the Grade 1 students will further develop their painting, design and construction skills. They will also create a dinosaur at sunset and fossilized dinosaur bones. There will be a focus on skills such as cutting, pasting, painting and construction towards the end of the term.

Performing Arts

During Term 1, the students will explore musical ideas using voice, movement, instruments and body percussion as stipulated in the Victorian Curriculum. They will participate in musical activities that involve them keeping a regular beat and recognising and playing simple rhythm patterns. They will also be working towards recognising and experiencing high and low sounds through singing and playing as well as score reading, writing and playing. The students will use iPads to create a simple piece of music including rhythms and a melody. As stated in the Victorian Curriculum, the students will be provided with opportunities to *present drama that communicates ideas, including stories from their community to an audience.* They will be involved in performing a musical drama of 'Little Red Riding Hood' and have the opportunity to play both leading and supportive roles.

Physical Education (Phys. Ed)

The Victorian Curriculum stipulates that Grade 1 students *will use a combination of motor skills and movement patterns during individual activities.* To begin Term 1, students will work towards improving their throwing and catching through focused activities and exciting games. Lessons will then move to kicking with an emphasis on kicking to a target and ball control. Each skill will be demonstrated to the students and they will have an opportunity to practise in isolation and during a range of modified activities. Throughout the term, students will be training for our Iramoo Junior Cross Country where they will be developing their running endurance. Our Junior Cross Country will be held on **Monday, March 26** and parents are encouraged to help prepare students by supporting some running training at home.

****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 1 students will begin Digital Technologies classes this year by revising the rules and routines expected in the computer lab and when using laptop computers and iPads in the classroom. We are very excited to welcome back *'Dinosaurs'* to the Grade 1 curriculum as our first learning topic. The students will revisit the skills they developed in Prep when using the Kid Pix graphics program to explore the features of a small group of dinosaurs. They will import digital photographs of themselves into a Kid Pix document, edit the photos and then use a variety of drawing tools to create a dinosaur body to add to their cropped head images. In accordance with the Victorian Curriculum, the students will experience using an internet site in a safe environment to apply problem-solving skills in an informative strategy game about dinosaurs. The final task for the term will focus on the students voting in a survey about favourite dinosaurs then constructing a labelled graph showing dinosaur stickers

Science

Science is an essential area of learning that allows students to have an understanding and make sense of the world around them. At Iramoo this year there is once again a dedicated Science teacher who leads the teaching of Science from Grade 1 to Grade 4. This is done alongside the students' classroom teacher and focuses on scientific understanding and inquiry learning based on the Victorian Curriculum.

Grade 1 students begin Term 1 with the topic *'Dinosaurs and More.'* This topic explores not only the prehistoric time when dinosaurs roamed the earth but the methods used by archaeologists and palaeontologists to gather and collect evidence and information about things that have happened in the past. Through hands-on activities students will explore the external features of modern animals, and compare them with the skeletons of dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals. Students will learn about the protective features and diets of different dinosaurs and discuss ideas on how they became extinct.

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To be returned to school by Friday, February 23, 2018



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152 GRADE 1 PARENT HELPER

CHILD'S NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

I am interested in helping with reading in the Grade 1 classroom from the **beginning of Term 2.** I can help on:

Please tick your preferred day(s):

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

Your child's classroom teacher will notify you shortly to inform when this will commence.