



GRADE 1/2 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 19h February	Meet the Teacher
Monday 2nd March	Grade 12 Swimming
Monday 9th March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Friday 27th March	Last day of Term 1

Reading

During our start up program in Reading, the Grade 1/2 students will be discussing and identifying the routines and expectations of our reading lessons. Our lessons will focus on establishing expectations for independent reading, selecting Just Right Texts, participating in buddy reading opportunities, setting up and taking care of our classroom library and understanding and appreciating varied reading interests. We will also be establishing structures and routines for conferencing, teacher focus groups and learning centres.

For the remainder of the term, the Grade 1/2 students will be reading, processing and comprehending a wide variety of high quality mentor texts. Our lessons will explicitly focus on letter-sound relationships (phonics and phonological awareness), strategies to aid in working out unknown words, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. The comprehension strategies we will be explicitly teaching this term are Activating Prior Knowledge, Predicting and Re-telling. We will also be looking at the different structures and features of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Writing

To start the year in writing, the Grade 1/2 students will be familiarising themselves with the **Writer's Workshop** routine. Students will have the opportunity to conduct both teacher directed and personal choice writing using different materials from their classroom writing centres. Students will also be setting up and personalising their Writer's Notebooks, which will be used throughout the year to support idea development.

Students will then be participating in an introductory unit on narratives. This unit will support students to begin to develop their skills in narrative writing through the context of reimagined traditional tales e.g. The Three Little Pigs. Students will be focusing on elements such as planning and sequencing ideas, structuring sentences, using capital letters and full stops appropriately and simple revising/editing before publishing.

Mathematics

Grade 1/2 students have had a fun start to Mathematics and have been focusing on familiarising themselves with the tools and equipment that they will use to support their learning in mathematics sessions. Students have also been familiarising themselves with the routines and expectations of our mathematics sessions, including how to work productively with a 'maths mate'.

Our first maths unit will focus on **Time**. Students will spend a short time revising days of the week, months of the year and calendars, before beginning to look at reading half past and quarter to/past time on analogue clock faces. This focus will be ongoing throughout the year.

Following Time, **Counting** will be the main focus for the term as this is a pivotal part to all other areas of mathematics. Students will investigate, continue and produce a range of counting patterns and begin to develop fluency with these patterns.

During Term 1 we will also focus on **Place Value**. Students will be working towards recognising, reading and writing numbers to 100 (Grade 1) and 1000 (Grade 2).

Inquiry

Our year has started off with a focus on the unit **Learning to Learn**. In the first few weeks of school, our focus is on setting up routines and procedures in our classrooms and supporting students to regulate themselves for learning. Part of our focus is on understanding our expectations for behaviour, in line with our School Wide Positive Behaviours Matrix. Other areas of focus have included developing good habits for learning, such as brain breaks and displaying a growth mindset.

Students will then develop the understanding that individuals have the right to feel and be safe in a range of environments through our unit **My School is Cool**.

Students will investigate the following **key questions**:

- What actions help to make a classroom / school a healthy and safe place?
- How do we include others to make them feel like they belong?
- What strategies can I use when I need help?
- Who are the people that I can go to for help?



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Art

We are super excited to start building great relationships with the Grade 1/2 students and to support them on a journey of creativity in Art this year. Students will be building their knowledge about colour theory involving the primary colours (red, blue & yellow) and secondary colours (purple, green & orange), with investigations of famous artists such as Piet Mondrian and Von Gogh to support their learning. They will learn about complimentary colours and have opportunities to create and experiment with a range of materials; including pencil, crayon, texta, paint and modelling clay to create their very own pieces of art .

LOTE -Chinese

Welcome back to an exciting new year! In term one, the grade ones and twos will be learning basic language skills in the Chinese Mandarin language, including listening and speaking, recognising sounds and pronunciation. They will learn about some Chinese cultures such as the Chinese New Year celebrations and traditions, such as red envelopes. We will be covering basic greeting phrases and sentences in Chinese such as 你好 nǐhǎo (hello) and 再见 zàijiàn (goodbye). They will also be learning topics such as numbers, likes and don't likes and family members, all in Chinese. Throughout the term, the students will be involved in various creative activities like making red envelopes, group language practising exercises and being involved in discussions about Chinese culture and history, such as the lucky colour in China is red.

PE

Welcome back everyone! We are starting off this year with confidence building and friendships. First, we will look at safe play, making sure that we use our words to communicate and use the rules of the games we play so that everyone can participate and contribute.. Next, we will revisit catching – to ourselves and then to a friend. We will ensure we work on our hand eye co-ordination and setting a target. We will learn more about the skill of kicking through the game of soccer! We will concentrate on making sure that we control the ball while we take a few steps. Finally we will look at running at different speeds and in different directions, learning the difference between left, right, forward and back.

Get your shoes tied and drink lots of water because we are about to play!

Science

Welcome to Term 1 Science and a new and exciting year ahead! This term the Grade 1/2 students will be focusing on the Biological Science strand. Students will explore the life cycle of themselves (humans) and the five main stages they will go through as they grow – birth, child, teenager, adult, elderly; students will investigate, and discuss, some of the changes that will occur as they grow up (such as growing taller and appearances changing). Students will look closely at the stages that some animals go through and sequence the life cycles of familiar animals, such as frogs, butterflies, and chickens; students will also learn to recognize that animals have offspring similar to themselves. During this term, students will be involved in many interesting learning activities, along with investigations and hands-on experiments. This is an exciting term in Grade 2 Science!