2015 Grade 1 Bulletin

INTRODUCTION
Welcome to Grade 1. I am looking forward to working with both you and your child. Parental support and close communication between home and school are important. If you have a problem or a concern, please do not hesitate to come and see me. I am more than willing to discuss any issue and celebrate successes with you. I would ask that you make an appointment, via the diary, for an after school interview, where possible. The period before school is always very busy and once the children are in class it is difficult to have a quiet conversation.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES:
Reporting absences – please fill in an absence note and send to school on your child’s return. Please use the booklets sent home earlier this week. Should you require more notes please let me know.

Picking up children during school hours - if you wish to take your child from school during school hours, or if you bring your child late, please sign the book at the front office, so that we have a record for Displan needs (School Emergency Plan).

Diaries - please initial the diary daily to ensure that no correspondence is overlooked. I will endeavor to do the same. I would also appreciate your assistance in leaving the clip provided to attach notes and to find the current page quickly.

Lunch Orders - These can be ordered on Wednesdays and Fridays. Special lunch orders are once a month and notes are sent prior to the date.

Parent Helpers - Any parents helping out within the school are asked to sign in and out using the sign in book near the front office. This covers you in case of accident and also confirms who is in the school, again, in case of a Displan emergency. This is done for the safety of your child. I will be asking for classroom helpers very soon, to do this you will need to have a current Working With Children Check and provide a copy of your card to the office.

Excursions and Special payments – All special events requiring payment will have a date by which payment should be made. Just a reminder, that we are not able to accept late payments after the published deadline. This year we have BPAY available as a payment option. This information will be on the notes when this service is available.

Sunsmart Policy: Our school requires all students to wear a hat during all outdoor activities from start of September to the end of April. If students don’t bring a hat they are required to stay/play in the designated shaded areas during all recess and lunch times. Hats are to be school uniforms issue, i.e. Navy BROAD BRIMMED. Please help us to promote this important policy by making sure your child has a named hat each day.
**Library Book Bags** will be required for students to borrow books from our school Library.

**Art Smocks** - All students will require an art smock for Art lessons. Please return these to school A.S.A.P. (I will send these home at the end of each semester for a good wash!)

**SPECIALIST TIMETABLES:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Area</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tr>
<td>PERFORMING ARTS</td>
<td>Ms O’Halloran</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIBRARY</td>
<td>Classroom Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>VISUAL ART</td>
<td>Mrs Jolly</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)</td>
<td>Miss Carr</td>
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**PHYSICAL EDUCATION –**
The Grade 1’s will also participate in our Sportsfun Program on Thursday afternoons.
These sessions promote skill development and games with year 9 & 10 P.E students from Clonard College.
Our 9 day **Intensive Swimming Program** for the Grade Ones will take place in Term 1.
Notes have been sent home already for this program.

**INQUIRY LEARNING:**
The Inquiry Learning program attempts to link a unit of work across all curriculum areas. It aims to improve student’s understandings about their world, especially in the areas of the Humanities Design, Creativity and Technology and Science. It is based on the inquiry approach with students often involved in the planning of the work and exploring and sharing their ideas.
Students often work in co-operative groups. Semester One topic will is “How has life changed over time?” Stay tuned to find out about semester 2’s topic!

**MATHEMATICS:**
There are 3 Strands covered in Mathematics.
1. Numbers and Algebra
2. Measurement and Geometry
3. Statistics and Probability

The types of learning activities your child will be involved in include:
- Manipulating concrete material
- Estimating
- Constructing
- Describing
- Investigating
- Measuring
- Problem Solving
- Modeling
- Drawing
- Representing ideas and processes symbolically

Students will develop through a variety of learning styles. The learning they complete will happen through the use of ICT, Open ended questions, Rich Literature, Thinking tasks, Real life experiences and Games.

Your Mathletics password has been pasted into the front of the student diary for easy access at home. Diaries will be vital for communication and student organisation this year.
ENGLISH

The three key areas in English are:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening

Learning in English will be based upon the Fountas and Pinnell Literacy continuum. This involves a daily two-hour block which includes a whole class focus on reading or writing plus small teaching groups which focus on the needs of particular children.

Reading
- Guided reading in small groups
- Reading books, magazines, signs, labels, recipes
- Shared book reading
- Group or individual Book making
- Reading and Retelling
- Independent Reading
- Regular reading conferences with the teacher.

Writing
- Guided Writing
- Dictating captions to own drawing
- Writing about own experiences/Journal Writing (Seed book)
- Modelled writing
- Conventions — handwriting, spelling and punctuation.
- Mentor texts
- Genre Writing

Listening and Speaking
- Role Playing/Puppetry
- Story Telling
- Listening Games
- Class or group discussions
- News Exchange (Show and Tell)
- Singing/Choral Verse
- Listening to stories
- Share time
- Readers theatre

Take Home Reading Program

Your child should read their take home book each day. They will be expected to bring their book box to school daily and change their own book in the morning after they unpack their school bag. We ask that parents fill in the “Home Reading Record” every day, even if the book is not finished. For example, if your child read part of a book write the page number they read to next to the title.

Reading Levels — IS YOUR CHILD BRINGING HOME BOOKS THAT ARE EASY TO READ? WE HOPE SO!!!

As a record of your child’s reading of books is taken, the books are put into one of three levels for that child — Easy, Instructional or Hard. These three levels of books have different teaching purposes.

- **Easy** — The child can read most words in the book. These are the books that children read independently in class to practise reading. The easy level books are also the ones sent home for home reading. Children should read at this level to gain ‘confidence’ and ‘fluency’. The child hears himself/herself being ‘a good reader’. Practising good reading is very important to a child’s reading development.

- **Instructional** — The child can read approximately 90% of the words in the book. This is the level where teachers teach children strategies for reading. This is done in the classroom with individuals or in small groups. These books provide the child with just enough challenge so that he/she can learn more strategies.

- **Hard** — At this level children become frustrated with the book and it begins to lose meaning. Without meaning, the child cannot decode the print and most of the strategies are useless. Children are rarely required to read books at their hard level. These are used to ‘read to’ the child or for shared reading. Library books usually fall into this category.
Homework - Home reading is a very important part of the homework process and should be done every school night. Children are expected to spend 10-15 minutes reading. They should read to an adult who can assist and encourage where needed. Parents are encouraged to read a variety of texts to their children on a regular basis.

>Grade 1's will have a spelling list sent home with words that are appropriate to their level (based on spelling screening test in Term 1) and we ask that your child practises these words with the suggested activities. E.g. rainbow words, chop and chunk. More information will be sent soon.

Languages (Italian) The program covers such things as greetings, basic conversation, classroom expressions, numbers, colours, the senses, the calendar, body parts, clothes, animals, the weather, shapes, food, family, friends, home, health and celebrations.

Tissues

We ask each child to bring two boxes of tissues to school for use in the classroom during the year, to wipe noses and to mop up those inevitable lunchtime spills. Thank you to those who have already sent these in!

Brain Food Breaks:
We ask that you provide a brain food snack each day (Fresh Fruit and Vegetables) that your child can eat during class time at 10:00am. Brain food helps us to stay fuelled and focused on learning. Drink bottles with WATER are a must every day!

The Whole School Camping Program - The Grade 1's will participate in a ‘Dinner’ at school in October. Further information will be sent home closer to the time 😊

Program Achieve: ‘You Can Do It’ Program is based on developing the foundations for successful learners in a series of structured lessons in Getting Along, Organisation, Persistence, Confidence and Resilience. Foundation balloons are displayed in our classroom, we use songs and puppets to teach each of the foundations.

Stars of the Week – each student will receive these certificates throughout the year for the acknowledgement of excellent academic achievement and for displaying our school values.

Parent Teacher Meetings - will be held on 16th and 17th February and later in the year following the mid-year reports. Stay tuned using our school website and newsletter. Our website is www.hbps.vic.edu.au  * Should you require any further information I am only too happy to help!

Kindest Regards,
Year 1 Teachers 😊