



1/2 Area News

Term 1



Welcome everyone to 2016!

The Grade 1/2 team of Lynda Whitechurch, Kristy Weston, Kylie Smith, Claire Rowell, Hayley Lange and Chris Caelli are all very excited about the year ahead and looking forward to sharing in the growth and development of your children. We would like to welcome our new families to the 1/2 area. The students have had a fantastic start to the year, adjusting to routines and establishing new friendships.

Morning process

Our school day begins promptly at 9.00 am. The classroom doors will be open at 8.50 to allow the children to come in, unpack their bags and get ready to start the day. It is important that the children learn to be responsible for their belongings and we would like them to follow the morning process of unpacking their school bag, putting 'notices' in their teacher's wallet, changing their take home book and putting their school bags in their lockers. This is an ideal time to do these tasks.

Communication

This year, all notices and newsletters will be in your child's red bag. The red bags are fantastic for ensuring that all newsletters and notices do not go missing. Therefore could you please make sure that they come to school every day. These bags will also contain some of the children's work and their take home reading book.

We are more than happy to answer any queries or discuss your child's progress with you throughout the year, but please try to make an appointment before or after school. We look forward to seeing you at our Parent Teacher interviews on Wednesday 24th February.

Tiqbiz and the School Website

The school has a website with up-to-date information, important dates, details about events, reminders and policy information. Information in the website is kept current and often includes photos of special events and blog entries from teachers and students. Additionally, many families are keeping up with school events using Tiqbiz. This app allows parents to receive reminders and alerts of events straight to their phones. Tiqbiz is available on both iPhone and Android devices.

Classroom Helpers

Thankyou to everyone who has offered to support us in the classrooms. We greatly appreciate all of your assistance.

If you would like to assist in the classroom, please contact your classroom teacher. However, all parents volunteering to help in the classroom must have a current Working With Children Check. Please ensure a copy of appropriate documentation is supplied to the office prior to commencement of work in the classroom. We may, at times, require parent helpers for incursions or excursions and we will notify parents as required.

Term One - Important Dates and Events

11th February - St Johns First Aid Training for students

22nd February - Curriculum Day - **no students at school**

24th February - Parent/Teacher Interviews



- ★ 11th March - Sports Carnival Day P-4
- ★ 21st March - Dental Hygiene Check
- ★ 21st March - Harmony Day
- ★ 24th March - Last day of term one

★ **Curriculum**

★ **Start Up Program**

★ At the beginning of the year, the 1/2 Grades participated in a start-up program. This program enabled students and teachers to get to know each other, develop processes and structures within their classroom and set expectations. During this program students were involved in a variety of different activities such as ice breakers, team building activities, circle discussions and get to know you activities. The aim of this program was for students to have fun, establish relationships and to feel safe and comfortable in their new classroom.

★ **English**

★ The study of English is central to the learning and development of all young children. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate and build relationships with others and with the world around them.

★ **Speaking and Listening**

★ Speaking and Listening is particularly important because...

★ *'reading and writing float on a sea of talk'*

★ In other words, speaking forms the basis of prediction in reading as well as competency in writing. It is extremely important. Students also reflect on their learning and communicate their achievements during 'share time'. The students in Grade 1 and 2 are encouraged to 'think aloud' sharing their ideas and listening to the ideas of others. It is through talking over new ideas with teachers and peers that the students can most readily move towards new ways of thinking and feeling.

★ **SALT (Speaking and Listening Time)**

★ The children are very enthusiastic about our Speaking and Listening Time. Each day six children are selected to take on a variety of roles and share items of interest to the class. These roles include Chairperson, Joker, News Presenter, FISH Presenter, Did You Know and Free choice. The children are encouraged to listen attentively and ask relevant questions. It is terrific if you can assist your child by helping them prepare their talk and practise what they want to say.

★ **Reading**

★ It is our aim to foster a love of literature by introducing the children to wonderful, exciting texts that they can enjoy over and over again. Therefore all literacy learning begins with a rich text.

★ **Daily 5**

★ Daily 5 is a framework for structuring literacy time so students develop lifelong habits of reading, writing, and working independently. They are learning to build their reading and writing stamina as they Read To Self, Read To Someone, Listen To Reading, Work on Writing and Work on Words.

★ The children in Grade 1 and 2 will continue to develop and consolidate reading skills that enable them to read, interpret and respond to a range of different texts. They will build on their knowledge of high frequency words as they continue to learn to read and write 'Magic Words'.



★ **Comprehension**

★ The Grade 1 and 2 children will be introduced to a range of comprehension strategies that develop a deeper understanding of the texts they read. Comprehension strategies include: Finding the Main Idea, Recalling Facts and Details, Understanding Sequence and Recognising Cause and Effect.

★ **Writing**

★ The children will be involved in daily writing experiences that are authentic and purposeful. They will be encouraged to extend their writing beyond a simple sentence and write texts that are logically sequenced and convey their thoughts and ideas in a meaningful way. They will be given opportunities to explore different text types and experience writing for a variety of purposes. At all times they will be encouraged to extend their writing vocabulary by 'having-a-go' at writing new or 'tricky' words. They will learn to reread their writing and use a range of editing resources to revise and clarify meaning. We will also focus on punctuation such as full stops, capital letters, question marks, exclamation marks and talking marks. We will also develop sentence grammar using our Colourful Semantics program.

★ **Spelling**

★ The children will be introduced each week to a different spelling blend. This will be reinforced through a range of activities when they Work on Words during our Daily 5 time.

★ **Literacy Planet**

★ Literacy Planet is a comprehensive literacy resource that supports the learning of phonics, vocabulary, spelling, reading, comprehension and grammar. Activities are interactive, fun and engaging, promoting students' willingness to learn while facilitating their literacy development.

★ **Mathematics**

The Mathematics curriculum is organised around three content strands.

- Number and Algebra
- Measurement and Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

★ The children engage in daily experiences using concrete materials to solve real-life problems in mathematics. We are able to cater for the needs of our children through differentiated activities that are appropriate to their level of ability. Students will be exploring a variety of topics this term in Numeracy. These include counting patterns and sequences, place value, addition and subtraction and chance and data representation. At the end of each session the children share their understandings using appropriate mathematical language.

★ **Mathletics**

★ To support our Numeracy program the children will be able to experience e-Learning resource of Mathletics. The primary goal of Mathletics is to 'switch kids onto Maths'. It is a fun and engaging way to further enhance your child's Maths skills and understandings both in the classroom and at home.

★ **Investigations**

★ During our inquiry learning investigations the children will be encouraged to be curious, creative learners. They will identify personal interests and develop questions about topics to form the basis of their investigations. With teacher support, the children will learn to plan, gather information, sort information, and reflect on what they have learnt.

★ **Values Education and FISH Philosophy Program**

★ Our values program is a very important program for all students. During our values program, students will be involved in individual, small group and whole class activities with specific focuses on building relationships with



our peer groups, demonstrating respect and persistence when challenged with difficult situations.

To incorporate the FISH philosophy in our classrooms, the students decorated a fish and are able to nominate other students in the classroom who are demonstrating behaviours associated with the FISH philosophy such as Making Someone's Day or Choosing the Right Attitude.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

Italian *Bentornati a tutti!*

(Welcome back all!). Term 1's principal focus will be "La famiglia (families)." Students will not only explore words and structures related to family members but will also examine similarities and diversities within today's family units.

The engaging big book, "Sogni D'oro" (Sweet Dreams) will serve as a useful introduction to the specific language presented. "Sogni D'Oro" will help students to learn the names for family members as well as exposing children to a selection of common verbs in the simple present tense (eg: drinking, sleeping, eating, playing etc).

Nadia Tarquinio

Music

The music program aims to instil a love of music in all children, and encourages them to build their confidence in singing, dancing and performing. Through term 1, students will be developing their knowledge of the musical elements. They will focus on expressive ways of communicating and create their own music works. They will develop their repertoire of folk songs and dances.

Jendi Bright

Visual Art

During Visual Art this term children will be learning about the ancient origins of mosaics. As well as the origins of some of the materials which can be used for mosaics, for example ceramics' origins in clay.

They will be looking at inspirational examples of mosaics and their uses from around the world.

Children will think carefully about a design which they would like to create using mosaics. Then after the designing process they will work on their own project.

The completed projects will either be placed around the school environment to be enjoyed by all or sent home to be treasured by their family.

If you have an interest in becoming part of the Art Show organising committee, please make that known to me ASAP, where tasks can be created around your availability!

Please make sure that your child is supplied with an art smock which will adequately cover their winter uniform (ie long sleeves) as well as being of a material which will not allow paint etc to penetrate and ruin their school uniform. These items need to be clearly named and left at school.

Once again thank you to the conscientious parents who are continually providing the art room with clean recycled materials. We currently have children at this school with allergies to nuts, egg, sesame seeds and dust mites so unfortunately I am unable to accept any items which may have been in contact with these allergens.

Once again, thank you for your continuing support,

Mrs Martinussen, Visual art teacher, Rosanna Primary School

SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

Here is the specialist timetable for term 1. Please help your children prepare for these sessions by ensuring they have the appropriate equipment.

Specialist Classes	1/2 W	1/2 K	1/2 S	1/2 L
Art	Monday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Wednesday
Music	Monday	Thursday	Monday	Thursday
Italian	Tuesday	Monday	Thursday	Monday
Library	Friday	Friday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Phys Ed	Thursday	Monday	Tuesday	Monday
ICT	Friday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Tuesday

Reminders for Specialist Subjects and Library

- Please ensure your child brings their art smock into school for art lessons
- Students must ensure they are bringing and returning their library books on their designated library day. Library bags are also preferred as they keep our library books in good condition.
- Students should be wearing appropriate footwear during PE lessons at all times

Other Information

- If students are leaving early from school, please go directly to the office to sign your child out. You will be given an early leave pass and this must be handed to your child's teacher.
- Winter and cold season will soon be upon us, so we encourage students to bring in a box of tissues for the upcoming season.

We are very excited about 2016 and the many fun, engaging and challenging learning experiences that will take place this year.

Lynda Whitechurch (Team Leader), Kristy Weston, Hayley Lange, Kylie Smith, Claire Rowell and Chris Caelli

