



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

GRADE 2 NEWSLETTER TERM 1

February, 2018

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, February 20
Thursday, February 22
Monday, March 5
Thursday, March 8
Thursday, March 29
Monday, April 16

Hockey Clinic – 2BA & 2EC
Hockey Clinic – 2DS, 2DW, 2ML & 2LA
Labour Day – Public Holiday
School photos
Last day of Term 1 **(2.30 p.m. finish)**
First day of Term 2 **(8.50 a.m. start)**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to all students and families and a special welcome to families who are new to our school in 2018. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning in Grade 2 and have many fantastic learning activities planned for the term ahead.

The Grade 2 teachers for 2018 are:

- Ms Amy Brooks (2BA) - Grade Leader
- Mrs Lisa Altin (2LA)
- Mrs Erica Clark (2EC)
- Mrs Morgan Lewis (2ML)
- Ms Deb Sharrock (2DS)
- Mr Doug Wicking (2DW)

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

At the start of every term your child will bring home a Grade 2 newsletter similar to this one. Please read these newsletters carefully as they contain valuable information.

SCHOOL VALUES

Our school values are **Respect, Responsibility and Relationships**. These values will be promoted 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.

SUNSMART



During Term 1 and Term 4 every child is required to wear a hat when outside. The hat must be a broad brimmed or legionnaire's hat that will provide shade for the face, neck and ears. Children will require a hat every day during this term for all play times and Physical Education lessons. Please ensure that your child's name is written clearly inside his/her hat. Children who do not have a hat at school have to stay under covered areas during play times, remain indoors at lunchtime and will not be allowed to participate in any outdoor activities. Our Term 1 and Term 4 policy is **NO HAT, NO PLAY**. Our SunSmart policy is available to view on our school website at www.iramooops.vic.gov.au. Hard copies are available on request. Hats can be purchased from our uniform shop.

PUNCTUALITY & ATTENDANCE

School commences at 8.50 a.m. It is very important for children to be punctual each morning. They need to be at school by 8.45 a.m. to ensure that learning programs run smoothly and so that children do not miss out on valuable learning opportunities. Children who are late to school are required to report to the office to sign in. If your child is absent from school, a signed note is required when they return to school to explain their absence. Your vigilance in ensuring that your child attends school every day is greatly appreciated.

COMMUNICATION

We welcome parent communication and believe it is important to know if there are any issues or concerns that you may have throughout the year. We strongly believe in working together to ensure that your child feels safe and happy at school. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher you can make an appointment through the general office at a time that is convenient for both parties.

HOMEWORK

Homework will start later this term and will be sent home each **Monday**. It is to be completed and returned to school by the following **Thursday**. Class teachers will discuss and explain the homework content with the children, at school before it is sent home. Homework is based on activities that students have completed at school so that they can revise what they have learned and consolidate their knowledge and understandings. Please ensure that your child writes his/her name on the homework sheet before returning it to school.

In addition to their homework, it is expected that your child's *take home reading book* is read every day under your guidance and supervision and that the reading diary is signed and returned to school the following day. Encourage and celebrate all of your child's efforts and ask them questions about their book to ensure that they have understood what they have read. Children should also be practising the high frequency words that are included in their reading diary. Please encourage your child to read these regularly and have a go at spelling unknown words from the list. Take home book bags were kept at school from last year. New book bags can be purchased from the school office or our uniform shop at a cost of \$10.

LITERACY

In **Literacy** the students will focus on **Reading** for understanding and extending word knowledge through daily independent reading and activities that focus on common words and different letter blends found in words. In the area of **Writing** there is a focus on handwriting skills and students drawing on their own experiences and expressing them through their written work. Students will be provided with opportunities to work both independently and in small groups during reading and writing sessions so that the teachers can target their individual learning needs. Their **Speaking & Listening** skills will be further developed through class discussions and small group work.

Things that you can do at home to support the skills learned in class include:

- Listening to your child read each night (television off).
- Discussing illustrations in story books with your child and predicting what might happen.
- Reading the high frequency words from your child's home reading diary and asking them to spell these words.
- Encouraging your child to talk about daily events in the order they happened, staying on the topic and providing appropriate detail.

NUMERACY

During Term 1 there will be a strong focus on **Number**. This will include counting, skip counting, number patterns, place value, problem solving, money, addition and subtraction. We will also focus on interpreting simple maps, collecting data and identifying shapes. Things that you can do at home with your child to support the skills learned in class include:

- Counting by ones, twos, fives and tens from different starting points.
- Recognising and writing numbers between 1 and 1000.
- Making and recognising number patterns.
- Discussing simple addition and subtraction number problems that relate to everyday life; e.g. if I bought 10 oranges and ate 2 how many would I have left?
- Play addition and subtraction games with the family.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

Our topic for Term 1 is '**Water Works.**' The children will be given opportunities to develop an understanding of water and an appreciation for this precious natural resource. Through investigations students will explore how water is used, where it comes from and how to use it responsibly. Students will learn that there are many things that we can do to help reduce water usage and that it is everyone's responsibility to take actions to care for the environment.



SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

This term the focus will be on the 'Top 10 Not Negotiable Social Skills'. In class the Grade 2 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 provide a platform for our classes to be calm and provide a safe and supportive learning environment for your child.

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 and are available to use at home.

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.

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

Students are encouraged to bring a plastic or metal bottle of plain water to school which they can leave on their work tables and drink throughout the day as needed. (No sweet or sticky drinks please).



TISSUES, SPONGES, HEADPHONES & SOAP/HAND SANITISER

Thank you to those parents who have already sent these items along. 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.

CLASSROOM HELPERS

Throughout the year we will require families to support our programs including excursions and reading with our students. You will find a form attached to this newsletter to indicate if you are able to assist in our Grade 2 classrooms during the school year. Please return this form to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Your help and assistance will be greatly appreciated and many thanks to those who have already offered their assistance.

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Grade 2 Specialist Timetable

	Computer/ICT	Visual Arts	Physical Education	Performing Arts	Science	Library
2LA	Monday	Monday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Tuesday
2BA	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday	Monday	Thursday	Friday
2EC	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday	Monday	Thursday	Friday
2DW	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday	Monday	Thursday	Tuesday
2ML	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday	Monday	Thursday	Tuesday
2DS	Monday	Monday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Tuesday

ART SMOCKS

Please make sure that your child has an art smock at school for use during art activities and that it is clearly labelled with his/her name. This can be either a purchased one or an old shirt from home. If your child has had the same art-smock since Prep it may be time to check that it still fits comfortably.

LIBRARY

All Grade 2 students participate in fortnightly library sessions on either Tuesdays or Fridays and are expected to borrow a book from the library on a **fortnightly** basis. Please ensure that your child has a library bag for these borrowing sessions that is clearly labelled with their name. During the library sessions the students are introduced to new stories and learn how to recognise some popular authors and illustrators. We endeavour to promote a love and enjoyment of reading. If your child does not have a library bag, a reusable supermarket bag would be suitable.



**MRS LISA ALTIN, MS AMY BROOKS (GRADE LEADER), MRS ERICA CLARK,
MRS MORGAN LEWIS, MS DEB SHARROCK, MR DOUG WICKING
GRADE 2 TEACHERS**

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



**IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152
GRADE 2 PARENT HELPER**

CHILD'S NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

I am interested in helping with reading in the Grade 2 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.

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Below is a brief outline of what all Grade 2 students will be learning about this term in our specialist areas.

Visual Arts

This term in Visual Arts, Grade 2 students will explore the topic of **'Space.'** They will learn about the planets in our solar system when creating their very own solar system. Collage skills and imagination will be applied to create a bright and colourful Alien creature. The Victorian Curriculum stipulates that students make artworks using different materials and techniques that express their ideas, observations and imagination. The students will learn about perspective by drawing themselves as an astronaut floating through space. The skill focus this term will be on painting, drawing, perspective and collage skills.

Performing Arts

Musical activities this term will involve students improvising and echoing sounds, rhythms, and melodic phrases. Students will classify percussion and tuned instruments. They will also explore tempo (how quick the music is) through movement and performing. This is in line with the *Victorian Curriculum* for Music, which states that students use their voices and instruments to improvise, arrange and perform music as well as explore and make decisions about ways of organising sounds to communicate ideas. Students will also be using an array of costumes to create characters and will interact with others to develop a skit. This is in keeping with the *Victorian Curriculum* for Drama - which states that students use voice, facial expression, movement and space to establish role and situation. This year students will again have an opportunity to participate in a school rock group. If you believe that your child shows talent and commitment in the field of singing or playing musical instruments, please encourage and support them to audition. Auditions will be held in the next few weeks.

Physical Education (Phys. Ed)

As outlined in the Victorian Curriculum, Grade 2 students *will participate in regular periods of moderate to vigorous physical activity and identify some links between physical activity and health.* Throughout Term 1, 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. Students will also learn some simple rules for playing bat tennis as well as working towards improving their striking skills with the emphasis on hitting a moving ball, bat control and body position. Students will then focus on kicking a ball to a target (such as partner or goals) in a straight line. During lessons each skill will be demonstrated to the students and they will have opportunities to practise these skills through fun individual drills and exciting games and activities.

****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 2 students will start the year using the computer lab to do some very important testing for Mathematics and English. The results from these activities will be very helpful to the classroom teachers in their planning. The students will then revise the rules and routines expected in the computer lab and when using iPads and laptops in the classroom. They will refresh previous learning when using the Kid Pix and Comic Life programs to import digital self-portrait photos. Their student profile posters will display their edited photos, headings, and speech bubbles and textboxes containing writing about themselves. A labelled graph showing class birthdays according to the seasons of the year in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum will encourage the students to make written comments about the data.



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 2 will begin Term 1 with the topic **'Waterworks.'** Water is a precious resource and students will be asked to reflect on what they think they already know and understand about water sources and uses. Students will compile a list of questions in relation to water and learn about the movement of water across a landscape that can form lakes and rivers. They will plan and conduct an investigation about water usage at home and research how other people use water. Throughout the unit of learning students will be encouraged to pose questions, make predictions, reflect and start to make conclusions about what they have learnt.