

YEAR 2 NEWSLETTER
TERM 1

February, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to all students and families and a special welcome to families who are new to our school in 2019. 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 Year 2 teachers for 2019 are:

- Mrs Amy James (2AJ) - Team Leader
- Mrs Erica Clark (2EC)
- Mrs Morgan Lewis (2ML)
- Mr Alister Murnane (2AM)
- Mrs Jordan Zukan (2JZ)

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

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

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 **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.
- Discussing illustrations in storybooks 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.



VERY IMPORTANT PERSON (VIP) PROGRAM

This year each Year 2 class will have a 'Very Important Person' (VIP) of the week.

The purpose of this program is to:

- assist our students' with their speaking and listening skills
- help develop their confidence
- give them a chance to celebrate their successes with their peers
- share information about themselves with others.

The VIP will be selected each Friday and then be involved in various activities the following week. When your child is selected to have their turn he/she will be asked to bring in a photo of themselves and their family, a few special items to discuss with the class, their favourite book, something that made them feel good, such as a certificate or trophy and they can share a special talent or joke.

The VIP program will begin on **Monday, February 25, 2019**. You will receive more information when it is your child's turn. We appreciate your assistance and support in our VIP Program.

TAKE HOME READING

Our children are encouraged to take home books that are 'Just Right' to help develop their confidence and fluency. 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. Year 2 students will receive Literacy and Numeracy homework in addition to reading in Terms 2, 3 and 4.

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 throughout 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 Year 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 time.

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Year 2 Specialist Timetable

	Computer/ICT	Visual Arts	Physical Education	Performing Arts	Science	Library (fortnightly)
2EC	Monday	Monday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2AJ	Monday	Monday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2AM	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday	Monday	Thursday	Friday
2JZ	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday	Monday	Thursday	Friday
2ML	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday	Monday	Thursday	Friday

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 Year 2 students participate in fortnightly library sessions on 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 hope 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 ERICA CLARK, MRS AMY JAMES (TEAM LEADER),
MRS MORGAN LEWIS, MR ALISTER MURNANE, MRS JORDAN ZUKAN
YEAR 2 TEACHERS**

Parents and carers contribute to traffic problems around our school. Please help by obeying the parking restriction signs, keeping clear of the children's crossing and never double-parking outside the school.



SPECIALIST CLASSES

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

Visual Arts

This term in Visual Arts lessons, the Year 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 artwork. Collage skills and imagination will be applied to create a bright and colourful alien creature using paper collage materials. 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 for Year 2 this term will be on painting, drawing, perspective and collage skills.

Performing Arts

Musical activities this term will involve Year 2 students improvising and echoing sounds, rhythms, and melodic phrases. Students will classify percussion and tuned instruments and also explore tempo (the speed of music) through movement and performing. This is in line with the Victorian Curriculum for Music that 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 that states that students *use voice, facial expression, movement and space to establish role and situation.*

This year students will 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)

In accordance with the Victorian Curriculum, Year 2 students *will participate in regular periods of moderate to vigorous physical activity and identify some links between physical activity and health.* They will begin the term participating in a range of co-operative games that will encourage teamwork and 'getting along' skills. Students will learn some simple rules for playing bat tennis and work towards improving their striking skills with the emphasis on hitting a moving ball, bat control and correct body position. They will spend a number of weeks developing the skills required to play cricket and will have the opportunity to bat, bowl and field. Towards the end of the term, they will focus on kicking a soccer ball and football to hit a target such as a partner or goal. Throughout Term 1, students will be developing their running endurance in preparation for the Iramoo Junior Cross Country on Monday, April 1. Parents are encouraged to come along to our Junior Cross Country and help prepare students for the event by supporting some 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 taking or posting a photo of any child without permission from the child's parent/guardian.**

Digital Technologies

Year 2 students will start the year revising the rules and routines expected in our computer lab and when using and laptop computers in the classroom. They will revisit 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, speech bubbles and textboxes containing writing about themselves. Using animations and stickers, students will construct a diagram of a labelled water cycle drawing from learning experiences in their classrooms this term. In accordance with the Victorian Curriculum, *the students will experience using an internet site in a safe environment to apply problem-solving skills* by exploring an informative strategy game related to Cultural Diversity Week.



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 Year 1 to Year 4. This is taught alongside the students' classroom teacher and focuses on scientific knowledge, human endeavour and enquiry learning in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum.

Year 2 will begin Term 2 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 usage. 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 this unit of learning, students will be encouraged to pose questions, make predictions, reflect and start to make conclusions about what they have learnt.



To be returned to school by Friday, February 22, 2019



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

YEAR 2 PARENT HELPER

CHILD'S NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

I am interested in helping with reading in the Year 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.