******Level 2 Term 1 Newsletter 2016**

**Welcome Back!** We have had a great start to the 2016 school year! Students are settling back into daily routines quickly and are already working very productively. The main building of the school has been repainted over the holidays and the classrooms look fresh and inviting.

The Year 2 teaching team for 2016 is: Kerry Merriman 2A and Jenna Milligan 2B. We are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead full of hard work, fun times and success. Subject areas covered this term are as follows:

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| **Reading:**  Reading will comprise of five sessions per week. This will involve shared reading, modelled reading, read to, independent/group & partner reading. Students will explicitly be taught the comprehension skills of summarising and clarifying (text structures and think aloud). Students will learn to choose appropriate texts for themselves for ‘choice reading’ sessions.We will be investigating the genres of Recount and Information Reports in depth. | **Writing:**  The focus will be for students to develop their authors’ voice and creativity through structured writing sessions. Grammar, spelling and punctuation skills will be covered through modelled writing sessions on a daily basis and also in explicit needs based sessions. Students will be taught how to enrich their writing of recounts and information texts.  They will be given opportunities to share published pieces of writing in ‘Author Share’ time. |
| **Speaking & Listening:**  Students will be encouraged to speak confidently in many group and class situations. They will be encouraged to listen attentively, ask questions and make relevant contributions to discussions. | **Handwriting:**  An emphasis will be placed on developing appropriate handwriting practices, such as: correct pencil grip, letter size and letter shape with regular formal handwriting lessons using unjoined upper and lower case. |

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| **Mathematics**  Students will work in needs based groups to develop their mathematical knowledge and understanding.  Numeracy concepts will be taught in blocks, for example, our first 2.5 weeks of term will focus on data representation /graphing and chance language.  This term, we will be covering  **Number:**  - Recognition  - Place Value concepts  - Addition and Subtraction  **Measurement, Chance and Data**  - Chance  - Data collection & graphing | **Independence & Social Development:**  Toorak will continue to implement a whole school approach to values this year with the ‘Bounce Back’ program. Bounce Back develops students’ social and emotional capabilities and promotes a positive attitude to their learning and life.  We are also including daily mental stillness sessions, utilising the Smiling Minds Program and some other resources.  Restorative practice will continue to be practised throughout the school in conjunction with the code of conduct. |
| **ICT:**  Students will develop skills and techniques that allow them to collect and organise data, manipulate texts and images, present information in a creative manner on desk top computers and iPads.  Students will continue to access a range of resources such as Mathletics and Literacy Planet (which will replace Reading Eggs in 2016). Please allow time for your child to access these websites from home so that they can continue to develop their skills across a range of areas. All necessary login details will be provided shortly. | |
| **Inquiry : Science: (Biological) Mammals and Reptiles**  **Living things grow and change and have offspring similar to themselves**  Students will explore lifecycles and metamorphoses that occur during development in some species during their lifecycles. | |
| **Specialists:** All students will complete five specialist subjects. | |
| **French with Madame Anderson**  In French this term, the students will revise the basic greetings, colours, days, months, animals and numbers 1 to 40. The students will be exploring healthy foods as well as, what they like to eat. The focus will be on creating a booklet about the farm and farm animals. The reading, writing, listening and speaking activities will be related to this theme. | **Art with Mrs Kelly**  During Term One, the students in grade two will create artworks centred on the art elements of line, shape, colour, texture and tone. They will develop skills and understandings through drawing, painting and the use of collage and modelling materials in the creation of their art works. |
| **Library with classroom teachers**  The focus this term will be to develop positive attitudes to reading books and alert the students to a range of reading material suitable to their stage of development. Students will develop a better understanding of themselves and their relationships with others through literature. We will also teach students how to take care of library resources and direct them on how to find the resources they want to borrow. | **Physical Education with Mr Holden**  This term the Grade 1/2 students will be focusing on Cricket. They will be working on their throwing, catching, bowling, fielding and batting. The students will finish the unit by participating in a Milo T20 / Big Bash style game here at school. The Grade 1/2 classes will also be taking part in some AFL clinics run by the Toorak Prahran Football Club. |
| **Music with Miss Sinker:**  During Term One, students in Grade 2 will work on developing a sense of rhythm, pitch and tempo both physically and instrumentally. There will be a focus on creating different moods through music, performing on tuned and un-tuned percussion. We will also be learning many new songs and developing our group singing skills. | |
| **Homework:**  Homework will be distributed every Friday, commencing in Week 3. A breakdown of the homework activities can be found inside your child’s homework book. Please also find a homework expectations slip. Homework is due to be completed and returned for the following Thursday. | |
| **Classroom Parent Representatives**  If you would like to be a Class Parent Representative in 2016 please inform your child’s teacher. The role includes coordinating activities for the class and year level, acting as a liaison point for parents and some school fundraising duties. Up to two representatives per class would be welcome. A morning tea will be held for 2016 parent representatives at 9am on Monday February 15th in the staffroom. | |
| **Classroom Helpers** - If you would like to volunteer to help in your child’s classroom please nominate times on the roster on the Year 2 noticeboard. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated!! Please note that all classroom volunteers must have attended a Parent Helpers Training Program and hold a Working with Children.  Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend the upcoming Parent Helpers Workshop on Thursday March 3rd at 9am in the staffroom. Tracy Skiba, our Assistant Principal will be presenting some handy hints and suggestions for how you can assist in the classroom. Please sign in at the office before the workshop commences. | |

**MORE IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

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| **Hats and Water:**  As it is summer, students need to bring water bottles and remember to hydrate.  Children are required to wear a hat (wide-brimmed) during playtimes and when participating in any outdoor activities during Term 1. We expect that children without a hat remain in a specific allocated shaded area whenever they are outdoors.  Please ensure that all belongings, in particular, hats, jumpers and drink bottles are clearly labelled with your child’s name.  **Art Smocks /Library Bags/ Tissues:**  Students need to bring in an art smock from home to be kept in class throughout 2016.  Please bring in a labelled library bag to enable your child to borrow books for a fortnight.  Please also bring a box of tissues for communal use in the classroom throughout 2016. | **Snacks & Lunch:**  Healthy eating is important for students. Snack should include at least one piece of fruit.  **Birthdays:**  If you would like to celebrate your child’s birthday at school, you may provide cupcakes to share with the class.  **Food Allergies:**  Please be aware that one student in Grade 2 is allergic to kiwi fruit so we would appreciate it if you refrain from sending any to school.  We also discourage students school-wide from bringing any **nut-based products** to school. We suggest students always bring a list of ingredients with any birthday cakes provided so we know whether at-risk students can safely eat the birthday cakes.  **Stationery:**  Communal stationery supplies will be provided in class. There is no need to provide pencil cases or stationery. |
| **EXCURSION PAYMENTS - CHANGED ARRANGEMENTS**  This year, excursions **MUST** be paid for **via COMPASS** by the relevant closing date. Each excursion will require a separate payment to be made (rather than a single term levy payment for all excursions). Late payments will NO LONGER be accepted if you miss the COMPASS payment date, so your child **will not be able** to attend the excursion. Please keep up to date to avoid disappointment. | |
| **Parents Please Note Our Medical Alert:**  **MEDIC ALERT - ALLERGY AWARENESS**  **Some students at Toorak Primary School have an ANAPHYLACTIC REACTION to the following food stuffs.**  **Foods TO SHARE at school functions MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED with all ingredients.**  [http://t1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRH9ESNxGh4cWzT-m5OLuavrcr4v4W6v60jFoDd_FxZQ16zmw1G](http://www.google.com.au/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=nut%20free%20symbol&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&docid=pdbVSWW9nXeJVM&tbnid=CMpJUphMzP0UKM:&ved=0CAUQjRw&url=http://georgest.nbed.nb.ca/image/nut-free&ei=KrQDVLi2HZLY8gWz2YHYBQ&bvm=bv.74115972,d.dGc&psig=AFQjCNElaScQtAfNLyDNEmlqBPr91Ny8dg&ust=1409615228775773) [http://t2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRtv_OeVOw_xopa3MfF4QwO8trGyTOM9n-HIWgLLSu1C8GhXLyP](http://www.google.com.au/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=kiwi%20free&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&docid=zRgvIlE_SI76iM&tbnid=-m6fFVXscmND9M:&ved=0CAUQjRw&url=http://baosuckhoe.org/suc-khoe-phu-nu/sinh-to-chuoi-bo-va-kiwi-tot-cho-suc-khoe-ba-bau.html&ei=Hq4DVOp6w9zwBYGpgfgC&bvm=bv.74115972,d.dGc&psig=AFQjCNGe3LQhtlSZH2VsO0VDE84fXqEh_Q&ust=1409613560676691) | |
| **Important Reminders:**  - Students are not perm**i**tted inside the school building before school to hang their bags up. They should wait near the line-up area ready for the first bell.    - On wet mornings, students will be allowed into class at 8.45. Before that, please encourage your child to wait under shelter near the portables or Foundation classrooms.  - All notices, as well as take home books, go home in the maroon folders, therefore students are expected to return them to school on a daily basis  -Donations of old books, magazines and catalogues would be greatly appreciated throughout the year.  Daily Home Reading will commence in Week 3 and should be recorded in the R.E.A.D I.T Home Reading Journal.  A French Day Celebration will run on Wednesday March 16th. A Gold Coin donation is requested on this day. | - An excursion has been booked to Healesville Sanctuary Zoo on Wednesday 24th February which relates to our inquiry. The cost is $35.50 . Parent helpers who wish to attend please notify the classroom teachers.  -The Life Education Van will visit the school in Week 7/8 and will offer instructional activities appropriate to each year level. The cost is $9 per child  - We encourage you to check the TPS blog regularly for updates about what is happening around the school and year level. The Year 2 information board is located on the external brick wall of 2A’s classroom.  - Teachers are usually available m in their classroom from about 8.45am, however, if there is a matter that requires more time, please arrange an appointment with your child’s teacher.    - Whole School Assembly will be on Fridays at 9am (subject to weather). All are invited.  Students need to wear their hats.  - The Year 2 parent information night is taking place on Monday 22nd February at 6.00 pm in 2A. We hope to see you there!!  - Please remember the School Welcome Picnic on the evening of Thursday 18th February - all invited |
| The Year 2 weekly timetables are available online on the Year 2 page of the website. **We look forward to an inspiring and positive year ahead!**  Kind Regards, The Grade 2 Team. | |