



WONDEROUS ONES

Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter

Term 3 2017



Dear Year 1 Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to term three and our second semester together!

Mindfulness

We have been so lucky to have the expertise of Suzanne Marambio for the last couple of months already - 10 weeks in total - who has been volunteering her time to introduce mindfulness to all grade ones. She visits each Friday for approximately 10 - 15 minutes in each grade one classroom. The teachers have noticed a big difference in the students' ability to calm themselves and find their 'anchor breath'.

Suzanne always introduces the session with the following statements:

Sit tall like a tree and still like a mountain... allow your eyes to close... take a deep breath in and let it out, and listen to the bell...

At the end of the session Suzanne encourages the children to repeat the following after her:

May I be happy, may I be healthy, may I be peaceful... May you be happy, may you be healthy, may you be peaceful.

The topics we have explored over the last ten weeks are listed below. Suzanne will be spending 6 more weeks with us this term.

- Mindful bodies and listening
- Mindfulness of breathing
- Heartfulness (sending kind thoughts)
 - Body awareness
 - Generosity
- Thoughts (the puppy dog mind)
 - Mindful seeing
- Being kind and caring on the playground
- Show me tell me - creating space

Assembly

We will continue to conduct assemblies on Friday afternoons at 3.00 pm. Weekly class awards are given out and parents are welcome to attend. Children will return to their classrooms at the end of assembly and will be dismissed from there at 3.30pm.

Tissues

We ask that each child bring in a box of tissues for use in the classroom.

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Curriculum Overview Term 1

LITERACY



Students will change their books once a week (both their book bag and book boxes). It is very important that the blue book bag with take home books is brought to school every day. The books are only changed once a week, but children are encouraged to re-read these books during independent reading time.

Additionally the blue bag is a useful spot to store notes for home.

Daily Reading Hour

We will continue to model, discuss and demonstrate reading strategies by reading aloud to students, reading together with students (big books, songs, rhymes, chants and poems), reading in small groups and reading independently.

Students will continue to focus on how to choose 'Just Right' books for both school and take home reading. We will also focus on the structure of an independent reading session - that it is quiet independent reading with an explicit focus. Students will read each day at school and your child should continue to be encouraged to read at home daily. Your child will benefit from you asking questions about the book both during the reading and after they've finished reading to you.

We will explore comprehension strategies including:

Summarising the main events

Maintaining fluency

Thinking aloud while reading

Noticing the structure and features of procedural texts (including command verbs)

Noticing the structure and features of explanation texts (including specialised vocabulary)

Noticing the structure and features of transactional texts (letters and invitations)

Identifying the beginning, middle (with a problem) and end (with a solution) within narratives

Students will have regular conferences with their teacher throughout the term. This will most often be in the form of a guided reading group with peers. During these times reading goals will be established for the student to practise at school and at home.

Students will also continue to have a weekly turn on the classroom iPads during independent reading time, using the PM eCollection and Sunshine Online apps.



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Daily Writing Hour

We will continue to model, discuss and demonstrate writing strategies. Writing processes will be explicitly demonstrated to the students and they will then have the opportunity to write in small groups and independently. Students will have regular conferences with the teacher to determine appropriate writing goals for their level. Students will work on various aspects of the writing process including: planning, composing, recording, revising and publishing.

This term the main text types we will be writing are recounts, retells, procedural, explanations, and narratives. We will be exploring the idea of tenses in our writing, with a focus on distinguishing between the past and present tense. We will also be using mentor texts (texts written by published authors) to inspire our own writing.

Handwriting

The Victorian Cursive Script is continued to be modelled each day with the expectation that all students use the correct directionality, sizing and beginning and exit points, as they write independently.

Spelling

Spelling, sound and punctuation investigations (both whole class or small group) will further assist with each student's writing. This term we are also introducing a spelling program in each grade. This will involve students selecting a 'Just Right' spelling list (from a choice of three) each Monday. They will rotate around different activities throughout the week, enabling them to practise learning these words. The following Monday they will be tested on their word list. We will endeavour to send home the words in a separate booklet in the coming weeks, once the routine has been established in each classroom. We encourage you to practise spelling activities with your child based on these words. We will send home some suggestions to help!

NUMERACY

We will continue to model, discuss and demonstrate numeracy strategies by providing warm-up games to begin each lesson and differentiated learning tasks for each student depending on the individual learning needs. Our focus in Numeracy this term will be on fractions, place value, addition and subtraction, time, measurement, mass, and shape.

Last term we introduced the 'counting learning ladders', where children were allocated a counting based goal which they were encouraged to work on at school and at home. These ladders will remain on display and will remain a focus in term three, as counting plays a huge part in so much of numeracy.

We will also be introducing the 'place value ladder'; children will again be given a 'Just Right' goal, which will be glued in their goals book. The way this looks and the routines in place for this might look slightly different in each classroom, but every child will have a counting and place value goal given to them.

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Inquiry Unit

Our big inquiry question for this term is...

Where's the science in the kitchen?



This will be an Inquiry into Chemical Sciences, where food and cooking is used as the context in which to explore physical changes when heat is added, taken away and items are combined.

At the end of the unit we hope the children will understand the following:

- A substance is another word for an ingredient, item, product, or material.
 - Science is the study of how and why things work.
 - Different substances can be mixed to create new products.
- We question and predict, plan and conduct, record and process, analyse and evaluate, and communicate, when 'thinking like a scientist'.

eLearning

All grade 1s will continue to blog, so please keep reading them and feel free to post comments about what you have read.

1/O: <http://amy2017.global2.vic.edu.au/> password: amy2017

1/R: <http://lee2017.global2.vic.edu.au/> password: lee2017

1/C: <http://tammi2017.global2.vic.edu.au/> password: tammi2017

Newport Lakes PS also has a Twitter account (@nlpstweets), which is used regularly to keep you informed about school news and events. Please follow this account to stay 'in the loop'.

Circle Time

Students in grade one will continue to participate in weekly Circle Time sessions. These sessions aim to develop students' social interaction, emotional vocabulary, problem solving and conflict resolution skills. There are agreements in the circle such as the right to pass, speaking only with the talking stick, attentive listening and sitting at the same level to demonstrate that everyone is equal. Please speak regularly with your child about what was discussed during Circle Time each week.

This year we have started to incorporate the material from the 'Bounce Back!' texts, which has been a wonderful addition to our already rich conversations.



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SPECIALIST CURRICULUM: Year 1 Term 3

Specialist	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
LOTE	1/O		1/R 1/C		
P.E.	1/R			1/C	1/O
Drama				1/R 1/O	1/C
Art	1/R 1/C	1/O			
Library		1/R 1/C	1/O		

Please note that the specialist timetable may change throughout the year due to whole school timetable changes and updates.

If you have any questions big or small please don't hesitate to drop in and see us or send us an email.

We are all looking forward to another action-packed term with your children, and we thank you for your continual support.

Kind regards,

Tammi, Amy and Lee

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