



PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



GRADE 2 INFORMATION

CLASS TEACHERS:

2M Sally Murphy (Co-ordinator)
2N Nerida McKenzie (Learning Specialist)
2D Perri Davies
2T Lauren Tipping
2B Paula Bain

2021 TERM DATES

Term 1: 27th January to 1st April
Term 2: 19th April to 25th June
Term 3: 12th July to 17th September
Term 4: 4th October to 17th December

BREAK TIMES

9am	SCHOOL STARTS *fruit break in morning session
11:15am – 11:45	RECESS PLAYTIME
1:15pm – 2:00pm	LUNCH PLAYTIME
3:30pm	SCHOOL FINISHES

CURRICULUM

The Victorian Curriculum F-10 sets out what every student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling. The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship. The Victorian Curriculum F-10 incorporates the Australian Curriculum and reflects Victorian priorities and standards.

LITERACY

The English curriculum encompasses 3 language modes: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.

In Grade 2, we use a Structured Literacy approach, which incorporates MSL/OG (continuing on from Foundation and Grade 1) and includes:



- Explicit, systematic, and sequential teaching of language at multiple levels
– phonemes, letter-sound relationships, syllable patterns, morphemes, vocabulary, sentence structure, paragraph structure, and text structure
- Cumulative practice and ongoing review
- A high level of student-teacher interaction
- The use of carefully chosen examples and nonexamples
- Decodable text
- Prompt, corrective feedback

In addition to this, the *CAFÉ* reading and *VOICES* writing programs are used across the school from Grades 1 to 6 to teach students a broad range of reading and writing strategies.

NUMERACY

Mathematics has 3 strands: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability.



At Parkdale P.S. students are pre-tested on upcoming maths concepts, which informs our teaching and students' areas of need. Students are then grouped accordingly for Number topics. Applied topics (Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability) will be taught by your child's home group teacher with their class. Lessons will be differentiated and will target the needs of the children in the class and cohort. All Maths lessons will incorporate the four proficiencies of Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning.

The Essential Assessment program underpins our assessment and planning, however we draw ideas and activities from a wide variety of sources.

INQUIRY UNITS

Our Inquiry units integrate the above curriculum areas with Science, Humanities and Digital Technologies. Themes are varied and encourage students to think on a personal, community and global scale. Units are developed in line with the Victorian Curriculum and aim to engage students by promoting student choice, building curiosity, and developing questioning and investigation skills. The inquiry units for this year are:

- ★ 'Learning how to Learn'/'Our Community Past and Present'
- ★ 'Super Scientists' ('All Mixed up' and 'Push or Pull')
- ★ 'Habitats around the World'
- ★ Earth's Precious Resources' (Sustainability)



ROTATIONS

Students participate in 'Rotations' every Wednesday, which enables them to work with teachers and students from the other grade 2 classes. Learning activities are generally either STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Maths) or focus on health, wellbeing and social skills, and aim to develop students' problem-solving, teamwork, and communication skills.

GRADE 2 SPORT

Students participate in a variety of sporting activities each Tuesday afternoon, so need to wear runners on this day and PPS sports uniform if they have one.

HOMEWORK

READING – All children are expected to read with an adult for at least 15 minutes each day. While many children can read independently for a sustained period of time, there are lots of important skills they are still developing, and vocabulary they need to ‘unpack’, which requires regular adult support.

We can't emphasise enough how important it is to continue this practice at home throughout your child's year in Grade 2.

*Please record and sign every day of reading in the reader cover, even if it is a book from home.

SPELLING – Later in the term, students will bring home a personalised list of ‘Red Flag Words’. More information will be provided in students' homework folders (which will be kept in their reader bag). Your child may also be given some activities to help consolidate their understanding of a concept that has been introduced or revised in class. The ‘Sound Pack’ will continue to be used and families will receive more information to support its use at home.

MATHS – We encourage the children to practise skip counting and number facts at home. Mathletics is a wonderful online resource to consolidate knowledge and skills. Children use their existing username and password each year (a copy will be pasted in their reader cover for this year). Through our ‘What's Happening in Grade 2’ (in ‘Focus’), we will keep you informed about what Maths topic and concepts we are covering and let you know of any activities you can do at home to help assist your child.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

READER BAG (blue satchel): All students must have a reader bag that they bring to school every day. Books taken home for reading must be put back inside the reader cover, inside the reader bag in order to protect them.

STATIONERY: If you have any stationery items from the Grade 2 booklist still at home, please send them in as soon as possible so we can add them to your child's additional supply pack (that way it's here when they need it).

PENCIL CASE: Every student needs a large pencil case (at least A4 size/ruler length) so that they can fit all of their stationery (including their ruler, scissors, glue, etc.).

This is important as students move between classrooms for Maths, Rotations, specialists classes (e.g. all the way down to the science room) and need to have everything with them for each class.

When students have a small pencil case, they generally don't have everything they need as it won't fit and they can't carry it all. This makes it hard for them and interrupts lesson flow.

While we understand there are many cute little pencil cases available that the students love, please save these for home use, as they are not practical for school.

COMMUNICATION:

COMPASS – Vital for getting regular updates and important information. Also to log student absences.

NEWSLETTER – Each fortnight the school publishes a newsletter, 'Focus' online. Please ensure you read it regularly. Along with valuable whole school information, it contains our "What's Happening" section, where we'll give you an update of what we're covering over the fortnight and some simple suggestions for how you can support your child's learning at home: www.parkdaleps.vic.edu.au

READER BAGS (NOTICES)

*While many documents are now upload digitally to Compass, some are still sent home in hard copy (as you would have seen this week). Please encourage your child to be in the habit of checking for/passing on notices when they get their reader out, and to **pack the reader bag in their schoolbag each day.***

UNIFORMS

Hats are compulsory until the end of April and then again from September onwards. Children need to wear their hat outside during recess, lunch, sport and PE lessons. If your child does not have a hat, they will need to stay in the shade ('No hat, no play').

Sports uniform can be worn on the days your child has P.E. and Grade 2 Sport.

SCHOOL RULES/EXPECTATIONS

These are the school rules/expectations from our Welfare and Discipline Policy. We are constantly reinforcing these and would appreciate your support in sending a consistent message, so all students can feel safe and happy at school, and maximise their learning opportunities.

- * Be kind, friendly & fair
- * Follow instructions
- * Act safely
- * Show respect for others and property
- * Take responsibility for your own actions

STUDENT HEALTH & WELLBEING

Please ensure your child brings a drink bottle of water to school, and arrives at school with enough time to go to the toilet before the bell.

RESILIENCE PROJECT

Parkdale Primary is a 'Resilience Project School'. The three components of the program are: Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness.

The Resilience Project aims to teach positive mental health strategies and to deliver practical strategies to build resilience. The Resilience Project curriculum is integrated throughout the school from Foundation to Grade 6, and all students have received a journal to assist with the program. Students will engage in a range of activities and evidence based approaches to build resilience, in order to develop mental health. The Resilience Project will coincide with our 'Super Six' values: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity, Cooperation and Excellence.

FIRST AID (ANAPHYLAXIS, ALLERGY AND ASTHMA MANAGEMENT PLANS)

If your child has an anaphylaxis, allergy or asthma management plan that has not been given to the school and/or updated since February 2020, could you please arrange for the plan to be updated, including a recent colour photo of your child, and handed in to the school office as soon as possible.

If your child has an Anaphylaxis Management Plan, their class teacher and other staff will be creating an Individual Management Plan for your child relating to both school and extra-curricular activities. This plan will be developed in consultation with the child's parents/guardian.



Should you have any queries regarding the above information, please contact the office.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS AT PARKDALE P.S



PERFORMING ARTS – MRS MEEK

In Year 2, students participate in lessons which incorporate *music, dance and drama*. While many lessons involve all three aspects of Performing Arts, each area has a separate learning focus.

In Music the focus is on learning how to sing appropriate songs in tune and to sing rounds (canons) using a greater range of notes. Students also learn to play tuned percussion using class xylophones.

In Drama students develop their ability to dramatize characters of short stories, using appropriate actions and voices. They continue to learn how to use body language to express feelings and moods, and participate in improvisation activities.

In Dance students focus on learning and copying dance moves (choreography) and, in groups, create their own sequences of moves to accompany known music.

Concert

The school presents an Annual Concert in which all students are involved. This may be a Christmas Concert held at school or a larger scale performance at a hired venue.

In 2021 we will be holding our Whole School Concert (TBC).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – MR CLIFF ANDERSON & MRS MAMI SHERWOOD

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 45-minute lesson with Mr. Anderson and Mami Sensei where students work on fitness and fundamental motor skills including ball-handling skills. We ask that your child wear their runners (no black-soled shoes please) on P.E days and for Grade 2 Sport. Students are also permitted to wear their sports uniform on P.E. and Sport days.

*F-2 Intensive Swim Program at Mentone Aquatic Centre:

Term 4 – 3rd until 12th November



JAPANESE – MS NAOKO NISHIKAWA (NISHIKAWA SENSEI)

In Japanese, Grade 2 students will be introduced to *hiragana*- one of three writing systems. Students will learn each letter with a mnemonic clue and *hiragana* code chart and practise using them through games and songs. Students will be able to identify *hiragana* letters on the chart and begin to read basic words, and develop reading strategies that can be applied in any language. Students will become more familiar with classroom language, and will be encouraged to respond to questions and requests using familiar and formulaic Japanese words and phrases.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) and ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

MS BRIANNA BEGLAU

The grade 2 students will attend STEM/ Environmental Specialist with Miss Beglau for a 45-minute session in the STEM classroom weekly. Each student will experience how to take care of the garden, understand the process of germination and look in depth at the process of composting. Along with planting, students will harvest vegetables and will attend cooking classes where they prepare their own food and learn about safe handling of kitchen tools. Students will also be participating in hands-on activities involving STEM challenges, using the Makerspace to create a project, completing Science experiments and building their knowledge about sustainability and ways to help the environment. Miss Beglau is excited to be working with the Grade 2 students this year! 😊

*Please ensure your child brings in gardening gloves they can keep at school to use in the garden. It would be helpful if the gloves are labelled with their first and last name and are stored in a Ziploc bag that is labelled as well. Thank you for your support!

THE ARTS: VISUAL ARTS – MRS EMMA MUNNIKHUIS

Grade 2 students will attend a session weekly in our specialised Art room with our new 2021 art teacher, Mrs. Munnikhuis (Money-kiss).

Students will create artworks using different materials, techniques and processes to express their ideas, observations and imagination. These activities throughout the year will incorporate exploring the various Art areas (Drawing, painting, printing, modelling, collage, construction, threads and textiles) and elements (Line, shape, form, colour, value, texture and space). Students will work towards becoming more confident in describing the artworks they make; including where and why artworks are made and viewed.

Please be sure to have purchased an Art smock to protect clothing. Art smocks will need to be brought to every art class. Art donations would also be greatly appreciated. Donations of newspapers, shoe boxes and thoroughly cleaned containers such as meat trays, yoghurt, ice cream, and margarine.

Mrs. Munnikhuis looks forward to getting to know our Parkdale Primary School students and seeing their creative artworks.

CONTACT US:

Email is a good way to contact us if you have any questions, notify us about appointments during school hours, or provide any other relevant information you'd like us to know. All staff can be emailed directly through Compass, or see below for email addresses:

GRADE 2 TEACHERS:

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Thank you for your support and we look forward to a great year ahead!