

Grade 5/6 Information Handout 2021

Parkdale Primary School

Classroom Teachers:

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Jarrold Bainbridge (Maths only)	Jarrold.Bainbridge@education.vic.gov.au

2021 Term Dates

Term 1: 28th January – 1st April
Term 2: 19th April - 25th June
Term 3: 12th July - 17th September
Term 4: 4th October - 17th December

Important Dates Term 1

Meet and Greet – 8th Feb
Beach Program – 24th/25th Feb
Labour Day – 8th March
Last Day – 1st April

Curriculum

The Grade 5/6 curriculum is covered in The Victorian Curriculum Level 5 and 6. All students will be working towards proficiency in all curriculum areas against these standards.

English

Literacy incorporates 3 dimensions: Reading, Writing and Speaking & Listening. Literacy sessions are taught each morning (depending on the specialist timetable). A holistic approach is taken when teaching spelling, punctuation, grammar and writing. This is to ensure optimal learning and success for our students.

Reading:

In 5/6 students are allocated reading time in the classroom. In these sessions, the children will often practise their reading independently, with a partner, small group and with their teacher; ensuring ongoing conferencing and assessment is taking place. Students are also required to read at least 4 nights of the week for 20 minutes.



Vocab:

The 5/6 team have conducted expansive research into the teaching and learning of vocabulary and spelling and as such, have embarked on a new teaching/learning approach. Research suggests that a student's vocabulary has a significant effect on their ability to read and write. Students will now be given a certain amount of Tier 2 words to focus on and analyse in detail. This will ensure full comprehension of the word; with the ultimate goal of enhancing their vocabulary in writing.

MSL/OG:

MSL/OG is Multisensory Structured Learning, which is a holistic approach to learning how to read and spell. In Grade 5/6 our students will focus on the morphology of words, which is the study of the smallest meaningful unit in the English language (Prefixes, Suffixes and Roots). Our students will learn about the layers of English language (Anglo Saxon, Latin and Greek) through this approach. This, along with their mentor text studies, will enhance their vocabulary which will enable students to further decode words and improve comprehension.

Mathematics:

Students will have 5 hours of Maths per week. Mathematics is broken into three scopes: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Students are placed into ability Number Groups at the start of the year where they will remain for the duration of 2021. Regular assessments are conducted in order to track children's progress, and where necessary, students may move groups to ensure their learning needs are being met.

Students will also have a chance to work with different students and teachers in their Applied Maths Groups. To determine these groups, children are pre-tested on each specific topic being covered. This allows for movement across the groups and enables the teachers to plan lessons that best suit each student's learning abilities. At the end of each unit, the students complete a post-test to ascertain learning growth. This year, there will be eight maths classes including a class run by Jarrod Bainbridge.

Resilience Project:

Every Wednesday afternoon, children will be involved in rotations, where they will get the opportunity to work with different students and teachers. These sessions provide practical, evidence-based, positive mental health strategies to build and enhance students' resilience and happiness. Students will focus on developing their skills of empathy, resilience, emotional literacy and mindfulness.

Diaries:

Diaries are an effective means of communication between the school and home, as well as a tool to develop organisational skills. Children will complete their diaries on a Monday, and will be asked to show any important entries to you. The diary is there for parents to write in too – so please feel free to use it. Children will also use their diaries to record their daily reading (book title & pages read) and returned each Friday with a parent signature.

Homework:

5/6s are provided with homework. This allows students to strengthen their understanding of concepts taught in class, encourage development of research skills and to promote the growth of a regular commitment to further study out of school hours. Tasks are to be completed in their homework book, unless stated otherwise.

- **Reading:** All children are expected to practise independent reading for a minimum of 20 minutes four nights a week. Their readings (book title and pages read) are to be recorded in their diary. Students are to return their diary each Friday, with a parent signature.
- **Maths:** Your child's Maths teacher will set specific tasks which usually need to be completed by the end of the week. Revision sheets may also be provided in placement of online activities (e.g. MangaHigh).
- **Mentor Text Words:** Each week your child will analyse a mentor text and gather Tier 2 vocab words. These are studied in class and at home to strengthen students understanding of the word and the context in which they are used. These words will be tested each Friday.

Inquiry Themes:

Moving away from the more traditional themes and methods of delivery, our inquiry units involve the children negotiating how they will achieve the intended outcomes; becoming more responsible for their learning. The tasks are open ended allowing for greater creativity and scope. We encourage independent learning, negotiation and allow students to make choices in their learning. The themes that will be covered this year include:

- Term 1 – Heroes and Villains
- Term 2 – Why Is It So?
- Term 3 – Through a Different Lens.
- Term 4 – Travel Expo.

Grade 5 Activities:

Grade 5s are also involved in fortnightly sessions that aim to build your child's personal, social and ethical capability. The units being covered this year include:

Term 1: Government

Term 2: Care for the Kids

Term 3: Ethics and Emotions

Term 4: Leadership



Grade 6 Special Program - Memory Books:

This year, the Grade 6 children will be involved in a special activity of creating their very own 'Memory Book'. Your child will reflect upon their years at Primary School by writing down their memories and experiences using a variety of writing styles.

Once completed, the children use these reflections and photos to create a special scrap book of their moments for each Grade level. You will need to purchase a scrap booking album for this display book.

Health Education Program:

In Term 4, Sex Education Australia will be running the sexual and reproductive health program for children in Grades 5 and 6. The program is run in accordance with the current Victorian Curriculum document. It is delivered by experienced staff from this organisation. Grade 5 topics include body parts, conception, pregnancy and birth. Grade 6 topics will revise grade 5 topics as well as puberty, menstruation and peer pressure. There will be separate sessions for both Grade 5 and Grade 6 students.

Beach Program:

Your child is participating in the Beach Program based at the Mordialloc Life Saving Club. Taught by trained personnel, these sessions aim to teach basic life-saving skills and beach awareness. Dates: 24th February (5/6B, 5/6C, 5/6E) and 25th February (5/6G, 5/6S, 5/6U). 5/6H will be split across the two days.



Transition to Year 7

Grade 5/6 is when, as parents, you will need to start considering choices for your child's Secondary School placement. It is your responsibility to start looking at schools before your child's Grade 6 year, if you are to make an informed decision.

You will be required to have made this decision by May of your child's Grade 6 year and will be given a Year 7 application form where you will write down up to 2 preferences of Secondary Schools.

All application forms are submitted to the Primary School and communication is between Primary and Secondary Schools only. The Secondary Schools will notify us of the students who have been offered placements in their school. We will then notify students of their places by the end of August. Out of Zone Applications: You must obtain these documents from the school that you wish to apply to. Change of Mind: Please inform Maddelyn Holland or Audrey Ulrich of any changes in writing or by email.

Absence Notes, Early Leaving and Late Passes:

If your child is absent from school for any reason please notify the school via your COMPASS portal. If your child is late to school or is leaving early, you must go to the main office to receive a late or early leaving pass prior to collecting or delivering your child to their classroom.

Newsletter:

Each fortnight, the school posts a newsletter onto COMPASS. This newsletter provides information regarding the 5/6 area, the school community and important dates. Please ensure that you login using your unique code.

Seesaw:

All 5/6 classes will be using the SEESAW app to share classroom work between school and home. You will soon be invited to join your child's class. This portal allows you to connect with what happens on a weekly basis in your child's classroom and to make positive, supportive comments about their work.

NAPLAN:

Students all over Australia will sit the NAPLAN tests from *11th May – 21st May 2021*. Testing is for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. This year, testing will take place online between the above dates. More information will be provided closer to the date.

Camp:

This year, grade 5/6 students will attend a 2 night/3 day camp at Campaspe Downs. Students are all encouraged to attend, where they will continue to strengthen their personal and social capabilities. Due to our large cohort, the camp will be split into two groups and will run during the week of Monday 30th August – Friday 3rd September. Permission slips, payment schedules and other information will be sent out during Term 3.

School Rules:

Below are the school rules as set out in our School Welfare and Discipline Policy. The staff at Parkdale Primary School constantly encourage all students to follow our school rules to ensure a positive, safe and happy learning environment for the Parkdale community. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in discussing the rules below with your child.

- Be kind, friendly & fair
- Act safely
- Stay in the correct areas
- Show respect for others and property
- Follow instructions
- Take responsibility for your own actions



Super Six Values:

The Super Six Values were created to identify the key morals that embody Parkdale Primary School. The values that were chosen are Responsibility, Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Cooperation and Excellence. These values are continuously modelled, discussed and celebrated across the 5/6 cohort and Parkdale community.

Whole School Assembly:

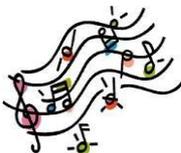
Whole school assemblies are held every Friday afternoon at approximately 3:00 outside in the central quadrangle. Due to the current climate this is a student and staff attended assembly only. 'You're a Star' and 'Values' awards are presented at this assembly and published in Focus. Students will be dismissed from their classrooms after assembly at the end of the day.

Photos and Social Media:

Parents are reminded that you are not permitted to take photographs of other peoples' children without explicit permission from that child's parent. Under no circumstances can photos of children other than your own be uploaded to social media or published otherwise.

Specialist Classes:

Performing Arts – Dianne Meek



In Year 5 & 6, 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 to apply their knowledge of music instruments, styles and form to explore sound patterns and create an original piece to perform and record to Seesaw. Students will sing appropriate songs in tune and continue to improve their confidence.

In Drama students develop their ability to dramatize plays they create or learn from a script; developing characters and learning to interact with an audience. 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 specific music.

Concert

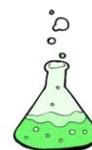
The school presents an Annual Concert in which all students are involved. This may be a Christmas Concert held at school or a larger scale performance at a hired venue. In 2021 we will be holding our Whole School Concert (TBC).

Japanese – Naoko Nishikawa



The focus for Grade 5/6 students this year is to use Japanese for widening range of purposes: asking and responding to questions and exchanging information with peers. Also, students will work on improving their pronunciation and intonation. They will expand their knowledge of grammatical structures using *hiragana* (phonetic alphabets) and *kanji* (pictographs that contains meanings). Students will work on their projects and will develop required language skills including reading, writing, listening and speaking throughout each semester.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic)/ Environmental Studies –
Bri Beglau



The grade 5/6 students will attend STEM/ Environmental Specialist with Miss Beglau for a 45 minute session in the STEM classroom weekly. Each student will experience gardening, cooking and will continue to build their knowledge about sustainability and ways to help the environment in our Community. Students will also be participating in hands-on activities involving STEM challenges that will promote teamwork and collaboration with their peers. The Grade 5/6's will use the Makerspace to help complete their Travel Expo project later this year. Students will experience following a Scientific Method when completing Science experiments and will use their research skills to investigate the explanation of each experiment. They will use this knowledge to conduct a Science experiment of their choice independently in term 2. Miss Beglau looks forward to working with the Grade 5/6 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!



Grade 5/6 students will attend a session weekly in our specialised Art room with our new 2021 art teacher, Mrs. Munnikhuis (Money-kiss).

Students will work towards becoming more confident in explaining how ideas and influences are expressed in the artworks they make and view from different contemporary, historical and cultural contexts that are presented during art class. They will demonstrate the use of different techniques and processes in planning and making their works. Using visual conventions and visual arts practices will help students to express ideas, themes and concepts in their artwork. The activities to be completed 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).

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.



Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 45 minute P.E. lesson with Mr. Anderson. All students also participate in 5/6 Intra-school sport competition between 9.30am and 11:15am every Friday. During these sessions, the children build upon the wide range of skills covered in formal P.E lessons. Sports played will coincide with what the students compete in against other schools in the Interschool-sport competition. Throughout the year, Gala days are held for Grade 6 students only; enabling students to compete in their sport against other schools in our district.

If your child is unable to participate for injury or health reasons, a signed note must be sent to your child's teacher excusing them from participation. Hats, water bottles and appropriate footwear must be brought to school on sports days. Children are also permitted to wear their sports uniform on this day.

Teacher Appointments:

A strong home/school partnership is essential to students' learning and wellbeing. We do encourage you to communicate with us when the need arises. Due to current restrictions, any face-to-face meetings will need to be arranged with your classroom teacher prior to the date. Please do be respectful of our teaching time. All staff are also in scheduled meetings on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and at 8:30am every morning. Thanks for your understanding on this matter.

We are all looking forward to getting to know your children and supporting them in their learning and growth this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your classroom teacher. We look forward to a wonderful 2021!

5/6 Team.