



PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



GRADE 2 INFORMATION

CLASS TEACHERS:

2M Sally Murphy (Co-ordinator)

2N Nerida McKenzie

2T Lauren Tipping

2G Taylor Glew

2023 TERM DATES

Term 1: 30th January to 6th April

Term 2: 24th April to 23rd June

Term 3: 10th July to 15th September

Term 4: 2nd October to 20th December

BREAK TIMES

9am

SCHOOL STARTS

*fruit break in morning session

11:30 – 12:00

RECESS PLAYTIME

1:50 – 2:40

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 three language modes: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.

‘The Big Five’ underpins our reading instruction from Foundation to Grade 6. We believe the five pillars of Phonological/Phonemic Awareness; Phonics; Vocabulary; Fluency; and Comprehension are the essentials for reading success.

We use a structured literacy approach incorporating MSL/OG and a range of effective programs under ‘The Big Five’ umbrella.

Students participate in regular ‘Word Study’ sessions, which build their knowledge and skills across all three language modes.

They learn about the structure and features of a range of genres, and receive explicit instruction in writing.

At Parkdale Primary School, we research and implement evidence-based practice, reflect on what works best for our students, and adjust accordingly.

NUMERACY

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



Maths in Grade 2 involves a very 'hands-on' approach and lessons incorporate the four proficiencies of: Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning.

The 'Essential Assessment' online program is used across the school. Students complete a range of assessment tasks that help inform our teaching, group students with common needs, and track progress. Lessons are differentiated, engaging, and aim to meet the needs of all students, according to the Victorian Curriculum.

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'
- ★ 'Earth's Precious Resources' (Sustainability)
- ★ 'Habitats around the World'



ROTATIONS

Students participate in 'Rotations' most Wednesday afternoons, 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 Friday, so need to wear runners on this day and PPS sports uniform if they have one.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Students participate in sessions both in their classroom and as part of the specialist program. These sessions aim to teach positive physical and mental health strategies and deliver practical strategies to build social skills and resilience. The sessions incorporate our 'Super Six' values: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity, Cooperation and Excellence.

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.

HOMEWORK

READING – All students are expected to read aloud 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 (playing cards and dice can help with this). Students also have new login details for 'Essential Assessment's' online home program 'Sunset Maths' pasted inside their reader cover. 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).

**** Students should have the right size items to fit the purpose:**

- Writing pencils – (HB) **Junior Triangular Grip** (to focus on pencil grip).
- Ruler – standard wooden (not extra wide – for margins).
- 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, and specialist classes (e.g. all the way down to the gym) 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 smaller 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 uploaded 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

MEDICAL

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 2022, 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 – MS LEAH WILLIS

In Year 2 students participate in weekly 50min 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 2023, we will be holding the latter.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – MR CLIFF ANDERSON & MS TOBI CUNNINGHAM

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 50-minute lesson with Mr. Anderson and Ms Cunningham. During P.E. lessons, students will 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: October 30 – November 3.



JAPANESE – MRS MAMI SHERWOOD (MAMI SENSEI) & 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.

WELLBEING & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES – MR JARROD SING

In Grade 2, each week consists of one 50-minute Wellbeing and Digital Technology lesson. The first 5 weeks of term will focus on Wellbeing with the second 5 weeks focussing on Digital Technologies.

In Wellbeing, we will focus on learning how to communicate and collaborate as a team, recognise emotions, resolve conflict, learn about positive strategies surrounding mental health and being able to soothe our emotions.

In Digital Technology, students will be taught how to use iPads safely, being cybersafe in regards to what is appropriate to post and what isn't, as well as learning about new processing programs and coding applications.

THE ARTS: VISUAL ARTS – MRS MICHELLE RICHARD, MRS BREE JAMISON & MRS RACHAEL HIBBINS

Grade 2 students will attend a session weekly in our specialised Art room with either, Mrs. Richard, Mrs Jamison or Mrs Hibbins

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, 3D forms, collage, textiles and media arts) 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.

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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PRINCIPAL TEAM:

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