



PARKDALE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER

# FOCUS

Thursday 11th June, 2020

*Responsibility   Respect   Resilience   Integrity   Cooperation   Excellence*

## JUNE

Term 2 Ends  
Friday 26th June  
2.30pm Finish

## JULY

Monday 13th  
Term 3 Begins

## AUGUST

Thursday 13th August  
School Photos

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Return to school

We have all now returned to school and it was exciting to have all the children back on site. The children have come back happy, positive and have made the transition back into the school routine seamlessly.

### Arrival Time

As students are going directly to their classrooms in the morning, students should not be at school before 8:45am, as there is no supervision before this time. If you need to drop your child off earlier than 8:45am please contact Camp Australia. Please also ensure that your child is collected on time.

### Extra Curricula Activities

At this stage all extra curricula activities such as Music Bus, Art Smart and Techno Tennis/Soccer cannot resume this term. Hopefully these programs can resume in Term 3, we will advise parents once we have received information.

### Celebration Day

The children had a great day reflecting on their remote learning time, writing Gratitude letters and completing togetherness activities. It was the perfect cold morning for our celebration day, wearing our woolly hat and slippers/ugg boots.

### Reports and Parent Teacher Conferences Dates

Friday 12th June – Parent/Teacher Conference Bookings Open

Tuesday 16th June – Student Reports available digitally via Compass

Wednesday 17th June – **Grade 4** Parent/Teacher Conferences **9am – 4:30pm**

Thursday 18th June – **Grade 5/6** Parent/Teacher Conferences **9am – 4:30pm**

Friday 19th June – **Grade 3** Parent/Teacher Conferences **9am – 4:30pm**

Monday 22nd June – **Foundation** Parent/Teacher Conferences **9am – 4:30pm**

Tuesday 23rd June – **Grade 1** Parent/Teacher Conferences **9am – 4:30pm**

Wednesday 24th June – **Grade 2** Parent/Teacher Conferences **9am – 4:30pm**

Classes will run normally on these days with a CRT replacing the class teacher.

### Term 2 Ends - Friday 26th June - Early Dismissal

We will be implementing the same departure system.

2:15pm - A-K

2:30pm - L-Z

*Leanne Bradney*  
Principal

*Together We Achieve*

## AND NOW A WORD FROM MRS RICHARDS .....

Welcome back everyone!! It has been an amazing journey over the last few months with many challenges and we have all had to be incredibly 'agile'. We have been so proud of our students as they have had to put into practice all of the lessons they have learned on being co-operative and resilient, on problem solving and also on being confident enough to take risks, make mistakes and have a growth mindset. Now that we are back at school we are very conscious of the need to prioritise the wellbeing of students as well as ensuring that academic development is maintained. The Student Welfare Committee have met frequently and are working hard to ensure that the wellbeing of every student is addressed at both a grade and team level.

At each grade level activities are timetabled within the curriculum to ensure a student wellbeing focus.

These include:

- ◆ Revision of expectations and school values
- ◆ Extra mindfulness sessions – calming strategies, breathing exercises, yoga, dance, meditation activities
- ◆ Time given to reflect on the past few months- what they have learnt, what challenges they faced, how they overcame challenges
- ◆ Regular time to 'check in' and monitor how students are tracking- feelings journals, circle time, Mytern program, Zones of Regulation, Gratitude Journals etc
- ◆ Resilience Project activities
- ◆ Gratitude activities to promote positive mindset
- ◆ Special celebration day on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> (woolly hat and slippers day)



The adjustment to returning to school could be quite daunting for some children. Some children, particularly those who suffer from anxiety, may have found the period in which they were at home for remote learning to be extremely comfortable and they may now have to make a big adjustment to returning to school and 'relearning' the coping strategies that they have used in the past.

It is really important to talk to children about how they are feeling and for them to feel that their concerns/fears/anxieties are valid and very normal. They may need to be reassured about all of the things that are happening to ensure that they are safe at school – staggered recess and lunch breaks, staggered arrival and dismissal, extra hygiene practises, etc. They may also need reassurance that their teachers are there to support them and that they will be immersed gently back into school routine.

The school does have access to **Onpsych** who provide a qualified counsellor once a week. Jenni Avidon is lovely and the children who have had one on one sessions with her speak very highly of her.

If you feel that your child would benefit from one on one counselling sessions at school then please contact me [Tracy.Richards@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Tracy.Richards@education.vic.gov.au) and I will ensure the relevant forms are sent home to you.



## Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and Parkdale Primary School is excited to be participating. A new application is being used this year that offers a range of exciting features including:

- ◆ access to a library catalogue (including book images and blurbs)
- ◆ a modern user-friendly interface
- ◆ rewarding students with badges as challenge milestones are achieved
- ◆ the option for students to mark books as a favourite, give them a star rating or complete a book review

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by **4 September 2020**.

Children from Foundation to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a Certificate of Achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklists and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/prc](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc)

If you would like your child to participate in this year's Premier's Reading Challenge, please email [Tracy.Richards@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Tracy.Richards@education.vic.gov.au) to be provided with your child/children's log in details.

Instructions to navigate the platform have been posted on Compass.

**Please read these instructions carefully as the platform is not always easy to navigate. Your child will need your support to log in and add books.**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

## FOUNDATION

The Foundation students have had an outstanding return to school from home learning! We have been so impressed by the resilience they have shown, as they walk themselves to their classrooms each morning, eager to begin their day!

This week we met a new Letterland friend, Lucy Lamplight and the students enjoyed brainstorming words beginning with //l/. Since our return to school we have covered the letters b, r, f, and l – these can all be added to your child's Sound Pack to continue regular practise at home.

Over the next two weeks the Foundation students will be learning about needs and wants. As part of this discussion we will be making peg people and a house for them in class, as well as discussing what their peg person likes, dislikes and needs to survive. We are collecting shoe boxes to make our peg person houses, if you have any spare shoe boxes at home, please send them in to your class teacher.

Don't forget our whole school Celebration day Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Students can come to school in their beanies and comfy slippers! Please remember to pack a spare pair of shoes for your child to put on, for outside play times.

## GRADE 1

The Grade 1 team would just like to say a huge 'Thank You' for all the support and hard work from our families in the Grade 1 cohort. Also a big 'Well Done' for making it through the remote learning period!

The students have blown us away with their smooth transition back into the classroom and we are very glad to be back with them. The last two weeks we have been reviewing some of the concepts covered throughout remote learning, and have focused on settling the students into the new routine. In the last few weeks of this term we will be continuing procedural texts in writing and will cover place value and money in maths.

We are looking forward to the Celebration Day this Friday, so don't forget woolly beanies and slippers!

## GRADE 2

Our Grade 2 students have made a wonderful start back to school over these last few weeks, adjusting to a new timetable and some new routines.

For CAFÉ reading, we have continued to focus on inference, as well as making personal connections with texts.

Students used their knowledge of rhyming couplets in poetry to learn to write quatrains - four line poems with different rhyming patterns. This week they've also been building ideas for future writing pieces, using their Writer's Notebook to describe some of the different types of memories they have.

In Maths, we've been learning about 2D and 3D shapes, and developing new vocabulary to describe their features.

Diorama and Poster Show and Tell has also been a hit and a great way to share learning.

Students have also been participating in weekly Resilience Project activities with a focus on wellbeing to ease them back into the school environment.

## GRADE 3

The Grade 3 teachers have been extremely excited to welcome back the grade three students into the classrooms after completing such a successful period of remote learning. As a team, the Grade 3 staff were particularly proud of the quality of work the students were able to produce over the remote learning experience and the students have settled back into the classroom without missing a beat.

### Reading

Over the remote learning period students engaged in the use of CARS and STARS online to build upon their comprehension strategies and are continuing to combine these lessons at school with mentor texts at school to develop their skills. The topics we are focussing on for the remainder of the term are 'compare and contrast' and 'making predictions'.

### Writing

This week, students are starting to look at a variety of forms of poetry. Students will explore Haiku, Clerihew, and Rhyming Couplet poems with a specific focus on careful and descriptive word choice using Tier Two vocabulary.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ...

### GRADE 3 cont'd

#### Maths

In Maths, students will complete the topic of shapes and angles which has been ongoing throughout remote learning. Students will also revise the topic of subtraction and work through a variety of multi-step, subtraction problems to consolidate the topic from the beginning of the term. Students have also been revising their times tables in preparation for our topic of multiplication at the beginning of Term 3.

#### Inquiry

In class, students are preparing for and delivering their presentations on the inquiry topic 'How Things Work'. It has been amazing to see the level of effort that all students have put into their Information Report Writing. The quality of work they have produced has been exceptional considering that the majority of the research was completed at home.

The Grade 3 team would again like to thank all parents for the support you have provided your child and the school over the remote learning period.

We would also like to wish Mrs. Free all the best as she enters her maternity leave and we are very excited to have Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Whitfield join the team for the remainder of the year.

### GRADE 4

It was a welcomed return to the classroom greeted by many smiling faces! The Grade 4 team would like to take the opportunity again to thank all of our amazing Grade 4 students and their families for their effort and support during remote learning.

Over the next few weeks, the grade four cohort will be focusing on the following:

**Reading Comprehension** – We will be using a new mentor text to explore comprehension strategies including main idea and inferencing.

**Writing/Inquiry** – The students will be writing an Information Report on their chosen explorer from the list. We will be focusing on correct structure, the ability to paraphrase and use diagrams and images to support their information.

**Mathematics** – We have commenced a new math number topic this week of Division. The students will be learning to understand the relationship between multiplication and division as inverse operations, how to use diagrams, tables and mental maths to divide as well as dividing larger numbers with and without remainders. Please continue to encourage your children to regularly practice their times tables and division facts at home.

**Wellbeing** – The students have settled back into the classroom well, and will be completing a variety of tasks with a focus on gratitude and togetherness through Resilience Project lessons and discussion questions.

#### Homework

**Week 9** – Finalise research about chosen Explorer (if needed) due **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of June**

**Week 10** - Reading - Minimum of 5 days per week written in their diary with the title of the book and the pages read. Please sign your child's diary every week.

### GRADE 5/6

It's a huge warm welcome back to all of our Grade 5/6 students. We have been extremely proud of the quick adjustment back into face-to-face learning.

There has not been any time wasted and the students are straight back into working hard. They have started putting together their 'Healthy Habits' project, where they have to reflect on the unit of learning and for their oral presentation become the teacher and teach fellow students a skill.

Our 'Data and Graphs' unit is beginning to finalise and the students will move into a revision block of learning. The students have begun looking at the comprehension strategy 'Sequencing'.

We would like to again express our collective thank you to all the parent community for all of your support throughout this term.

**Kind regards,**

**Grade 5/6 Team**