



PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



GRADE 2 INFORMATION

CLASS TEACHERS:

Sally Murphy (co-ordinator)
Taylor Glew/Emma Wicks
Michelle Cole
Jarrod Sing
Sophie Durnan

2018 TERM DATES

Term 1: 30th January to 29th March
Term 2: 16th April to 29th June
Term 3: 16th July to 21st September
Term 4: 8th October to 21st December

SCHOOL TIMES

9am	SCHOOL STARTS *fruit break in morning session
11:30am – 12:00	RECESS PLAYTIME
1:40pm – 1:50pm	CHILDREN EAT LUNCH IN THE CLASSROOM
1:50pm – 2:40pm	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. Literacy sessions are run each morning (and middle session depending on the specialist timetable). Within this time there will be a reading and writing session. Spelling, grammar and punctuation are also formally taught.

READING

In Grade 2, reading takes place within the classroom each day and is encouraged as much as possible at home (ideally, every night or morning). We ask that you continue to listen to your child read aloud, and discuss characters and events to assist with building a range of important comprehension skills. At school, children will read independently, to one another, to parent helpers, to their teacher, and in small groups.

The CAFÉ Daily 3 is the structure we use during our reading time. The choices are:

- Read to self
- Read to partner
- Listen to reading



CAFÉ is an acronym for the four major components of reading. They are:

- C for Comprehension (I understand what I read and can infer)
- A for Accuracy (I can use a range of strategies to read the words)
- F for Fluency (I can read smoothly, with expression and with few errors)
- E for Expanding Vocabulary (I know, find and use interesting words)



The children will learn reading strategies within each category. These strategies will become tools for the children to use to help themselves become better readers and writers. We will keep you informed when new strategies are introduced. Then, when you read with your child at home, you will be able to reinforce these concepts.

READING/CLASSROOM HELPERS

Your assistance and support is greatly appreciated. You are welcome to help during reading time, any morning, by listening to your child, and other children read.

***All parent helpers need a current Working with Children Check (WWCC). Please show this to your child's teacher and ask the office to make a copy, so you can help out in and around the school.**

WRITING

We use a **VOICES** approach for teaching writing and all its components. **VOICES** stands for Voice, Organisation, Ideas, Conventions, Excellent word choice, Sense and fluency. Different genres are taught throughout the year and students are exposed to a broad range of texts (print and digital). They learn about purpose, structure, language features, spelling, grammar, punctuation, proofreading and editing.

PHONICS and SPELLING

Through our phonics and spelling program, students build on their letter-sound knowledge, learning more about phonemes, graphemes, syllabification, common spelling patterns and rules. The phonics and spelling program teaches students about individual sounds (phonemes) and the way they can be written (graphemes). This enables students to blend phonemes to read a word, and listen for phonemes in a word they wish to write, helping them to make accurate spelling choices. Spelling rules are taught in order for students to apply them to a wide range of words when writing. Students also participate in a range of activities that develop their use of visual memory to write high-frequency words, and words whose spelling is not predictable from the sounds.

NUMERACY

Mathematics has 3 strands: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. At Parkdale P.S, we use a program called Envision Maths as a guide. All children are placed in like-ability groups. All groups cover the same topic at the same time. Children are pre-tested on the upcoming concept which enables us to group the children accordingly and plan activities and lessons which are directly suited to their individual needs.



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 as follows:

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



Updates about Inquiry units will appear in the grade 2 section of Focus. If you have any DVD's, books, posters or items relating to our themes, we would love to borrow them to share with the grade. Remember to name all items so we can return them to you.

ROTATIONS

Students participate in rotations every Friday, which enables them to work with teachers and students from the other grade 2 classes. Learning activities are generally STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Maths), or focus on 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 Wednesday afternoon, so need to wear runners on this day.

HOMWORK

READING – All children are expected to read with an adult for a minimum of 15 minutes each night or morning. 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 an activity sheet from which they choose a number of simple tasks to help them learn the spelling of particular high-frequency words they are having trouble with ('Monster words').

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.

LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Lunchtime clubs will continue to run this year. The clubs include coding club, garden club, choir, Lego club and computer club.



COMMUNICATION:

NEWSLETTER – Each week the school publishes a newsletter, 'Focus' online. Please ensure you read it regularly. It not only contains our "What's Happening" section, but valuable information and dates. <http://www.parkdaleps.vic.edu.au/>

COMPASS – Please log student **absences** on Compass. It will also be used to send out notifications, and book parent/teacher interviews.

READER BAGS (NOTICES)

Excursion forms and any other important information will be sent home in your child's navy blue reader bag. You can also send notes to us in this bag. Please encourage your child to be in the habit of checking for notices each day when they get their reader out, at home and at school, and to **pack the reader bag in their schoolbag each day.**



WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Whole school assemblies are held every Friday afternoon at approximately 3:00pm outside in the central quadrangle. 'You're a Star' awards are presented at the assembly and published in Focus. Students will come back into the building to collect their bags after assembly before being dismissed.

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. Hats can be purchased at the school office. If your child does not have a hat, they will need to stay in the shade on the deck ('No hat, no play').

SCHOOL RULES

These are the school rules 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 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, to help minimise disruptions during class time.

MYTERN

As part of our wellbeing focus, Parkdale Primary uses the MYTERN approach and language across the whole school. MYTERN develops emotional resilience in children leading to better self-belief, confidence in their own abilities and greater problem solving skills.



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 will be integrated throughout the school from Foundation to Grade 6, and all students will

receive 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.

OnPsych provides an avenue for behavioural and mental health care to students (through Medicare rebate). Please see your classroom teacher or Tracy Richards if you feel this program would benefit your child.

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 2017, 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 Casey Blacklaw (Grade 4B).



SPECIALIST PROGRAMS AT PARKDALE P.S

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES – MISS ANDREA SMITH

Digital technologies at this level concentrates on the introduction and reinforcement of a variety of computer skills, while building on the use of publishing software within Microsoft Office. Students will begin to use the internet for research and will learn about how to be safe online. Students will use simple robots to learn about programming and coding.



PERFORMING ARTS – MRS DIANNE MEEK & MRS BREE JAMISON

This year 2C&T and 2D&M will combine at times to do music with two teachers. All students will do the same activities. When the need arises for smaller group activities, the classes will be separated and one class will go to the 'after school care' hall. We will do this with alternating classes so students will get to know both teachers throughout the year. 2S will have music on their own each week with Mrs Meek.

In Music, the focus is on learning how to sing appropriate songs in tune, encouraging solo singing and part-singing. In Drama, students learn how to follow and act out simple scripts, as well as showing how acting can be used to demonstrate feelings or moods. In Dance, students focus on basic dance moves and creating their own sequences of moves to accompany different styles of music.

**CHOIR WILL BE HELD DURING LUNCHTIME ON MONDAYS.*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – MR CLIFF ANDERSON and MS REBECCA TAYLOR

Each week students participate in one 50 minute lesson where they 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.

P-2 Intensive Swimming Program – May 2018 at Bayside Aquatic
(Mentone Grammar)



JAPANESE – MAMI SHERWOOD

In Japanese, Grade 2 students will work to become a 'Super Bilingual Hero' by learning hiragana- the main writing system. Students will learn each letter with a mnemonic clue 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.

THE ARTS – VISUAL ARTS – SHARON CLOUGH & ANDREA STRONG

We are very fortunate to have a beautiful facility for Visual Arts at Parkdale P.S. The children attend Art for a 50 minute session each week. As well as celebrating 'Art for art's sake', the Visual Arts Programme is structured to support the Inquiry Units that are undertaken at each level.



<i>Starting point an expressive or imaginative impulse, an idea, an intention, or a stimulus including another artwork.</i>	What we do when we engage in the Arts?	
	Generating <i>Imagining, engaging, expressing, playing, exploring, experimenting, taking risks, forming, designing, developing skills, developing processes</i>	<i>Conceptualising, exploring spatial dimensions, arranging, designing, making marks, sketching, inventing symbols, making visible, constructing</i>
	Realizing <i>Producing, refining, rehearsing, presenting, displaying, communicating, applying skills, applying processes</i>	<i>Interpreting materials, visual crafting, fabricating, manipulating, curating, displaying, exhibiting</i>
	Responding <i>Apprehending – sensory/kinaesthetic/cognitive affective</i> <i>Comprehending – aesthetic knowledge of personal, social and external realms (understanding)</i>	<i>Feeling, describing, listening</i> <i>Articulating, assessing, planning, transforming</i>

In Victorian Primary Schools THE ARTS is comprised of two strands – Performing Arts (Music, Dance, Drama) and Visual Arts (Art, Media Arts).
 Our Art Show - Parkdale Art Craft Exhibition (PACE) will be in Term 4
 Please come and talk to us if you would like more information.

CONTACT US:

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to pop in and see us after school. An appointment might be necessary if teachers have staff meetings to attend (Mondays and Wednesdays for Grade 2).

*** Mornings are generally not ideal for discussions, as teachers are preparing for their first lessons and should then be conferencing with students during CAFÉ Daily 3 reading. Email is another good way to advise us of any extra information about your child, or to notify us about appointments during school hours, etc.

GRADE 2 TEACHERS:

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