Welcome to 2013! It is great to see our students excited to be back and eager to learn. The transition sessions we had last year have helped enormously in getting students settled into their new grade. We would like to welcome all our new students and their families.

There have been a few changes to the 1/2 team this year. We now have five grade 1-2 classes and we welcome two new staff members to the team. They are Mrs Deacon and Mrs Silluzio. The teachers’ names and room numbers are listed below:

Mrs Deacon – 1/2 Team leader  
(Tues, Wed and Thurs)  
and Mrs Kassos (Mon and Fri)  
Stephanie Chan  
Kristian Carrocci  
Ms Gambaro  
Mrs Silluzio

Room 12  
Room 10  
Room 11  
Room 13  
Room 4

This newsletter provides information about the work we will be covering this term. Each term, a new information newsletter will be given out so please look out for them. We have also included some tips so you can assist us to maximise your child’s learning.

NO HAT, NO PLAY
Our school has a SunSmart Policy for Terms One and Four. We encourage all students to wear a broad brimmed hat in the school colour (bottle green) when playing outside during morning and lunch recess. Students without hats will be asked to sit in a covered area.

HOME READING
We encourage all parents to set aside a little time each night to listen to their child read. This can be a really special time for parents and students as it allows them to show you what they are learning. The books will usually be at a lower level than those read in class to assist students to extend their oral reading fluency. Just 10 – 15 minutes each night can make a wonderful difference to a child’s reading development. It will also be a relaxing end to what is usually a hectic day!

Please remember to record any reading in their reading diary book. Certificates will be issued when students have completed 20, 40, 60, 80 etc nights of reading.
MATHLETICS
Most students are familiar with using the Mathletics website and if you would like your child to consolidate or extend their mathematical skills, our school highly recommend this site. Students will have or will receive a card with their password. Please monitor the amount of time spent on the computer, especially on a school night. Encourage your child to get enough sleep (usually 10 – 11 hours) so that they are able to concentrate in class.

LITERACY
Once assessment of the students’ skills has been completed, they will be involved in small guided reading groups where a common text will be selected. Students will also complete activities and games designed to extend their knowledge of letters and words and to develop some basic comprehension skills.

All students will continue to visit the very popular Oral Language Centre for one session each week. Shona McCulloch will run the sessions for the 1/2 students on the following days in Term One:

**MONDAY**
1/2 Gambaro and 1/2 Carrocci

**TUESDAY**
1/2 Silluzio

**WEDNESDAY**
1/2 Chan and 1/2 Deacon/Kassos

Our main writing focus this term will be on **factual texts**. Students will be writing and publishing their own factual book about animal habitats. Some **poetry** will be incorporated with this topic as well. We will also cover **recount** writing where students will be writing about personal experiences.

Handwriting will continue to be a major focus in the 1/2 area as students continue to develop accurate letter formation. A major focus in Term One will be on writing on the line. This term we will cover the letters: A, C, D, G, Q, I, J, L and T.

NUMERACY
Our focus for this term will be on **place value** as this forms the basis of all understanding in numeracy. Students will focus on:

- counting to 110 by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s from different starting points
- number formation to 20 (gr 1s) and 100 (gr 2s)
- representing numbers as tens and ones
- addition to 20.

Measurement and space lessons will cover:

- days of the week
- months of the year
- length of objects
- 2D shapes e.g. square, circle and triangle
- 3D objects e.g. cube, sphere and cylinder.
INTEGRATED STUDIES
The year began with the Lalor East Primary School Start Up Program. The different activities assisted students to develop our classroom expectations and mission statement. The program assisted students to clarify why we come to school and the steps we all need to take to ensure we can all be successful at school. Each grade has also developed a beginning of the day and end of the day process chart to ensure we have a smooth start and end to our days. These activities have really helped set a positive tone in all the grades and will be an integral part of each grade for the year.

Our major focus for this term is on Animal Habitats. We will focus on five main habitats: ocean, desert, Australian bushland, rainforest and polar regions. Students will complete many exciting activities about the creatures that call these areas home and the things we can all do to help protect these precious environments.

Sessions in the computer lab and classroom will focus on developing the students’ skills in logging on to the computer and using Microsoft Publisher to publish a factual book about the five habitats we are studying.

Have a great year! We look forward to working with you all to ensure every child in the 1/2 area achieves their personal best.

The 1/2 Team
Mrs Deacon, Mrs Kassos, Stephanie Chan, Kristian Carrocci, Mrs Silluzio and Ms Gambaro
SPECIALISTS:
ART – Karren Moncur

The children are starting the term with a collage unit, cutting and pasting to create pictures. They will make different animals out of cut and torn shapes. Their collages will be mostly 2D, with a few 3D features. The children will finish the term with a construction unit. They will then make a cage and make an animal that lives in it. They can use boxes, card, plastic and wire to make the cage. The animals can be real or imaginative. Please provide your child with a smock (an old shirt) so they don’t get paint on their clothes.

MUSIC – Deanna Weiland

In Music this term, the focus for the grade 1/2 students will be on beat and rhythm. Students will continue to play a variety of different instruments and will revisit many of the different notes used in music. Students will work both collaboratively and individually whilst furthering their knowledge of these concepts. Students will continue to sing and listen to many different songs from a variety of sources.

PHYS. ED – Lara Arsana

During Term One, the Grade 1/2 students will be participating in activities that develop their Fundamental Motor Skills. Activities will focus on the: run, leap, dodge and throw and catch. The children will be practising many skill based activities and will then apply these skills to a game situation. Please send your child to school wearing runners or sneakers on their P.E. day as this is the most appropriate footwear for our new Multipurpose Centre.

TERM ONE SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

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