LALOR EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL
GRADE 1/2 2013 TERM 2 INFORMATION

Term one was a very busy term with testing and activities on how to show our school values of respect, caring, cooperation, honesty and personal best.

The students enjoyed learning about Animal Habitats and the rotations were a great success with students pretending to visit the Desert, Ocean, Rainforest, Bushland and the Polar Regions.

Some changes have been made to the specialist timetable and a revised copy of the timetable is included with this newsletter.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 2:
- Cyber Safety Performance – Tuesday 23rd April
- Mother’s Day Stall – Thursday 9th May
- Excursion to Werribee Mansion – Friday 10th May
- Annual Art Show – Friday 10th May
- Report Writing Day – Monday 20th May
- Queen’s Birthday Holiday – Monday 10th June
- Aboriginal Cultural Day – Tuesday 25th June
- Teacher/Parent/Student Interviews – Wednesday 26th June
- End of term two – Friday 28th June, dismissal time 1:30 pm

STUDENT ABSENCES
IT’S NOT OKAY TO BE AWAY and IT’S NOT GREAT TO BE LATE!
It is vital for students to attend school every day unless they are ill. Our grade 1/2 students often have a high rate of absences and sometimes miss more school than any other level at Lalor East Primary School. We need your help to stop this. Please strive to make sure your child achieves our attendance goal of not missing more than 3 days in term 2.

If your child is really ill, please either:
- call the office on 9465 4350 or
- send a note to your child’s teacher on the day they return to school.

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time at 8:50am, so they are ready to begin learning with their class at 9:00am. Arriving at school late on a regular basis has a very detrimental effect on your child’s learning.

UNNAMED CLOTHING
Please assist us to reduce the amount of unnamed clothing left at school. To save you money and assist us to return your child’s clothing to them, please write your child’s name clearly with a permanent marker on the label of all clothing that comes to school.
SCHOOL CORRIDORS

It is great to see how wonderfully most 1/2 students line up at the start of the day and how they organise themselves by hanging up their own bag and taking out things like their Take Home Books and lunch orders. We would like all students to follow this example because it helps with the students' development of responsibility.

As a request, we would like parents to cooperate by not entering the building with their child. This will also help to minimise the congestion in the corridor. Also, please organise a meeting spot for home time rather than wait in the corridors. It can be very distracting for the students with people peeping in and talking in the corridors. As a reminder, our school has a “Parent Room” located in room 9 in the south building.

HELPING AT HOME

Many parents have asked what they can do to help their child at home. Below are 3 things you can do to help your child improve his/her learning:
1) listen to your child read 4-5 times a week and talk to them about what they have read
2) assist them to learn simple addition and subtraction facts to 20 e.g. 4 + 6 = 10, 15 + 5 = 20, 10 − 7 = 3
3) ensure children go to bed at a reasonable time: children in grade 1/2 need 10 – 11 hours sleep a night.

LITERACY

Students will continue to be involved in small guided reading groups where a common text will be selected. There will be an increased focus on comprehension and understanding the main ideas of the text. Shared electronic books on the Interactive White Board and big book experiences will also make up part of our sessions. Students love reading books as a class and it helps to further develop their fluency and expression. Students will also have the opportunity to record their reading by using a hand-held microphone. Students will then listen to the way they read the text aloud and will be given helpful suggestions on how to improve their reading.

All students will continue to visit the Oral Language Centre for one session each week. Shona McCulloch and Deanna Weiland will run the sessions for the 1/2 students on the following days in term two:

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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td>1/2 Gambaro and</td>
<td>1/2 Kristian</td>
<td>1/2 Steph Chan and</td>
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<td>1/2 Silluzio</td>
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<td>1/2 Deacon/Kassos</td>
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During the term we will focus on recount writing. Students will write about their holidays and our excursion to Werribee Mansion.

We will also focus on procedural texts. Students will explain how they constructed a 3D model of an olden day house. Finally, a little bit more work on factual texts where students will write a piece about the olden days.

Handwriting will continue to be a major focus in the 1/2 area as students continue to develop accurate formation for the numerals 0-9 and the letters Y, U, V, W, B, E, O, F and H. We will continue to focus on writing on the line and the correct sizing of letters.
PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE
The Premiers’ Reading Challenge is on for another year and we would like all students to be part of this very worthwhile task. The Challenge is a state wide activity to encourage children to read more and to read books recommended by others. It does not cost anything but it does require students to have a consent form signed by a parent/guardian. Students in grade 1/2 need to ‘read’ 30 books by August. The teachers will read the books aloud to the class and then the teachers will record the data onto the website. Putting it simply, students will listen to some wonderful stories and then in term four, students will receive a lovely certificate. If you haven’t yet signed a consent form, please see your child’s teacher to get a new form.

NUMERACY
Our focus for this term will be addition and subtraction. Grade 1s will be solving number sentences to at least 50 and grade 2s to at least 99. We will be extending students’ skills in responding quickly to simple addition and subtraction equations, for example 6 + 4, 10 – 3 and 11 + 9. A good knowledge of basic number facts to 20 will assist them to solve longer equations. Just a couple of minutes a day will really help your child to become a maths whiz!

We will also focus on identifying and continuing patterns of letters, numbers and shapes.

Measurement lessons will cover:
- time - reading digital and analogue clocks
- calendars - locating dates and key events in specific months
- data graphing - collecting and analysing data, and presenting the information as a graph
- mass - comparing the weight of different objects.

INTEGRATED STUDIES
Our major focus for this term is ‘Change Over Time’. Students will gain an understanding of what it would have been like to be a child more than 100 years ago when there were no televisions or computers! They will study olden day housing when there was no electricity, water or gas. They will also look at how everyday items we take for granted have changed over time including transport and household items.

A highlight of the term will be the visit to Werribee Mansion where students will experience the life style of the olden days. Please look out for the excursion form and encourage your child to go.

We have also planned an exciting visit to Dyson’s Bus Company to view olden day transport up close. Students will get to see an old stage coach and buses. There will be no cost for this excursion. The bus company has kindly agreed to transport students to the venue and back to school for free. All we need is a consent form and that will come out soon. We are very appreciative of Dyson’s allowing us to visit them and view their olden days transport.
INFORMATION and COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
Sessions in the computer lab and classroom will focus on developing students’ skills in using:

- **Microsoft Word** – for typing simple sentences and creating calendars
- **Microsoft Publisher** – for using a Venn diagram template and inserting clipart images to show the differences between olden day and modern school life
- **KidPix** – for drawing images of olden day items and comparing old and new items.

Please remember, if you have any concerns about your child’s learning, contact their teacher to arrange a time to chat. We’re looking forward to another exciting term of learning.

The 1/2 Team
Mrs Deacon, Mrs Kassos, Stephanie Chan, Kristian Carrocci, Mrs Silluzio and Ms Gambaro

TERM 2 SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

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<th>GRADE</th>
<th>ART</th>
<th>MUSIC</th>
<th>PHYS/ED</th>
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<td>1/2 SILLUZIO Room 4</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>1/2 STEPH CHAN Room 10</td>
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<td>1/2 KRISTIAN Room 11</td>
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<td>1/2 DEACON and KASSOS Room 12</td>
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<td>1/2 GAMBARO Room 13</td>
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SPECIALISTS

ART – Karren Moncur
The children will start the term with a painting unit. They will build on skills learned last year – keeping the brush clean, using water to spread the paint, mixing colours and adding black and white to colours. Please provide an art smock to limit the paint the children get on their clothes.

The second unit this term will be puppet making. Students will be making a jumping character that jumps when you pull a string and a rod puppet that has a painted head and a sewn body.

MUSIC – Brad Jones
In music this term the grade 1/2 students will be focusing on the concepts of dynamics and music notation. Students will discuss the way that dynamics can alter the emotion of a piece of music and will create their own musical pieces that exhibit a range of different emotions. Students will further their knowledge in music notation by participating in a variety of activities and using different instruments.

PHYS/ED – Lara Arsana
In term 2, the grade 1/2 students will continue to participate in a range of activities that focus on their Fundamental Motor Skills. Activities will be based around the skills of: Overhand Throw, Vertical Jump and Kick, which will lead to sport specific skills used in Soccer.

Students will also complete a three week unit on Skipping in preparation for the annual Jump Rope for Heart Day to be held on Tuesday 21st May.