Welcome to 2014! 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 have five lots of grade 1/2s and we welcome three new staff members to the team. They are Ms D, Mrs Herbert and Mrs I’a. The teachers’ names and room numbers are listed below:

- Ms D Room 12
- Mrs Herbert Room 10
- Kristian Carrocci Room 11
- Mrs I’a Room 13
- Stephanie Chan Room 14

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 Sun Smart Policy and 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. Students MUST wear a broad brimmed hat whenever they go outside from the beginning of September till the end of April. Hats can be purchased at the office for only $16.

**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!

This year the children will be issued with new home reading record books. The teachers will award a certificate and a sticker when the students have completed the required reading. Please remember to read the tips at the front of the book and record a brief comment about their reading every night.
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.

ORAL LANGUAGE
All students will continue to visit the very popular Oral Language Centre for one session each week. Deanna Weiland will run the sessions on Monday and Thursday and Mrs Kassos will run the sessions on Wednesday for the 1/2 students.

MONDAY
1/2 I’a

WEDNESDAY
1/2 Mrs Herbert and
1/2 Ms D

THURSDAY
1/2 Steph and
1/2 Kristian

Our main writing focus this term will be on factual texts. Students will be writing and publishing their own factual book about ‘The World Around Us’. 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, triangle
- 3D objects e.g. cube, sphere, and cylinder.
INTEGRATED STUDIES

The year began with the Lalor East Primary School Start Up Program. As part of the program, students have focused on the Lalor East Primary School Values:

Caring, Co-operation, Honesty, Respect and Personal Best

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.

THE WORLD AROUND US

Our major focus for this term is The World Around Us. As part of the unit, we will cover the changes we can see during the different seasons. We will discuss the reasons why the Earth is such a special place to live and the importance of the sun in ensuring life on Earth. Also, we will learn about the planets in our Solar System. It would be great if you could encourage your child to notice the changes in their environment and in the night sky. It is always great fun to look at the stars and moon.

We will be having an incursion on Tuesday 1st April so students can view a special presentation about the “The World Around Us”. The children will get an opportunity to go inside a Cosmodome and learn about the Sun, Moon, Earth and the Planets. We will provide further details once arrangements have been finalised.

COMPUTERS

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 our Integrated Studies topic The World Around Us.

Have a great year and 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
Ms D, Mrs Herbert, Kristian Carrocci, Stephanie Chan and Mrs I’a
SPECIALISTS:

ART – Karren Moncur
The children will be involved in activities about the World Around Us. They will be creating drawings and collages, showings landscapes and animals. They will then create a construction on a pizza tray. They will build hills and valleys, they will add trees and houses and little people. Please provide your child with a smock as the art room gets very messy for the young children.

MUSIC – Luis Rios Gonzalez
In term 1, students will be developing a sense of pitch and rhythm through learning songs that involve actions and movement. They will also be exploring different percussion instruments and their characteristics and playing them in basic ensembles.

Students will be introduced to basic forms of music notation, which will be used when performing in ensembles. Added to that, tuned percussion will be part of the ensembles as a form of reinforcing pitch and tone development.

PHYS. ED – Lara Arsana
During term one, the Grade 1/2 students will be participating in activities which will 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 Multipurpose Centre.

TERM ONE SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

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