LALOR EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL
GRADE 5/6 2014
TERM 1 INFORMATION

It has been pleasing to see the children really settle into new learning with new teachers and classmates. For some children there can be some anxiety when faced with change that comes from new situations. It is important that parents reassure their child that change is an important part of life. Please allow your child time to adjust to the greater demands of grade 5 and grade 6 and be supportive.

To all our new families, we are delighted to welcome you to the caring community of Lalor East Primary School.

The teachers in the 5/6 team this year are:
- Adrian Parisi - Room 17
- Natalie Iverson - Room 19
- Dimitra Vassiliou - Room 21
- Enis Tuncer - Room 22
- Leo Alessi - Room 23

Some of the highlights for this term include:
- announcing school and house captains
- participation in the first aid program for schools run by St John
- excursion to Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC)
- attending the camp at Portsea
- having the opportunity to become a Junior School Council Representative
- the opportunity to represent Lalor East Primary at interschool sports events or participate in the ASP
- special windcheaters for grade 6 students.

HOMEWORK
Students in grade 5/6 are expected to allow for 45 minutes of homework each night including home reading. We have created a homework grid for this term with a space focus. The students may choose activities from the grid that best suit their preferred learning styles.
Other homework tasks may include: learning spelling words, completing spelling sheets, learning times tables, working on projects, Maths sheets or completing literature activities begun in class. We encourage all students to read for 15-20 minutes every day.

*All students will have some form of homework to complete most weeks.*

**LITERACY/ENGLISH**

Our focus for writing this term will be Persuasive and Narrative Text. The students will learn to identify opinions and facts, develop arguments, debate a point of view and write a passage to persuade someone to adopt their thoughts and/or beliefs.

Our reading program will centre around Literature Boxes that focus on our Integrated Studies topic of Space. Students will read books suited to their ability and answer questions that enhance their understanding of the texts.

In addition, we will focus on:
- the structure of sentences
- the use of common punctuation (including full stops, capital letters and commas)
- how to answer questions in full sentences
- the use of paragraphs.

**NUMERACY/MATHEMATICS**

Place Value will be the major area of study for term one in Mathematics. Grade five students will work with digits including tenths (1/10 or 0.1) to hundreds of thousands and grade six students will cover digits ranging from thousandths (1/1000 or 0.001) to millions.

All our students were urged to spend time over the holidays learning and improving the speed and accuracy of their times tables. We hope they have done this as all areas of Mathematics depend on this knowledge.

Measurement lessons will cover reading and interpreting schedules and calendars.
INTEGRATED STUDIES
Each grade in the school began the year with the Lalor East Primary School Start Up Program. The different activities reinforced our School Values and formed the basis of 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 topic for this term is Space. We will focus on the size, distances and characteristics of the planets and the solar system that we are a part of. Students will also be given a project to complete on the planet of their choice.

COMPUTERS
During computer sessions in the computer lab and the classroom on the laptops, students will:
- design a front cover for their portfolio using Microsoft Publisher
- use the Internet to gather information about planets and the solar system
- create a mind map about a particular planet using Microsoft Visio
- use the notebooks for Literacy and Numeracy activities.

CAMP
The camp to Portsea will be held from Monday 3rd to Wednesday 5th March. Students will participate in many fun activities including fishing, flying fox, canoeing, a fully supervised ropes course and beach activities. There are still a couple of places available if you would like your child to attend this camp. Please see Adrian Parisi for further details.

An alternative program will operate back at school for those students not attending the camp.
GRADE 6 WINDCHEATERS
The orders have been sent off for the distinctive black grade 6 windcheaters and they should arrive March. The polo tops should be here soon.

Inter School and Alternative Sports Program
Each Friday morning, beginning 7th February, all students will be involved in sport. We held the trials for the cricket, softball, bat tennis and rounders teams in term four 2013 and will train one lunch time and Thursday nights after school. The students who made these teams will compete against other schools in the area.

All other students have the great opportunity to take part in the Alternative Sports Program (ASP) which will be run by Leisure City.

MEET THE TEACHER
Meet the Teacher sessions will be held on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th February. We hope all parents can attend on one of these nights so they can share any important information about their child with their child’s teacher for 2014.

If you ever have any concerns about your child please feel free to approach your child’s teacher to arrange an appointment. If any of your home details change, it is extremely important to inform the school as soon as you can.

We’re looking forward to a fantastic year working with you and your child, and through this partnership we will ensure he/she is able to achieve his/her personal best.

The 5/6 Team
Adrian Parisi, Natalie Iverson, Dimitra Vassiliou, Enis Tuncer and Leo Alessi

TERM ONE SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

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<th>MUSIC</th>
<th>PHYS/ED</th>
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<td>5/6 Parisi Room 17</td>
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SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

ART – Karren Moncur
As the children are studying space we are focusing on science fiction in the art room. The children will create an alien, firstly making its skeleton out of wire. They will then flesh it out using plaster bandage and paper mache. The children will then decorate their constructions to get the look they want.

The children will also create some 2D pictures looking at form and space.

MUSIC – Luis Rios-Gonzalez
In term 1, students will be performing in small percussion groups, and reviewing some forms of music notation, in order to create their own compositions. These percussion ensembles will include glockenspiels and other tuned instruments to develop a sense of pitch. Students will be learning how to play some rock and pop songs on guitar, bass, drums, keyboard and ukulele.

In regards to music styles, we will be exploring music from Africa and Latin America, which have a strong percussion component.

PHYS/ED – Lara Arsana
During Term 1 the Grade 5 / 6 students will be learning and participating in Athletic events. These events include: sprinting, long jump, high jump, hurdles, shot put, discus, triple jump and relays. Students will be completing specific drills, for each event, that are designed to improve their skills and technique.

All students will be given the opportunity to try out for the sprints, hurdles, 800 metres and field events for our District Athletics Sports to be held on Wednesday 2nd April. Successful students will receive more information prior to the event.

Please send your child to school wearing runners or sneakers on their P.E. day as this is the most appropriate footwear for the Multipurpose Centre.