Year 2, Term 2 Overview 2016

Welcome back to an exciting and productive term. We welcome Melissa Orton to our team. She will be teaching Mrs James’ class whilst she is on leave.

Hello to you all! My name is Mrs Melissa Orton, and I will be filling in for Mrs Zelda James while she is away. I am a new graduate. Last term I worked on a year 1 class in another school setting, however in my Professional Experience placements I have had the opportunity to work from P-6. I have a previous degree in acting, and have spent a lot of time over the years working and entertaining children. I was lucky enough to work for a local party company facilitating children’s games, face painting and balloon modelling. I am enjoying getting to know 2J and the Garran community, and am already thoroughly impressed by the clever, caring and creative Platypuses. I am sure we will have an absolute blast learning lots this term!

The Learning and Teaching Program

English
Our writing emphasis for this term will continue to focus on the genres of recount and exposition, while introducing procedural texts. Students will continue to read a range of texts that explore rich vocabulary to enhance their own writing skills. Our reading program consists of modelled and shared reading, independent reading, guided reading and home reading. To support our guided reading we welcome parent helpers. If you have any time to spare we would appreciate any assistance you can give us at this time, it does not matter if you were not able to join us last term. All welcome!

Students borrow books to read at home every day. It is important that the blue reading satchel is returned daily. This term we will continue with the differentiated spelling program, Bee Spelling, catering for the needs of each child.

Mathematics
Using a hands-on approach, our Mathematics program will focus on place value, counting collections to 100, addition, subtraction, fractions, patterns, length, capacity, time, identifying 2D and 3D shapes and the use of graphs to display information. Students will continue to work in differentiated groups rather than within their classes. This enables teachers to fully cater to the needs of each child, ensuring that Mathematics concepts are explicitly taught and practised at an appropriate level for each student. During maths groups, mental computation strategies will be developed as part of our whole-school focus.

Integrated Studies – Technologies - Design
This term our Integrated Unit lies in the curriculum area of Technologies – Design. Students will begin by exploring and comparing their local environment. This will include a walk to the Garran Shops. Please ensure that you return the permission note and medical consent form. The unit will culminate with the students using the principles of design, make and appraise to design and present a plan for a functional and aesthetically pleasing courtyard area for the Franklin building. The focus question for this unit is: Why do we consider how spaces are used in our home, school and community?

Science
Year Two students will continue to participate in a Primary Connections Chemistry Science Program unit of work called All Mixed Up. Through investigations, students will increase their knowledge about mixtures containing solids and liquids, explore how different materials can be combined and whether or not mixtures can be easily separated. By incorporating hands-on activities, students will have opportunities to develop skills of observing, describing, comparing and communicating. This will support students’ reflections on how easily mixtures can be separated or not and consider the impact of this on the environment.
Physical Education
In PE students will participate in movement & physical activity (Fundamental Movement Skills) on a daily basis. Please ensure your child wears appropriate footwear for running and although the days are cooler, that they bring a sun-smart hat in order to take part in these fun lessons. Later this term students will participate in the Athletics Carnival at Woden Athletics Park. Details to follow.

Bounce Back
This term we will continue with our whole school wellbeing and resilience program titled ‘Bounce Back’. The program explores topics related to student resilience including: developing positive and social values; developing strategies for coping and bouncing back; finding courage in everyday life as well as in difficult circumstances; optimistic thinking and looking on the bright side; developing relationship skills; and skills and attitudes for being successful. A whole school focus will occur in assemblies each week and then be unpacked through explicit teaching in class groups.

Indonesian
In Term 2, students will continue the unit ‘Mari Kita Bermain’ (Let’s Play). Students will explore the kinds of games children in Australia and Indonesia play, noticing and reflecting on differences and similarities. They will play some games popular with Indonesian children and practise using language related to games and taking turns.

Music
In years 1 and 2 the ‘Upbeat’ program by Jeffrey Leask continues to be used as a basis for the teaching of Music. In Term 2 students focus on tempo and dynamics and continue to reaffirm beat, rhythm and pitch. They look at fast and slow, high and low, and louds and softs. Students continue to use the Kodaly method. Songs and melding body movement with words will facilitate memory recall. Simple solfa tunes are used to enable accurate pitch. Students use the Curwen hand signs to show where the tunes go. New dances will be taught in addition to those in the Upbeat program. Simple notation will also be taught.

Library
Students will take part in information literacy sessions, as well as book borrowing and exploration of texts. Students must have a library bag to keep their books safe. Please check in with your child and ask how they are going with the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge!

Homework
Homework is sent out on Thursdays in odd weeks and is due back on the Monday of the following odd week. Regular reading practice is essential for your child’s reading development. Please encourage your child to read every day. Your child is welcome to read books from your home collection, the public library or our school books.

Important Information

Student Requirements – It is important that students have a broad brimmed or legionnaire style sun-smart hat at school every day for recess, lunch and PE sessions. We encourage students to bring water bottles and a fresh fruit or vegetable snack for fruit break in the morning.

Absence Notes – It is a directorate requirement that a written note be provided following a student's absence from school. An email to your child’s teacher or the front office is also acceptable, as is a message sent via the Garran Primary School app. Whilst a phone call to the school is appreciated, it does not meet the legal requirements for notification of absence.

To contact your child's teacher by email - firstname.lastname@ed.act.edu.au

Important Dates

Friday 6 May Mothers’ Day Celebration Assembly, 9am
Thurs 12 May School Rostrum Final, 11.30am
Tues 17 May BYOD Information Session, 6pm Library
Wed 18 May Musica Viva
Fri 20 May Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am
Mon 23 May School Photos (MSP), K-6
Tues 7 June School Athletics Carnival
Mon 13 June Queen’s Birthday Holiday
Tues 14 June - Wed 15 May Christian Education in Schools
Fri 17 June        Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am
Thurs 30 June      Nexus Arts, Circular Rhythm Performance
Fri 1 July         End of Term 2

Please note Nude Food Day is on Thursday.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer Harvey, Zelda James, Emily Weber, Sharen Lyons, Suzanne Prowse, Fiona Quigley, Frances Gleeson, Jodie Lawson-Santos and Penny Taylor-Yates – Team Leader

2016 P&C Meeting Dates

The P&C holds its meetings on Wednesday evenings in weeks 4 and 8 of each term commencing at 7.00pm in the school’s staff room.

Term 2
• 18 May
• 15 June

Term 3
• 10 August
• 7 September

Term 4
• 2 November
• 30 November

You are cordially invited to attend.