Year 2, Term 1 Overview 2016

Welcome to 2016! What a busy and exciting start to the year. We hope that you enjoyed the holidays and found time to rest and relax.

At the beginning of this new school year, we wanted to take the time to inform you of the events planned and the expectations that we hold for the students. This will ensure a smooth transition for our team – the students, parents and teachers.

This year our class names are drawn from a variety of books. Can you guess what they are? Have you read them?

About the Year 2 Team

Mrs Jennifer Harvey
Welcome to 2016 and 2H. My name is Jennifer Harvey and I teach the year 2 class called ‘The Rainbow Fish.’ I enjoy reading and value health and fitness. I look forward to helping my students develop their reading and comprehension skills as well as promoting their confidence to apply numeracy skills to everyday applications. I enjoy working with children to develop specific learning goals and also enjoy helping them celebrate when these goals are achieved.

Mrs Zelda James
Hello everyone!
I’m thrilled to be working with the children in the Year 2 Platypuses this year. They continue to amaze me with their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. I have had the pleasure of working at Garran Primary for the last 5 years. I worked with the wonderful students in the Learning Support Unit for the last 4 years and prior to that, had a delightful 5/6 ALP class.
This year I’m looking forward to working with the 1/2 team - They are certainly a talented crew!

Miss Emily Weber
My name is Emily Weber and I am a Year 1/2 teacher at Garran Primary School. I was born and raised in Canberra. I graduated from the University of Canberra in 2014 with a Bachelor of Education. I spent my first year working part time at Garran Primary School alongside Penny Taylor-Yates. I am lucky enough to spend another year here on my own class, team teaching with Sharen Lyons and the Year 1/ 2 Starfish. I enjoy being active and spending time outdoors. I love to escape to the coast during the warm weather months to relax and read a book on the beach. I am a part of the Garran netball team, playing alongside teachers across all year levels and have a passion for gymnastics. I am looking forward to the year ahead as a new educator and getting to know and teach the wonderful students at Garran Primary School.

Mrs Sharen Lyons
Hello, my name is Sharen Lyons and I have been teaching at Garran Primary for 10 years. During this time I have taught all grades from Kindergarten through to Year 6. In 2011 I went to university (UNSW) to complete postgraduate studies in gifted education. I found this extremely rewarding and have enjoyed teaching students in this area ever since. I enjoy reading, travel and bushwalking. I look forward to meeting you all in the coming weeks.

Mrs Suzanne Prowse
My name is Suzanne Prowse. This year I will be teaching music from Kindergarten to Year 6 and also taking the senior choir. I enjoy leading a choir out of school hours and have expertise in a range of dance genres. I am an experienced teacher and have taught all ages from Preschool to Year 12.

Mrs Fiona Quigley
This is my eighth year teaching Indonesian at Garran Primary. I have also taught Indonesian at a number of other schools, including Weetangera, Turner and Majura Primary Schools. I’m married and have one daughter who is working in London and a son who has started an Engineering degree in Sydney. I love teaching children that learning another language is FUN! Away from school, I enjoy going to the gym, cooking, photography, going to the beach and travelling, both within Australia and overseas.
Mrs Frances Gleeson
2016 is my seventh year at Garran PS in the EALD (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) and literacy support role. My main goal is to provide reading and writing support to students who may benefit from a little extra literacy assistance. I plan and collaborate closely with our terrific classroom teachers and work with students both in the classroom and on a withdrawal basis. When not thinking ‘literacy’, I can be found attempting to control my garden or racing off to a yoga class!

Ms Jodie Lawson-Santos
Hello Year 1! I am married to a Spaniard and we have two teenagers. Students may call me, ‘Ms L-S’. I have been teaching for over twenty years and have taught all grades from Kindergarten through to Year 10. I am passionate about school being a significant place for students and their families and have post graduate qualifications in gifted education. I am very excited to be teaching Science and Mathematics at Garran School this year.

Mrs Penny Taylor-Yates – Team Leader
My name is Penny Taylor-Yates and I am lucky enough to be the Executive Teacher for the Year 2 team. My pride and passion for students is at the heart of everything that I do. In handing my son Patrick over to new carers in his new room at childcare, I have great appreciation for the trust that you place in your child’s teachers and I look forward to earning yours this year. This year I take on a slightly different role, with the privilege of leading the K-2 team and conducting the School Bands and Recorder Ensembles. I am passionate about Early Childhood Education, and exposing children to the wonderful literature that is available to them. I enjoy working with students to help them gain the literacy and numeracy skills that will set them up for life. Most of all I look forward to providing an environment for your child to develop their love of learning and to help them discover their hidden (or perhaps already discovered) talents. In my spare time I love to read and watch mysteries. My love of chocolate is well known and one of my favourite activities is going out for breakfast with family and friends. I look forward to meeting you all as the year progresses.

The Learning and Teaching Program

English
Our writing focus for this term will begin with a blitz on sentence structure, grammar and punctuation. We will then focus on the writing of information reports, recounts and exposition. Students will be reading a range of texts that explore rich vocabulary to enhance their own writing skills. Our reading program consists of shared reading, independent reading, guided reading and home reading. Guided Reading will commence at the beginning of week four. If you have any time to spare we would appreciate any assistance you can give us at this time.

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

Mathematics
This term our Mathematics program will focus on place value, recognising and ordering numbers to 1000, addition, subtraction, multiplication, length, area, capacity, mass, time and 2D shapes.

Students will be working in differentiated groups rather than within their classes. This will enable 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.

Students’ learning will continue to be supported by Mathletics. This subscription was included in your child’s book pack.

Integrated Studies – History and Geography
This term the students will investigate the history and environment of the Cotter Region. Students will investigate the following questions:

What is the significance of the Cotter region?
How have humans impacted on the Cotter region?
Why is sustaining the Cotter environment important?

This unit will include an excursion out to the Cotter on Thursday 3rd March. Students will explore the environment, walk to the dam, seek out the flora and fauna of the region and have a picnic lunch.
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 brings a sunsmart hat in order to take part in these fun lessons. Later this term students from K-2 will participate in a Water Fun Day at school, while students in 3-6 attend the Swimming Carnival. 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
During the first few weeks of Term 1 students will learn or revise ways of engaging in simple conversations, noticing how culture affects the ways we greet others and ask for information. Later in the term we will begin a unit of work called ‘Mari Kita Bermain’ (Let’s Play).

Music
Students in Year 2 will follow the ‘Upbeat’ program by Jeffrey Leask. In Term 1 they will focus on beat and rhythm and learn the difference between them. They will look at rise and fall, high and low and patterns, in pitch. Using the Kodaly method, songs, tuned and non-tuned percussion and body movement will be used to consolidate student’s understanding. The Curwen hand signs will be taught. Other dances will be used in addition to the Upbeat program.

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.

Homework
Homework will begin in week 5. ALL 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**

- **Wednesday 17 February:** Parent Information Evening
- **Friday 26 February:** Assembly, 11.30am
- **Tuesday 1 March:** Garran Government Excursion, Parliament House
- **Thursday 3 March:** Cotter Dam
- **Friday 4 March:** School Clean Up Australia Day, 11.30am
- **Friday 11 March:** Water Fun Day (Preschool – Year 2)
- **Monday 14 March:** Canberra Day
- **Friday 18 March:** Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am
- **Tuesday 22 March:** Christian Education in Schools (CEIS)
- **Wednesday 23 March:** CEIS
- **Friday 25 March:** Good Friday
- **Monday 28 March:** Easter Monday
- **Thursday 7 April:** Cross Country: 11.30am - 1pm (K-2)
- **Friday 8 April:** Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am

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 1**
- 24 February
- 23 March

**Term 2**
- 18 May
- 15 June

**Term 3**
- 10 August
- 7 September

**Term 4**
- 2 November
- 30 November

You are cordially invited to attend.