

20th March 2018

Grade 2 Newsletter

Future Dates

- * Wednesday 21st March: Harmony Day
- * Monday 16th of April: Term 2 starts back
- * Thursday 26th of April: "Mind and Body" incursion
- * Swimming in Term 2 (dates to be confirmed)

Home Learning

- Daily reading: please remember to read with your child each day.
- Discover and Discuss has been successful in term 1, please continue to assist your children with this.
- Home spelling words will begin to come home in term 2.

Student Wellbeing

Encourage your children to focus on mindfulness using the 'Smiling Mind' App or completing mindful colouring. 'Cosmic Kids' on Youtube also have some wonderful, child-friendly yoga videos which encourage the children to be present, stretch and be mindful. We do these at school and therefore your child should be familiar with them.

Unit of Inquiry

This term, the students in Grade 2 have been inquiring into "How We Organize Ourselves". They have been inquiring into how effective systems are developed and created to organize communities. The students learnt about different systems in the school and wider community. Their summative task for the unit involved them re-creating and improving a system of their choice.

The students enjoyed an excursion to Bendigo Bank where they learnt about money and bank systems. They also had a visit from the Melbourne and Colingwood Football Clubs and asked lots of inquisitive questions about how their systems work.

This week, we are beginning our new unit of inquiry "Who We Are". This unit will have the students inquiring into how "understanding ourselves empowers us in our daily life". The children will be exploring:

- * Emotional and physical responses in different situations
- * How personal strengths and preferences are connected to success
- * Strategies for dealing with new or unfamiliar situations

The key concepts of this unit are change, connection and responsibility. The related concepts to these are behavior, success and self-regulation. We will also look at fostering particular learner profiles and attitudes such as being balanced, reflective, independent, tolerant and committed. We encourage you to continue fostering these at home with your children as well.

Numeracy

In term 1, students continued learning about place value, addition, money and calendars.

- * Place value: using 3-4 digit numbers, ordering numbers, odd and even numbers, representing numbers with materials, breaking numbers into thousands, hundreds, tens and ones.
- * Addition: learning about different addition strategies such as counting on, doubles, turn arounds and more. We are trying to use these strategies instead of our fingers.
- * Money: recognizing and ordering money, counting and adding different types of coins and notes and finding change.
- * Calendars: ordering months and seasons, developing calendar language e.g. fortnights, yesterday, next week and reading events on a calendar. Keep a look out for monthly calendars that will come home in reader folders!

Next term, we will be looking at subtraction, multiplication, division and many other topics.

Literacy

Reading: we have been learning to compare and contrast ideas in texts. Students have learnt to predict and sequence when reading fiction texts.

Writing: we have focused on narrative writing and including adjectives, verbs and nouns. Students have also learnt about "sizzling starts" and have been trying to include all of these things in their Big Writes each fortnight.

Spelling: we are continuing to introduce the new SMART spelling system in the classroom, which you will begin to see coming home in term 2.



Incursion with the Melbourne Football Club



Interviewing grade 6 students about our school system



Excursion to the Bendigo Bank