Around the Grades—Term 3

Prep/1

In Geography, we will be working through a unit called, “Where in the World Are We?” which focuses on the features of different environments. We will look at how we can care for different places and using some simple mapping strategies to describe location and direction. We will study the school environment, the local town environment and features of our homes.

In “Catching on Early”, we will learn about body parts and explore basic health needs. This will include the identification of what contributes to a positive social relationship and recognising that everyone needs someone who cares for them, whatever age they are.

Grade 1/2

Term 3 will be a very busy Term for Grade 1 / 2. As well as having 3-Way conferences and the School Production we also have the Grade 2 Sleepover! In class we are learning about Geography, our big question being “How are other countries different from Australia”. Students will study countries unique characteristics and compare them to Australia. The country we are studying will become the weekly focus, where our Writing, Reading and Maths learning will be influenced by that country. Please feel free to come drop in and chat if you have any questions or concerns. 9-10am is still our time for reading helpers and all are welcome.

Grade 3/4

It is going to be a busy, but adventurous Term 3 in the Grade 3/4 classroom. We will be delving into even trickier mathematical operations and word problems as well as some mapping and measurement. In addition to this we will be starting to use some exciting aspects and activities from the VCOP program (vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation) to complement our writer’s workshop. As well as introducing special comprehension groups to our reading program, we will also be looking at geography this term with a focus on Africa and South America. Of course our art, social and sports lessons will continue. Did I mention it is going to be busy? As always any questions or queries feel free to drop by.

Grade 5/6

How do people affect Australia and the world around us?

Grade 5/6 will spend this term exploring maps and their features. Investigating uses and problems with land in Australia which is then to be extended to other countries. Students will make comparisons of their environments and other influencing factors.

Community Noticeboard

Fish Creek Kindergarten are hosting a Learning Stone Opening Ceremony Monday 4th August 2 Ryan St Fish Creek Start time 2:00pm All welcome Come and enjoy the celebrations—be entertained by the children’s drama performance, singing and displays.

Fish Creek and District Primary School Newsletter 24th July 2014

Important Dates

July
- Monday 21-24th: RSPCA Pet Photo Competition
- Thursday 31st: NED Show—Social Skills Incursion

August
- Friday 1st: Parent Opinion Surveys Due back
- Sunday 3rd: Working Bee
- Friday 8th: Trivia Night
- Tuesday 12th: School Council
- Wednesday 27th: Phil Kettle Incursion

September
- Thursday 11th: School Concert—Matinee 1.30pm Evening 7.00pm
- Thursday 18th: Grade 2 Sleepover

VIB Initiative Begins!

This week we launched our new VIB (Very Important Bucketholder) initiative. 5 students (one from each class) was randomly selected by our school captains at Monday mornings assembly. Their photos have been on display on the big whiteboard in the assembly area and their bucket has been filled with lots of positive messages from other students and staff throughout the week. We would like to invite parents to attend our Friday assemblies—especially when your child is the weekly VIB—as they will share their favourite messages and take home their droplets in an origami bucket. We are very excited about this new initiative and hope it will help build a strong sense of connectedness, kindness and help promote positive mental health and wellbeing.
**Working Bees**
The Building and Grounds Committee met this week to organise the Winter Working Bee on Sunday 3rd August, from 10.00am. We will be focusing on the outside and also inside the 5/6 building. The outside group will be doing general gardening and pruning and will need to bring tools such as pruning saws, secateurs, shovels, rakes, brooms, chain saws, ladders, pressure cleaners, leaf blowers, utes/trailers etc. The inside group will be painting and moving and assembling furniture and will need to bring paint brushes, drop sheets, tape, rollers, ladders, drills, screwdrivers etc. If anyone has any leftover paint they think might be suitable to brighten up the 5/6 building bring that along too! Please contact Richard Gange or Tara Ellard for more information. The Working Bee will go ahead regardless of the weather.

**NED Show**
On Thursday 31st July we will be holding a special incursion called the NED Show. NED stands for "Never Give Up, Encourage Others and Do Your Best." Attached to this newsletter is some more information about the show and the unique "Pay-It-Forward" payment option. Parents are welcome to attend the session which will run from 2.30pm in the gym. Check out the website for more information [http://www.thenedshow.com/](http://www.thenedshow.com/)

**Muesli Bar Monday**
A reminder that every Monday this term we will be continuing to hold Muesli Bar Monday. We have 2 flavours; Cranberry and Pepitas and Quinoa and Chia Seeds. So far we have raised $210 for "thankyou" projects. Sales from these bars provides access to food for people in need. The unique bar codes on the boxes enable us to track exactly where the money is going. So far we have donated much needed funds to communities in Kenya and Cambodia. [http://www.thankyou.co/](http://www.thankyou.co/)

**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)**
If you are in receipt of a Health Care Card or are a Foster Parent you are eligible for the EMA allowances. Please contact the office for an application form. Those who received an EMA payment in the 1st term need not re-apply. Applications close 1st August 2014.

**Trivia Night**
The PnF is once again holding its Bi-annual Trivia Night. This year it will be held on Friday 8th August at the Footy Social Rooms. Tickets are $20 each. This is the major fundraiser for the year, so please come along and help raise funds for the school whilst having a fun night. You can either organise a table for 8-10 people or just put your name down and we will organise a table for you. Please see Irene for bookings.

**Parent Opinion Survey**
In the next few days the annual Parent Opinion Survey will be distributed to a random sample of parents. If you do receive one, could you please complete it and return it by Friday August 1st, 2014. The survey is anonymous and your child's name on the return envelope will only be used to record the return of the survey.

**Tidy Team Award**
This week's Tidy Team Award went to Prep/1. Congratulations and thank you for keeping our school tidy.

**Value of the Term**
This term’s value is Fairness. Fairness is giving people what they need, when they need it. That means playing by the rules, taking turns and sharing, and giving everybody a fair chance. What does fairness mean in your house?

**RSPCA Fundraiser**
This week Eryn & Emma with the help of Amelia, Hannah & Jazlyne held the pet photo competition. The judging occurred today and the winners will be announced at assembly tomorrow. They will also report this in next week’s newsletter along with the total amount raised.

**Term 3, Issue 21**

**VIBs of the Week**
We are excited to be introducing the students to the story, "How Full is Your Bucket? For Kids" by Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer. The message is that we all have invisible buckets (our emotional wellbeing reserve) and these have different amounts of water (happiness, resilience, strength) in them at different times. We chose to use this story as it allows us to talk about how people can take responsibility to fill their own bucket, how kindness to others fills both the receiver and the giver’s bucket. It also allows us to talk about the reverse—where someone dips from a bucket through unkind or thoughtless acts. We believe this is an easily understood analogy for people of all ages to talk about emotional and mental health and wellbeing. So, please keep an eye out for buckets popping up around the school. If you have any questions about the bucket story please come and chat with one of the teachers or click on the link below to view the story: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5R6-2m_dik](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5R6-2m_dik)

**Student’s names will be drawn out of a bucket at Monday mornings’ assembly. Their bucket will be filled up with “droplets” of kind messages completed by other students, their classroom teacher and other staff during the week. These will be presented at Friday’s assembly and the student’s photo, along with their favourite droplets and the one from their teacher will be acknowledged in the following week’s newsletter.**

**Beans Galore!**
This week the Prep/1 students were all given a special hand knitted beanie from Rosemary Garland of Inverloch. Rosemary is a regular client of Iain Vernon’s and often gives Audrey small gifts. This time the whole class were lucky to receive something. We would like to thank Rosemary for her kindness and generosity and for adding an extra droplet to everyone’s bucket in Prep/1.

**PNF Meeting**
The PnF will meet tomorrow at 9.00am in the staffroom to organize the Trivia Night. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

**Model Planes**
The planes for the RSL competition at the Foster Show have arrived. If your child ordered one, please ensure payment is made and then the planes can be sent home.

**What is happening this term in some of our specialist subjects?**

**PE**
Welcome back everyone to Term 3. This term the students will be developing their own minor game to teach their classmates. They will be looking at what makes a game successful and fun! The students will learn from participating in a myriad of minor games and then use these learnt skills to help develop their own, from what equipment is needed, to safety aspects to what fundamental motor skills they are training, and many more. It is amazing how many things you need to consider when playing even the simplest of games. I have also introduced circuit training into each class, covering skills, such as running, jumping, shooting goals, skipping and other aerobic activities. The students will be challenged to better their scores from the previous week, as their fitness increases. I think we are all very lucky to have a gym to work in, but especially during these cold winter months, so PE can go on rain, hail or shine! Please remember runners on Thursdays!

**ICT**
Students will be using the topic of Bucket Filling as a vehicle for their learning in ICT for much of the term. All students will be comparing different ways of delivering messages through ICT applications and discussing which application they believe is best for different tasks. Grade Prep, 1 and 2 will be using iPads to share their new learning. Grade 3/4 students will refine their net book skills and look at the importance of passwords and practices for keeping themselves safe when on line. Grade 5/6 students will start to use a shared learning space - Edmodo, enabling them to learn about cyber safety and cyber practices.