

**Kurunjang Primary School**

***‘Learning Together’***

**Grade 2 Newsletter – Term 1 2023**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Learning Together**

We would like to take the chance to welcome all of our families and students back to school for an exciting new year. The Grade 2 teachers have been busy preparing for the year ahead and are excited to embark on an exciting journey of learning during Term 1.

**What’s New in Term 1:**

This year we have a new team in Grade 2. Ana is our team leader and is new to Grade 2. Estelle is very experienced with the lower year levels and has worked with a number of our current Grade 2 students. Both James and Hannah have worked in Grade 2 for a number of years prior to joining Kurunjang Primary School last year. We are all very POSITIVE about 2023 and we are looking forward to an AMAZING year!

**Important Reminders:**

Please remember that students need their hats in Term 1 as the weather remains warm. Those UV rays are out even on cloudy days, so ensure that your child has sunscreen applied on high UV days. You can check the daily UV rating on the Bureau of Meteorology website, which can be downloaded for the App Store or Play Store.

Drink bottles filled with water are an important part of your child’s day as they are able to sip water when they get thirsty. This keeps them hydrated, prevents heat related effects on hot days and allows them to maximise their learning without interruptions.

Just a reminder that students have a fruit break each day in the morning, so please supply your child with a healthy piece of fruit or vegetable to enjoy.

Students should bring a library bag on their library day; library days are listed below. These bags can be a plastic bag from home or a previously designated canvas bag from previous years. This year, students can borrow up to three books per week if they like. They can keep their books for the fortnight if they wish.

**What are we learning in Term 1?**

In Reading, students will be building their understanding of texts by making predictions before, during and after reading. They will be learning many different strategies for solving words and for self-correcting when they have made an error. Students will also be making connections between their prior knowledge and experiences and the texts they are reading.

In Writing, students will be following the ‘Writing Workshop’ and learning how to develop their writing skills. Students will learn and extend their skills with writing words and sentences legibly using the correct letter formations and pencil grips. We will be exploring recounts and other writing genres that encourage students to become confident writers.

In Mathematics, students will explore counting patterns and developing their number sense. They will move into time, where they will investigate clocks and days of the week. The remainder of the term will see students developing their skills and knowledge of place value.

In Social and Emotional Learning/Respectful Relationships, students will be exploring their own emotional literacy. They will identify important emotions and how we express these with our body language. Students will identify and describe personal coping skills and explain how these contribute to family and school life. They will discuss the ways in which they can use self-calming strategies to manage themselves in stressful situations. They will also be exploring ways to build their resilience.

**Specialist Programs:**

**PE -** Students will further develop their throwing (rolling, underarm, overarm) and catching (arms/chest and hands) skills. Students will participate in minor team games focusing on following rules, playing fairly and working cooperatively with others. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in an 8 day intensive swimming program with a focus on personal survival and stroke technique.

**Performing Arts -** Students will continue their exploration and learning about how ideas and stories can be imagined and communicated through drama. They improvise and create roles, characters, and situations. They share their drama with peers and experience drama as audiences. Students learn about safety in dramatic play and in interaction with other peers.

**Science -** In Science, students will explore the common features of living things by investigating their basic needs, including food, water and shelter. They will research what is living in our school yard and identify specific habitats where small animals live. Students will respond to and pose questions, make predictions and record their observations. A particular focus will be expanding student vocabulary, thus providing students with the ability to describe in detail the small animals they find.

**Visual Art** -In Term 1 students in year 2 will be investigating drawing using a variety of drawing tools such as markers. They will explore drawing by creating an artwork which uses lines and contrasting colours in an interesting way.

**Auslan** - In Auslan students will revise: ‘‘What is Auslan?’ (Australian Sign Language), the Auslan Alphabet, and frequently used signs associated with colours, family, school, farm animals, and how to describe animals. The students will also learn to sign numbers in Auslan using their dominant hand. This learning will be introduced through explicit sign teaching, songs, poems, and stories.

**Specialist Timetable:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **2 Ana** | **- Library** | **- Performing Arts** |  | **- P.E**  **- Science**  **- AUSLAN** | **- Visual Art** |
| **2 Estelle** | **- AUSLAN** | **- Performing Arts** | **- P.E**  **- Library** | **- Visual Art** | **- Science** |
| **2 Hannah** | **- Performing Arts** | **- Library**  **- AUSLAN** | **- Visual Art** | **- P.E** | **- Science** |
| **2 Kirk** | **- Visual Art** | **- Performing Arts**  **- AUSLAN** | **- P.E**  **- Science**  **- Library** |  |  |

**Important Dates:**

**Term 1 dates:**

**First day of Term:** Tuesday 31st of January

**Family Fun Day:** Wednesday 15th of February

**Parent Teacher Conferences:** Wednesday 22nd of February

**Photo Day** - Wednesday 1st March

**Labour Day** - Monday 13th of March

**Swimming Program** - Monday 27th of March until Thursday 6th of April

**End of Term** - Thursday 6th of April

**The Grade 2 Team:**

Ana Kralj (Team Leader), Estelle van Sittert, Hannah Gould and James Kirk

