

GRADE 5 NEWSLETTER

Term 1, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to all of the students and parents who will be part of the Grade 5 team this year. The grades are as follows:

Grade 5A (Room 23) - Mr. Mike Sisson

Grade 5B (Room 24) - Mr. Nick Bevilacqua

Grade 5C (Room 27) - Miss Rebecca Clark

Grade 5D (Room 27A) - Mrs. Sharon Day-Askham

Thank you to all those parents who made sure that their child had a book box, hat, art smock, library bag and tissue box on the first day of school. If any of these items have been overlooked, we would much appreciate them being brought into school as soon as possible to ensure a smooth and happy start to the year for students....and their teachers! ☺

Some key dates for your diaries this term:

- Monday 13th February - School Swimming Carnival
- Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st February - Parent/Teacher Meet and Greet
- Monday 13th March - Labour Day Public Holiday
- Friday 17th March - National Ride to School Day
- Friday 24th March - Grade 4/5 Grand Prix Excursion
- Friday 24th March - School Carnival
- Friday 31st March - last day of Term 1

It's a good idea to read the school newsletter to keep up to date with school activities, term dates, public holidays and curriculum days. Also check out the school website:

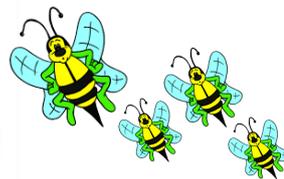
www.bellbridgeps.vic.edu.au and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BellbridgePrimary

School Times

School starts for all students at 8:20am and students have tasks to complete from the first bell, while the rolls are taken and money/letters are being collected. **Late arrival can seriously hinder student progress and will make it hard for them to settle into the daily routines.**



Hats During Term 1 and Term 4, students are required to wear blue hats (i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hat), whenever they are outside. Students not wearing a hat will be required to play in the courtyard during recess and lunch.



Parent/Teacher Meet & Greet

In order to provide the best learning opportunities for your child, we want to ensure the best home-school partnership possible. We are therefore keen for all parents to meet with their child's classroom teacher at the start of the year. We look forward to meeting you on the 20th or 21st February (notes to follow soon).

Netbooks

The Grade 5s will be undertaking their second year in the netbook program, building on the great work and skill development done in Grade 4. Please ensure home users bring their netbooks to school, each day, fully charged.



We are hoping that as many of you will take up the lease option (\$60 per term, or \$200 for the whole year), in order that your child can have the use of their netbook to fully utilise the tools available, including the use of netbooks to complete homework tasks. Those parents who paid \$60 before the holidays can still get the discounted annual cost, by paying the remaining \$140 by the end of week 2.

Homework

Homework will begin at home in week 3, with homework standards being set up in class prior to being sent home. Homework will be handed out and explained each Monday and will be expected back each Friday for correction. Homework expectations are:



Daily: To read for 15 mins (noted in diary with parent signature).

Per week: Complete one English task, one Maths task and one Inquiry activity.

Homework should not be stressful or too time consuming. The activities support what is being done in class and students should aim to complete tasks to the best of their ability.

On-going communication - Student Diaries

Diaries will be given to all students and we ask that they are checked and signed by parents each week (beginning in week 3). This is a great way for students to organise their school and homework demands, also ensuring parents and teachers have effective communication with each other.



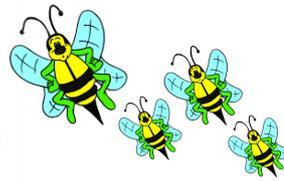
If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please feel free to arrange an appropriate meeting time. Problems are usually easier to resolve if they are dealt with promptly.

If your child is absent/sick/late, please inform us in writing so that the office can maintain up to date records.

Grade 4/5 Camp

This year the Grade 4/5 school camp will be held at Arrabri Lodge, Warburton. This is our three day 'bush' camp and takes place from Monday 16th- Wednesday 18th October. The cost will be approximately \$250. We hope as many children as possible will be able to participate in this positive experience and we will be sending out notes in Term 2 to begin organising this year's camp.





Term 1 Inquiry Unit: My Place in the World

This term we will be looking at cyber-safety and how we can be proficient global citizens in an ever-changing world. This term we will also be looking at rules and laws, and the roles of different levels of government, along with the rights and responsibilities of being an Australian citizen. We will continue to develop our 1:1 netbook program, building on the core skills from last year and develop guidelines for working online, with the later intention of setting up class blogs. We will also be making preparations for our annual School Carnival.



English in Term 1

Students will be expected to complete 20 minutes of independent reading in class each day. During this time, teachers will be completing one-on-one reading conferences with students, to determine appropriate reading goals for your child. Reading activities in class will involve focusing on a range of comprehension strategies. In writing sessions, students will be focusing on persuasive writing, where they will have the opportunity to be involved in class and year level debates. They will also be introduced to narrative writing later this term. Students will also have a weekly spelling and grammar focus.

Maths in Term 1

This week, students will be completing a pre-Term 1 maths assessment, which will give classroom teachers an indication of existing skills and understandings, and will be used to drive our teaching this term. We will also be focusing on the following areas:

Number and Algebra: Problem-solving

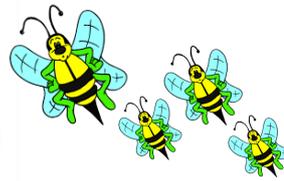
Measurement and Geometry: Time and Angles

Statistics and Probability: Data and Graphing

Students will complete weekly maths challenges in class, to instil good mental arithmetic practices, with trophies handed out at each Monday assembly.

Specialist Programs

Students will receive specialist tuition in the areas of Physical Education, Art, Performing Arts and S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). There may also be the opportunity for Grade 5s to participate in interschool sport with our Grade 6 students throughout the year.



School Wide Positive Behaviours & Earn and Learn

Be SAFE Be RESPECTFUL Be RESPONSIBLE Be a LEARNER

In keeping with the establishment of the whole school approach to student wellbeing, Grade 5 students will be involved in discussing common rights and responsibilities and how these impact on classrooms, and the school in general. Students will receive rewards through collecting individual bee tokens, whole-class beehives, as well as the Grade 5 Earn and Learn incentive program.



Rewards will include involvement in special excursions, such as trips to the 2017 Australian Grand Prix!

Active Travel

Every Wednesday is 'Wheel and Walk Wednesday', where we encourage students to walk or ride a bike, scooter, or skateboard to school. For those that live too far from school, we encourage students to get dropped off on one of our Active Paths and walk or ride the rest of the way. Each Wednesday, classroom teachers collect data on how our students travelled to school. We have seen great improvements in our school's active travel rate since the implementation of this program, and we look forward to seeing this rate continue to improve.

Bike Education

As part of the Active Travel program, we have introduced a Bike Education program at Bellbridge, with our Grade 5 students, to encourage more students to ride to school on a daily basis. We intend to commence this program in Term 1. We ask that students bring in a road-worthy bike and helmet to these sessions and it would be excellent preparation if you could discuss with your child some basic safety checks. For students who do not have access to their own bike and/or helmet, the school has purchased a small set of spare bikes and helmets which will be accessible to students.



We look forward to working in partnership with you this year and having a very successful 2017 year.

Regards, Grade 5 Team. 😊