

**OVERPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT**  
February 2016

**Foundation/Prep - Mr Ricky Joyce**

All Foundation students have started school with a smile. The benefits of our transition sessions during Dec 2015 have paved the way for smooth beginning to school at Overport Primary.

Our major focus for term one is for students to get to know each other, their teacher, their buddy and the school surroundings. We have completed our education department required English Online Interview to form a base line set of data for each student. We will use this data to formulate our curriculum requirements for Semester One. It was enjoyable getting to know the students and parents in a one-on-one environment. We spent time discussing our findings and allowing parents to share information about their child.

Our Term Overview explores:

- Counting and Exploring numbers from 1-10
- The letters and sounds of the alphabet
- Personal and Recount Writing
- 'All about me' inquiry focus
- The parts of a computer and how to turn it on
- A variety of shapes
- Making Friends, learning routines and taking turns.

We have commenced our Buddy Program for 2016, with the Foundation students meeting their buddy grades and exploring the school grounds. Students will spend one session every Friday for Term One getting to know their buddy and learning the school rules.

Students have commenced specialist classes and we have had excellent reports back from all teachers about how independent and polite all students have been.

**Year 1 - Mr Sam Rodwell**

The year one team, and students, have both made a smooth transition in to the new school year. Our early learning has been heavily grounded in student wellbeing and setting into school and classroom rules and expectations. The students responded extremely well to these learning experiences and explored the ideas and actions that contribute to being a 'good friend' at Overport Primary School. The Year One teachers relished the opportunity to get to know their new classes and are now well underway teaching core subject areas.

In Level 1, the mathematics focus will be strongly grounded in number development and place value. Students have, and will continue to, use manipulative materials such as counters, ten frames, number lines, bundling sticks and unifix blocks to explore and develop these skills. The curriculum will place an early focus on the numbers 0 - 9 before exploring 10's; the numbers 20 - 99, and finally the numbers 11-19. The year one team has planned these learning experiences around Michael Ymer style games and stories and are extremely pleased with the level of engagement shown from the students.

Early writing sessions have focused heavily on basic writing skills such as letter formation, pencil grip, and writing posture. The students have also been busily completing personal writing pieces such as poems, recounts and letters and will continue to do so for the term. Literacy sessions across the level have mainly focused on introductory lessons to VCOP, Sound Waves, Margaret Menner comprehension strategies and reading/decoding strategies. These areas of learning are being addressed in class through big books and classroom discussion. The teachers are busily collating letter and sound data, reading levels and Magic Word scores in order to better form guided reading groups for morning literacy sessions.

As a whole, the team is very pleased with how the kids are tracking and would like to mention the excellent home support we are receiving from parents. A high number of students are actively participating in home reading and bringing signed reading journals to school every day.

**Year 2 - Mrs Amber Ellery**

The year 2 students have made a terrific start to the school year. After a week of 'getting to know you' activities, the year 2 teachers feel that all of the children have settled into the school structure and classroom routine extremely well. The 'wellbeing week', with a focus on student engagement and building positive relationships has been an invaluable start to the school year.

During our writing sessions, there has been a focus on personal writing. The students have completed personal writing pieces about their holidays, their family and themselves. This has been a lovely way to get to know each other and establish positive relationships within our classroom.

During our numeracy sessions we have been focussing on Place Value and Exploring Numbers to 1000. The students have participated in a variety of interactive Maths games, Mathletics, dice games and card games to consolidate their understanding.

During our reading sessions, we have been revising some reading strategies we use to assist us when attempting unknown words. The teachers have been modelling how we can use visual cues, meaning cues, structure cues and picture cues within the text. We have also been focusing on using our 'prior knowledge' to assist us with our reading.

### **Year 3 - Mrs Chelle Gray**

The first few weeks of the year have been incredibly busy and exciting in the year 3 area as we get to know the students and they get to know us. The students enjoyed the first, "Getting to Know You" week-and-a-day activities, and the Planks incursion in the next week. As we settle into a new timetable and routine, we are continuing to set and model expectations for the students and refer to the agreed rules and consequences that we set with the input of each of our classes.

We have begun our literacy sessions with big books, buddy and independent reading and writing recounts and poetry. We have focussed on retelling a story, re-reading for understanding, self-correcting and making connections to the text that is being read; one class made frogs and wrote about the connections they made while reading "Lester and Clyde". The students are really enjoying these lessons and have really demonstrated a love of reading. These sessions largely integrate with writing have also been focussed on capital letters, full stops, abbreviations, nouns, pronouns, rhyming words and using the correct language for a recount. The students have begun writing rhyming poetry this week.

Our integrated unit for the term is "Community" and we have been having discussions on what a community is and people's roles within them. These have been within our literacy sessions and have included books such as "Helping Out is Cool" and activities such as drawing and writing about where they live, work and play.

Numeracy began with a pre-test of the students' current abilities in the topic "Number Sense and Place Value". They are working on activities to help them understand the concepts of the value of each digit in a number and how to read and write them. The students have been playing dice and card games, and working with materials such as MAB blocks, sticks for bundling and Unifix cubes to assist them with their understanding.

### **Year 4 - Miss Jess Lake**

We have had a wonderful start to 2016 in Year 4 - welcoming new students (and a new teacher), meeting parents and getting to know each other. The planks incursion was great way to meet others and interact in a fun and creative way. This term, we have introduced some new concepts in literacy: reader's workshop, which encourages students to track their thinking as they read and demonstrate their comprehension skills; and writer's notebook, which is a notebook full of writing ideas to add to and use throughout the year.

We have begun looking at place value in maths and are utilising more investigation tasks which require application of skills and encourage students to use mathematical thinking.

Our inquiry topic this term is Our Community, which focuses on rules and laws and what makes a good citizen. We look forward to our incursion on the 2nd of March.

### **Year 5 - Mr David Pryor**

It has been a positive and busy start to year five for 2016. We have welcomed our new teacher Nikki Seeckts in to our team and she has enjoyed getting to know her students in 5D. All four classes have engaged in 'Getting To Know You Week' and the entire year level is working productively and cooperatively at every opportunity.

We have also begun to settle into our individual classroom routines with special emphasis on protocol, Senior School expectations and leadership opportunities. The students are fully aware and excited about demonstrating their leadership aspirations with a view to the coveted positions in 2017!

Our inquiry unit has also generated much excitement and has been linked with our homework for the term. Each Monday a letter is drawn in each class at random and students complete a mini project on "Earth and Beyond" starting with that letter. Teachers have enjoyed sharing in this learning opportunity and for both students and teachers!

### **Year 6 - Mrs Cathy Houston**

Full steam ahead in year 6! The children have settled really well into being seniors of the school.

Commencing with a Year 6 conference with guest speakers, set the pace for a responsible start back at Overport. We have welcomed 5 new students to the school joining us for our final year of primary school.

There were many excited children receiving leadership roles and being presented with their badges by Frankston Mayor Cr. James Dooley. The afternoon was concluded with a 'biscuit and chat' in the staffroom for parents and the 2016 badge recipients. We have a year level of amazing leaders and all year 6 teachers and specialists have commented on the maturity and caring nature of our children.

We are commencing our inquiry based study about the 'sudden geological changes and extreme weather that affect the earth,' allowing students to work on their scientific knowledge and skills.

In English, assessment tasks have been completed and Big writing, reading, spelling groups and speaking and listening are being enjoyed by our classes.

In mathematics, the children are focusing on skills and the development of maths concepts that will support and/or enrich their capabilities. A big focus on times tables is developing.

Our Year 6 captains have hosted some successful assemblies with a new structure and we all enjoyed the Planks incursion once again. Both these activities have highlighted the children's getting along skills and cooperation.

### **Music**

The first two weeks students have been focusing on 'Getting to Know You' activities and team building exercises. All classes have been working together to achieve certain goals and targets. Students in Years 1 to 6 have started playing basic songs on xylophones, glockenspiels and the keyboards whilst Prep students have started basic percussion activities.

### **Phys Ed**

Prep are learning and developing their basic fundamental motor skills and participating in games involving running, jumping, leaping and dodging. They will be practising personal and social skills and how to interact with others.

Year 1 and 2 students are continuing to develop their basic fundamental motor skills while participating in games involving running, jumping, leaping and dodging. They are using their skills to perform in some athletic events. Students will be learning to include others to make them feel that they belong.

Year 3 and Year 4 students will practise and refine fundamental motor skills associated with performing basic athletic events. Students will discuss rules and regulations associated with each event. Year 4 students will be learning how to give and receive peer feedback whilst working with ICT equipment to improve their performance. Year 3 and 4 students will be learning how they can positively influence relationships and personal wellbeing.

Year 5 and Year 6 students are practising specialised movement skills associated with the Athletic event of their choice. They will build a training and skill development program, with the assistance of ICT. Students will also discuss how these programs can impact on health and wellbeing. Throughout the unit they will be coaching their peers and using ICT to collect data and visual feedback as assessment tools. Students will practice skills to establish and manage relationships.

### **Art**

Prep students have learnt the rules of the art room and wearing smocks in lessons. They are looking at puffer fish, jellyfish and other sea creatures. Grade 1 and 2 children have discovered why we have portholes in ships and submarines and drawn their own view from a porthole. Year three students are working on underwater scenes and using sketching, paint wash and shading techniques. Year 4 students are using sketching and water colour painting techniques to create coral pictures. Grade 5 and 6 children have designed an alien, realistic or mythical hand and created a torn tissue background to complement their hand.

### **LEAP**

Next week we are starting LEAP with 43 students, working in reading, spelling and comprehension.

### **Japanese**

This year we are able to offer Japanese lessons in a Japanese room. There are many positive comments and improved attitudes from many of the students. Many students enjoy looking at the Japanese objects and photos. Some students have started extending their Japanese learning by using dictionaries and some Japanese books during the lesson. This term Year 5 and 6 students participated in planning the learning contents and methods. The students will learn to talk about themselves in Japanese. Their cultural understanding is expanded by reflecting on their interests and the content of their language. Year 3 & 4 students will learn to say their name in a full Japanese sentence, and answer some yes and no questions in Japanese. They will also look up the location of Japan on the world map, and learn about our sister school community and some seasonal festivals in Japan.

### **Wellbeing**

The Planks incursion was a huge success with all grades reporting it as one of their highlights of "Getting to know you week". Life Education begins on February 29<sup>th</sup> with all grades taking part in a 60 or 90 minute session based on health and wellbeing issues relevant to their age group. The Life Education Van will be with us for 9 days.

### **Library**

This term, the Foundation to Year 2 grades have library. The prep students are getting used to the library and the expectations. We have read a couple of their favourite books and they have sang some songs. The Year 1 and 2

students have revised the borrowing rules and read stories like 'The Library Lion' and 'The Gobbity Gook has eaten a Book'. A great start to the year so far!