Term 1, 2016 Year 1 Newsletter
Wednesday 3rd February, 2016

**Dates for your Diary**

Tuesday 11th Feb - Information night (two sessions 6-6.45pm and 7-7.45pm)
Monday 14th March - Labour Day (no School)
Friday 18th March - School Photos
Friday 18th March – Movie Night
Melbourne Aquarium excursion to be confirmed
Friday 25th March - Last Day of Term 1 (2.30pm finish)

Dear Families,
Welcome back to Wattle Park Primary School for another busy and fun filled year. Welcome also to the new families joining us in Year 1. Welcome to Ella and Bella who have just commenced at Wattle Park this year. The children have settled back into school life very well. We are also pleased to introduce Nicole Woertman to W.P.P.S joining Kathy Skantzos in Year 1.

Independent behaviours and work habits are being re-established for the children and are one of the focuses of Year 1 students for this year.

**INFORMATION NIGHT EVENING**
Parent information night will be held on Tuesday 9th February. There will be two sessions: 6.00-6.45pm or 7.00-7.45pm. Attend one session only. It will be held downstairs in the two storey building. We look forward to seeing you there.

**MORNING ROUTINE & INDEPENDENCE**
The music from 8:50am is a reminder to students and parents that the school day is about to begin. Students are able to come inside and put their school bag away, hand in notices and place lunch orders in the basket. Students can then choose whether they would like to stay inside or go outside and continue to play until the bell rings. Once the bell rings all students should move directly to their classroom.

In Year One students are expected to develop their independent behaviours such as putting their own bag away, putting their chair down, handing in any notices, placing lunch orders in the basket (Mondays & Fridays only) etc. These independent behaviours will all be supported and encouraged by the classroom teacher and we ask parents to also be supportive in allowing their child to develop their independence.

**COMMUNICATION FOLDER**
Every student must have a green communication folder so that students can put in take home readers, notices etc. They are available at the uniform shop for $5.00.

**LIBRARY BAG**
Year 1 students will attend a library session to be confirmed soon. Students are expected to have a library bag each week for borrowing.

**HATS**
Already we have noticed that some students are not bringing their hats to school each day. Could you please check your child's bag each day to make sure they have a hat to wear outside while playing and during sport times. It is especially important for students to be wearing their hats on these warm summer days. If a student is wearing their hat they are also then able to play anywhere in the school grounds with their friends instead of being limited to designated shaded areas. We encourage you to support our Sunsmart Policy.

**SPECIALIST PROGRAM**
Year 1 students will participate in a variety of specialist programs including Art with John Davey, Physical Education with James Feather, Performing Arts with Zelema Levy, LOTE with Na Gu and Library with Kim Wheatley. The following timetable indicates the specialist timetable for Year 1 in Term 1.
CAMERON CLOSE
A special feature of the Year 1 literacy program is visiting Cameron Close where the children take a favourite book or take home reader to share with a group of residents. Each Year 1 class will visit every Wednesday on a rotating basis from 11:30 to 12:30pm. The program will begin on Wednesday 24th February. The children eagerly look forward to their visits and close connections are developed with the residents who so generously give their time.

INTEGRATED
Our integrated unit this term is 'Wonders of the Sea'. The students aim to develop the following understandings:

- A wide variety of creatures and plants live in and at the edge of the oceans and rockpools.
- The survival of these things is a delicate balance
- Human beings have a responsibility to care for our marine environments

We encourage you to discuss with your child any knowledge you may have about the topic in order to broaden and strengthen your child’s understanding.

EXCURSION
There will be an excursion this term linked to our Wonders of the Sea Unit to Melbourne Aquarium. The program the students will be participating in is Creature Features – Beneath the Sea. It will be a very exciting time for all!

HOMEWORK
Homework will commence in week 3. Children will receive weekly homework tasks based on current curriculum topics. In Year 1 this will include four tasks that students will be expected to complete over the period of one week. More information will follow shortly.

HOME READING
It continues to be very important that you get back into the daily home reading routine in which you praise all attempts made by your child to trial new reading strategies that they have learned at school. Please sign the reading log each time your child has finished reading their book. Your child will be responsible for changing their reader and selecting a new book each day. This will be done sometime throughout the day which will fit in with the classroom routine.

CLASSROOM MATERIALS
We would appreciate if your family could donate a box of tissues and a bottle of pump hand wash to share with your child’s class. Due to OHS regulations we only accept - Coles Antibacterial Handwash Pump 250mL OR Woolworths Select Handwash Antibacterial Original 250ml

Please give these to the class teacher.

We also request each student please bring a shoebox to school by 14th February. We will be using the boxes in an activity to support our learning of the integrated topic, Wonders of the Sea.

We encourage you to pop in and say hello if we have not yet had a chance to meet. We value the partnership between school and home so that we can support your child to be happy and achieve success in Year 1 in 2014

Kind Regards,

Kathy Skantzos, Nicole Woortman, Gayle Cope