Welcome back to Blackburn Lake Primary School for another exciting year!

Our Level Two teachers are: Diane Aldred, Murray Aeschlimann, David Dowson, Jenn Markham, Deb McDermott and Lesley Munro. We are looking forward to meeting with you at our Parent/Teacher ‘Getting To Know You’ Interviews towards the end of the term. These meetings are very worthwhile because we get to learn, from you, about your child’s development so far.

We have had a wonderful time getting to know your children over the past week. The students have been learning about ‘Beautiful Blackburn Lake’ Primary School and being “On TRRAC” with the school’s core values of Thinking, Respect, Responsibility, Attitude and Caring.

Your child has been given a red school diary. Please use it to communicate with us. Within each date there is a section to record their home reading. If your child is absent there is a small form at the back that you can fill in.

If you have any concerns, questions or queries throughout the term please do not hesitate to contact us through the school diary. We are always willing to talk to you about your child’s progress and want to ensure that the link between home and school remains strong. We hope you and your child have a wonderful year.

During term one and term four, it is a requirement that all students wear a school hat outside. Please ensure it is clearly labelled with their name and that it is at school each day. Some parents may choose to put sunscreen on their child in the morning to further protect them from the sun, others may send a roll-on sunscreen to school: however, it is the child’s responsibility to apply it each day.

During the hot weather, children can get dehydrated. Please be assured we are more than happy for your child to bring a drink bottle or to drink from the drinking taps throughout the day.

Our Term 1 topic is called Australia: From the Past to the Present. The students will be participating in a variety of activities. The first of which is an incursion by the History Box Team. They will be watching an interactive video of life in the 1960s and then exploring tools, objects, clothing and toys from decades past.

The cost of the activities is covered by the excursion levy. If you haven’t already paid please organise payment at the front office.

**MORNING RECESS SNACK, LUNCH AND ‘BRAIN FOOD’**

Please send along a snack for your child to eat at 11.00 am as well as a lunch to be eaten at 1.30 pm. We also encourage ‘BRAIN FOOD’ to be eaten at 10.00 am which is just an ‘easy to eat’ piece of fruit or vegetable sticks. This food is to be eaten quickly so it does not disrupt their work and it gives the students an energy boost. Please include this in addition to their lunch and recess snack. If your child orders a lunch order on Monday, please send along a snack and ‘Brainfood’ as it is a long time to wait for lunch to be delivered at 1.30 pm.
SPECIALISTS

At Blackburn Lake Primary School, your child has the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist classes. Please see below for your child’s specialist class times. The below times are current until the Preps are at school full time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE 1D</th>
<th>GRADE 1J</th>
<th>GRADE 1L</th>
<th>GRADE 2D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italian – Tues 10:20</td>
<td>Italian – Tues 9:00</td>
<td>Italian – Tue 9:40</td>
<td>Italian – Mon 9:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library – Tue 2:30</td>
<td>Library – Fri 9:00</td>
<td>Library – Tue 2:30</td>
<td>Library – Wed 11:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE – Mon 12:10</td>
<td>P.E. – Mon 12:50</td>
<td>PE – Tue 9:00</td>
<td>PE – Tue 10:20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have not yet arranged the following items, please do so as soon as possible since it is essential that your child has them at school.

- Labelled Art smock
- Labelled Library bag
- Labelled wide-brimmed or legionnaire style hat
- Box of tissues
- Green reading book bag (most were at school from last year)

HOMEWORK:

In accordance with our school homework policy, students in grade one will be expected to read their Take Home books every night as homework for Term 1. In Terms 2, 3 and 4 they will also be expected to complete a weekly written spelling task.

Students in grade two will receive a variety of homework tasks throughout the year which will be given out on Tuesday and due back the following Monday. They will also be required to read their Take Home books nightly.
TAKE HOME BOOKS

As part of our school homework policy, your child is expected to read every night. The Take Home books are for enjoyment and should not be too challenging. It is the student’s responsibility to change them every day. It is expected that students will read for 10-15 minutes each night. Please use the new red communication diary to record your child’s daily reading. Below are some hints about how you can help your child with reading.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH READING

- Make a regular time for reading together and make it an enjoyable experience!
- Talk about the book, use the pictures to predict what is going to happen before you even begin reading the book.
- Explore the pictures to decide where the story is taking place. Compare those events and places with those in your own lives.
- Allow your child to look at the pictures – he/she can use them to predict words.
- If your child is having difficulty with an unknown word please prompt them:
  - to look at the picture to gain meaning.
  - to look at the first letter of the word.
  - to go back and re-read the sentence including the unfamiliar word.
  - to break the word up into ‘chunks’ and to say the word slowly. * We do not encourage the sole use of ‘sounding out the word’ as a strategy.*
  - to think about the meaning of the story and what might make sense.
- Read old favourites again and again to promote familiarity and confidence.
- Display an interest in reading – let your child see you reading for enjoyment.
- Discuss the story. What happened? How was the problem resolved?

We are looking forward to a fantastic term!

Warm Regards,

Diane, Murray, David, Jenn, Deb and Lesley.