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

Our level one and two teachers are:

Level 1: Diane Aldred
         Jenn Bowring
         Lesley Munro

Level 2: Carly Curren
         Suellen Hall
         Ewan McAllister

We are looking forward to meeting you at our parent/teacher ‘Getting to Know You’ interviews on Tuesday 17th February. These meetings are very worthwhile and are designed for you to tell us about your child.

We have had a positive start to 2015 and look forward to working with your children over the coming year. The students have been learning about the school's TRRAC values of Thinking, Responsibility, Respect, Attitude and Caring.

Please use your child’s red school diary to communicate with us.

If you have any concerns, questions or queries throughout the term please do not hesitate to contact us. 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 great year.

During term one and term four, it is a requirement that all students wear a school hat outside. Please ensure your child has his/her name clearly labelled inside and brings it to school each day. Some parents may choose to put sunscreen on their child in the morning while others send roll-on sunscreen to school; however, it is the child’s responsibility to apply it if needed during the day.

During the hot weather children need lots to drink. Please ensure you provide your child with a refillable drink bottle. Many thanks!

Our term 1 topic is called ‘Australia From Past To Present’. To enhance the students’ understanding of this topic, we have booked a special incursion called History Box.

By comparing past and present Australian history through stories, lifestyles, transport, clothes, food, games, entertainment and celebrations we gain an understanding about the way we live our lives today.

Please send along a snack for your child to eat at 11:00am as well as a lunch to be eaten at 1:30pm. We also encourage ‘BRAIN FOOD’ to be eaten at 10:00am which is an ‘easy to eat’ fruit or vegetables. This food is to be eaten quickly so as not to disrupt their work but to give the students an energy boost. If your child orders a lunch order on a Monday, please continue to send along a snack and ‘Brainfood’ as it is a long time to wait for lunch to be delivered at 1:30pm.
At Blackburn Lake Primary School, your child has the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist classes.

### Specialists

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

- Labelled Art smock
- Labelled school hat
- Box of tissues to share
- Green reading book bag (most were kept at school from last year)

### Dates to Remember

- **Tuesday 17th February 3:40 – 8:00pm**
  - Getting To Know You Interviews
- **Friday 13th February**
  - History Box Incursion
- **Monday 9th March**
  - Labour Day Public Holiday
- **Thursday 12th March**
  - School Photos
- **Friday 27th March**
  - Last day of Term 1. Early Dismissal (2:30)
- **Monday 9th March**
  - Parents' Association Meeting
- **Wednesday 18th February 7:30-9:00**
  - "Getting To Know You" interviews
HOMEWORK:
In accordance with our school (and the Education Department’s) homework policy, students in level one will be expected to read their ‘Take Home’ books every night, along with practising reading and spelling their ‘Word Rings’.

Students in level two will receive homework on Tuesday and it will be due back the following Monday. They will also be required to read their ‘Take Home’ books nightly.

Don’t forget to record these books in the red diary.

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 student’s will read for 10-15 minutes each night. Please use the red communication diary to record the book title.

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. Relax and enjoy the experience!
- Talk about the book, use the pictures to predict what is going to happen before you even begin reading the book.
- If your child is having difficulty with unknown words prompt them to...
- Look at the picture to gain meaning, look at the first letter of the word, go back and re-read the sentence including the unfamiliar word, break the word up into ‘sound chunks’, say the word slowly, 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?
- Ask your child to re-tell the story in his/her own words.
- Explore the pictures in books to decide where the story is taking place. Relate those events and places with those in your own lives.
- Please don’t cover the pictures – the child can use these to predict words and meaning.
SPECIALISTS:

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Phil Lumsden - lumsden.philip.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

In PE this term 1/2 will be involved in revising basic movement activities such as skipping, hopping, jumping and running which requires them to move at different speeds and patterns. They will also use different ball-handling skills such as striking, kicking, throwing, trapping, rolling, dribbling and catching.

Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed on the day they have PE.

ITALIAN
Vincey Montesalvo - montesalvo.vincenza.v@edumail.vic.gov.au

In Italian this term Levels 1 and 2 will be studying my house (La mia casa).

The students will be learning words and phrases related to the house and they will be revising their colours, numbers and family members.

MUSIC
Sam Collins – collins.samantha.s@edumail.vic.gov.au

In Music this term Levels 1 & 2 will be going on a journey to the Jungle. They will be investigating performing arts elements including drama, movement, arranging and notation.

They will have the opportunity to create their own performances based on all the input above.

VISUAL ARTS
Sam Collins – collins.samantha.s@edumail.vic.gov.au

In Visual Arts this term Level 1/2 will be beginning by creating a self portrait. They will then be investigating construction techniques by creating a sculpture from paper mache that will be displayed as part of the Art Show.

Please ensure that your child has an art smock clearly labelled with their name and grade.

REMINDERS:
⇒ Art Smock
⇒ Runners