

Mont Albert Primary School

Foundation 2017 Information Night

For your information, we have prepared a basic outline of some of the key components and expectations within key learning areas of the curriculum for Foundation students.

Literacy

Speaking & Listening: By engaging in everyday discussions, utilising opportunities to share thoughts and ideas to the class and discussing and practising active and effective listening behaviours students gain the opportunity to learn and practise the following speaking and listening skills:



- * Speaking to others – students, teachers, other adults – in formal and informal situations.
- * Taking turns in discussion – listening and responding to others, answering questions with a word or a sentence.
- * Listening to rhymes, poems, stories, tapes and other appropriate media. Reciting rhymes and poems, singing songs and chants.
- * Following verbal instructions in class.

We will be assessing and obtaining assistance for students experiencing difficulty with these skills.

Reading and Writing:

Our approach to the teaching of reading and writing is focused around students developing an interest in, and having ownership over, their reading and writing. We are focused on immersing students in reading and writing and the notion that 'We learn to read by reading, and we learning to write by writing'.

Reading:

Throughout the year we aim to develop the students' interest in print, desire to read, and appreciation of the value of reading.

A variety of approaches and materials will be used in the teaching of reading. These will include:

- * Pre-reading activities such as visual discrimination, left to right movement and sentence reading.
- * Shared book experiences, language experience approach, literature and a range of simple texts covering a range of genres.
- * Developing sight word vocabulary and phonic/blending skills through the introduction of matching games.
- * *Independent Reading sessions*, in which students will independently sit and read a variety of texts. At the beginning of the year, this may be simply looking at the pictures to follow story lines and finding some words that they know. Independent Reading will be a key component of each reading session and will involve students sharing their reading experiences with others.

Parents can assist their child's interest in reading and their reading development by modelling reading in the home and encouraging their children to borrow books from the classroom and school library. We will also be sending home a list of high frequency words for your child to practise and learn at home later in the year and strongly encourage that parents assist with this.



Writing:

Students will begin writing by being asked to 'write' and then 'read' their writing to the teacher, developing an understanding that print has meaning and that they can express their thoughts and ideas within their texts.

By the end of the year, most students should be able to write at least one sentence of their own that is decipherable by a familiar adult.

Throughout the year, emphasis will be on the students gaining confidence and using their knowledge of written language. While spelling is important in the writing process, and will be taught, the main emphasis will be on fluency of thought and creativity.

During 'Writers' Workshop', students will practise new skills and components of effective writing by engaging in independent writing opportunities. Weekly writing programs will include at least one session where students engage in 'free writing'. These opportunities will allow students to express themselves as writers as well as develop their ability to identify and utilise writing opportunities and explore writing genres.

Handwriting:



Students will work with a variety of materials to develop fine motor skills, fluency and control. Activities will include cutting and pasting, manipulating Playdoh, colouring and puzzles. Correct letter formation will be introduced and should be reinforced at home. Correct pencil grip and posture are encouraged. Students are taught to set out and space written work and take care with presentation.

Phonics:

Through a context based approach students are taught the letters of the alphabet and the common sounds they usually represent. This will include identifying sounds and letters through picture storybooks and concrete experiences, for example, blowing bubbles when focusing on the 'b' sound. Later in the year, common digraphs such as 'th', 'sh' and 'ch' are also explored. You can support our teaching of phonics by encouraging your child to identify letters that are being covered in the environment and different things that begin with these letters. By the end of the year students are expected to know all/most letters of the alphabet and their corresponding sounds.

Numeracy

Numeracy is related to everyday experiences using 'hands on' materials and will be centred around an 'open-ended' approach in which students utilise and apply their understandings by investigating and problem solving. It will be integrated with other subjects so that experiences are interesting and meaningful. Some concepts covered include:

- * Counting forwards and backwards (to 20).
- * Odd and even numbers.
- * Recognising and writing numerals to 10.
- * Recognising words to ten.
- * Ordinal number – 1st to 10th.
- * Informal addition, subtraction and grouping of numbers to 20.
- * Informal measurement such as 'longer' and 'shorter'.



- * Days of the week and events that are linked to these days.
- * Basic graphing and the use of language associated with chance.

Inquiry Learning/Investigations

While the focus of the Foundation year is 'Me and My World', the students are given opportunities to follow and develop their interests and discover new ideas. The students will be provided with a variety of experiences in the following topics:



- * Learning to learn
- * Me and my world
- * Farms and food
- * Toys
- * Wild animals
- * Seasons and celebrations

The students will be involved in activities related to these areas as they are introduced to subjects such as Humanities, Science, Design, Creativity & Technology and the Arts. Each of these subjects has specific language and approaches that the students will be exposed to as appropriate.

We further encourage students to investigate, inquire, problem solve and develop their interests through regular 'Investigation' sessions. During these sessions, students will independently engage in various activities designed to facilitate and stimulate this inquiry.

Health & Physical Education

Physical Education

The students will participate in weekly physical education classes taken by the Physical Education specialist and the class teachers. The students will also participate in an intensive, compulsory Swimming Program during the year. These sessions promote positive attitudes as well as skills and knowledge for fitness and recreation.

Health

The areas covered in the Health program include:

- * Looking after myself.
- * Being myself.
- * Food and nutrition.
- * Being safe.



The students will visit the Life Education Van in Term 1.

Many areas of the Health program are taught incidentally.

PMP

The Perceptual Motor Program will be run throughout the year following a rotation system throughout the Foundation classes. The program will focus on developing fine and gross motor skills and coordination, focusing on skills such as balancing, throwing and catching, following directions etc.

Languages

Italian is taught to all year levels at Mont Albert Primary School as well as Japanese in Years 5 and 6. The program for Foundation includes:



- * My name is ...
- * Numbers
- * Days of the week
- * Colours
- * Greetings (Hello, how are you? etc).

These are taught through written and oral activities such as games, songs, stories and puzzles. Activities taught in specialist classes will be reinforced by the class teacher.