Grade Information Book

Grade 6 - 2015

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Apollo Parkways Primary School
Welcome

Welcome to Grade 6 for 2015. The Grade 6 teachers work as a team, share planning and preparation across the curriculum that supports consistency within the team. The details in this booklet will give you an overview of our programs and procedures in the Grade 6 area. If you have any queries arising from this booklet you can discuss these with your child’s teacher during the first Parent Teacher Meeting to be held in February.

Highlights

This is an important transition year for your children. Please expect transition newsletters at regular intervals during the year. Your class teacher can assist you with your enquiries. Secondary school tours and information nights will begin in the first semester. You should access their newsletters or check the local paper for further details. You will receive your first transition documents in second term. This will be your Application for Enrolment forms for 2016. 

Ms Lovelace will be in charge of collating these forms once they are returned.

Throughout the year Grade 6 teachers are focused on preparing all children for a successful transition into secondary school. A number of class activities are specifically designed to facilitate this smooth transition.

Graduation from primary to secondary schooling is regarded as a significant event for children. Mr. Smith will coordinate graduation matters this year. Expect more information and graduation newsletters in the second semester. (Graduation Date is December 14th and the ceremony is held at the St. Sava’s Hall, Main Rd. Greensborough.)

Contact details

Where possible, messages should be relayed through the Main Office / Reception.

If you need to contact the school to relay important information to your child’s classroom teacher, please ring the school office first. This procedure prevents interruption to the classroom activities.

If you need to speak with the teacher urgently, please inform the office staff and you will be put through to the classroom.

The school contact number is: 9433 1300
The school website address is: www.apolloparkps.vic.edu.au
The school email address is: apollo.parkways.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Staff

The Grade 6 teachers for 2015 are:
- Liam Smith (Team Leader)
- Kylie Tomat (Curriculum Leader)
- Gayle Lovelace
- Tom Moore
- Laura Ward

The specialist teachers for 2015 are:
- **Music & Performing Arts**: Mr Timothy Rhodes
- **Visual Art**: Mrs Janice Bowie
- **Physical Education**: Ms Jan Arney & Mrs Paula Clark
- **Languages - Italian**: Signora Celeste Licastro
As a whole school we commence the year with a common unit of work – Linking to Thinking. Through this unit all teachers and children engage in a sequential range of activities that support the development of a culture of learning that underpins all aspects of our school and its teaching and learning programs. Learners are most successful when they are mindful of themselves as learners and thinkers within a learning community. During this unit teachers and students at all levels work collaboratively on activities such as revisiting our school values and our school rules, establishing classroom rules and routines and determining behaviours to achieve optimum learning. These units also encourage students to get to know one another and cooperate with new friends. Each grade level has an overarching question that the unit explores. In Grade 6 it is How can I make the most of my learning opportunities?

One of the ongoing activities that begin at this time is the completion of our Grade 6 Code of Conduct activities. These are an important part of our student management and behaviour process.

The following statements are contained in your child’s booklet.

- Be polite, considerate and respectful of all others including teachers, peers and visitors to the school. We should use manners at all times.
- In Grade 6 we have rules to protect our iPads too. In the morning, from 8.30 a.m. when we arrive at school, we put our iPads safely into the filing cabinet in our classroom. We need to remove our shoes before entering the Chadwick building to help keep the school buildings clean, neat and tidy. We leave our bags outside.
- Our iPads remain inside while we are outside during recess, lunchtime, inter-school sport and training so we can enjoy playing.
- Bullying of any kind is unacceptable. This includes cyberbullying. Bullying includes:
  - verbal or written putdowns
  - exclusion of others
  - victimising others
  - physical and online harassment
  - unwanted physical contact
- We should take pride in wearing our correct school uniform. Our uniform gives us a sense of identification with Apollo Parkways Primary School.
- Remember jewellery is not part of school uniform and coloured nail polish should not be worn at school.
- Punctuality is important as it gives everyone the opportunity to achieve their best. Being punctual helps me to make the most of my learning opportunities . . . .
- My learning can be helped by making healthy food choices and being well hydrated.
- In Grade 6 we should develop more responsibility for ourselves.
- As a member of Grade 6 we should be prepared to undertake roles of responsibility and leadership tasks within the school.
AusVELS

The AusVELS provides a single curriculum for all Victorian government and Catholic schools, for students from Prep (foundation year) to Year 10. AusVELS provides a single, coherent and comprehensive set of prescribed content and common achievement standards for schools to use in the planning of teaching and learning programs and the assessment of students. The AusVELS curriculum incorporates the Australian Curriculum within a framework that reflects particular Victorian priorities and approaches to teaching and learning.

Further information about the Grade 6 level 6 curriculum can be found at http://ausvels.vCAA.vic.edu.au/Level6

Whilst AusVELS specifies a learning entitlement and achievement standard for each subject our teachers plan for the different ability levels in their classroom. Activities are differentiated to provide support and extension for children operating both below and above the expected level. It is our aim to challenge all students and provide learning opportunities that meet their needs as they move along the learning continuum.

English

Reading and Viewing

Reading and literature programs will commence during first term. Children will be working with a variety of reading materials - which includes novels, reference materials, magazines and newspapers and they will complete associated activities. Literature Circle work will replace literacy rotations at least once each term (commencing in term two). The group novels are enjoyed by all grades and directed activities are completed by children in the form of discussions, written reports and group presentations. The associated reading and tasks are integrated into the class program to prepare for weekly conference sessions. Students are guided to work within these structured timeframes and encouraged to keep up to date, otherwise use their nightly homework time to catch up.

The teaching team will utilise the ‘S.T.A.R.S. and C.A.R.S.’ comprehension strategy resource in their classrooms this year. Grade 6 teachers have consulted with the students’ 2014 teachers and their teaching judgement results. As a result, Grade 6 teachers will commence the year with a rich reading and viewing program tailored to extend individual needs in reading aloud with fluency and expression, and competent understanding of the reading strategies.

It is anticipated that all children will make full use of the fortnightly library borrowing time and that these books, along with books from the local library, will form the basis of a consistent home reading program. Senior students tend to read less frequently. Remember, we expect that children will read novels, newspapers, magazines, recipes, picture storybooks etc. as part of their home reading. Children are to be encouraged to record their home reading activities in their Reading Diary app.

Writing

Children will learn to plan, compose, edit and publish a range of texts including writing for print and electronic media and performance. The program will include children using appropriate language for particular purposes or occasions, both formal and informal, to express and represent ideas, issues, arguments, events, experience, character, emotion and information and to reflect on such ideas. The program involves the development of knowledge and strategies for writing and the conventions of Standard Australian English.

Children will write daily in a number of forms. The writing genres focussed upon in Grade 6 are Expositions, Narratives, Recounts, Information Reports, Procedures and Discussions. Teachers systematically cooperate as a team to present revision lessons on all genres of writing.
Spelling

In Grade 6 spelling forms an integral part of our writing program. Students build on the skills and knowledge learned in previous years and review spelling rules and conventions. Our aim is for students to continue to develop a multi-strategic approach to spelling so they understand visual and phonic patterns and learn and use a large bank of spelling rules. It is also important for students to develop their knowledge of the morphology of the English language so they can use meaning to assist their spelling knowledge. We implement a range of activities where students investigate words, develop their vocabulary and learn strategies for proof reading and editing their writing.

Handwriting

We maintain high expectations for handwriting and the presentation of all work. A joined and fluent style is preferred as it enables students to efficiently record their ideas in writing. Students have the opportunity to develop their keyboarding skills using their 1 to 1 device.

Speaking and Listening

Students will develop and demonstrate knowledge about appropriate oral language for particular audiences and occasions. Children are also involved in the development of active listening strategies. We develop these skills through involving students in group discussion, formal presentations and speeches, storytelling and negotiating. School assemblies also provide excellent speaking opportunities for our Grade 6 students.

Mathematics

In Grade 6 the following areas are the focus of the mathematics program. The content is covered over the course of the year. Furthermore, the Mathletics tasks set by the classroom teacher throughout the year are targeted to revise and extend students understandings and cater for their individual needs.

Number and Algebra

- Place value – reading and understanding 6-digit whole numbers and decimals to thousandths.
- The four processes
  1. Addition – vertical addition with renaming and using mental strategies
  2. Subtraction – vertical subtraction with renaming and using mental strategies
  3. Division – formal algorithm with decimal remainders, conversions to fractions and percentages
  4. Multiplication – long multiplication, multiplying by decimals, efficient knowledge of the times tables, demonstrate multiplicative thinking to solve problems
- Fractions – identify, sequence and solve fractional problems using the four processes
- Percentages – converting to decimals and fractions, determine the % of and % off an amount

Measurement and Geometry

- Measuring and converting units of length, mass (weight) and capacity (liquid)
- Identify area and perimeter of a regular or irregular two dimensional shape
- Identify the volume of a three dimensional shape
- Convert 24-hour time to digital time
- Calculate elapsed time and respond to problems
- Identify three dimensional shapes and their families (prisms, pyramids and polyhedrons)
- Identify the properties of three dimensional shapes and create their corresponding net.
- Recognise, label and accurately measure a variety of angles up to 360 degrees.
- Use geometrical terminology to express the translation of a shape
- Plot coordinates using a cartesian plane
Statistics and Probability

- Correctly use chance terminology in relation to fractional outcomes
- Collect data and represent results using a variety of graphs and data charts
- Interpret data through the mean, mode, median and range results
- Determine ratio

Integrated Curriculum

Students learn most effectively when they are engaged in study that is interesting and meaningful to them. An integrated approach provides children with such an environment as it allows them to delve fully into all aspects under investigation.

In Grade 6 the integrated curriculum units that will be implemented in 2015 are;

**Term 1 - Linking to Thinking – How to make the most of your learning opportunities!** Children learn more about themselves as a person and a learner during these activities. They learn about the ways in which thinking tools can assist you when working on a task. We also want children to know more about their classmates as individuals and as group members.

**Term 1 – Well Being: Health Knowledge and Promotion** Students consider what it means to be healthy and explore strategies to promote both physical and mental health.

**Term 2 – Cultural Diversity: Magnificent Multiculturalism** Within Australia various cultural groups have developed a social structure with traditions, customs, beliefs, roles and responsibilities that are unique to their group’s daily life. These values form a link between Australia and other countries.

**Term 3 – Science: Energise Me!** This physical sciences unit focuses on electricity and its uses. It explores the understanding that energy cannot be created or destroyed only transferred or transformed.

**Term 4 – Global Balance: Drips and Drought, Australia’s Resources.** An investigation into our everyday lives and how we use and affect the Australian environment. There are ways of protecting sensitive areas that are sustainable.

Please encourage your child to take an interest in current affairs (local, state, federal and global) through news programs on both television, radio, the Internet and via newspapers. This will assist them to actively engage in classroom discussions. The local library, the Internet and our library will be invaluable sources for researching topics.

During these units a variety of thinking tools are used. These include De Bono’s Thinking Hats, Art Costa’s Habits of Mind, Tony Ryan’s Thinker’s Keys and many Quality Tools that promote and develop student thinking. Many activities are open ended, cater for different learning styles and encourage students to work constructively and cooperatively in small groups with their peers.

Technology

The children at Apollo Parkways use technology to communicate, investigate, design, create and think visually. They have access to digital cameras, video cameras, iPads, desktop computers, laptops, presentation televisions and digital microscopes. These learning tools enable our children to be active learners and problem solvers at school and beyond. Our children are exposed to a variety of programs that enrich their learning environment.

The technology is integrated into every classroom and the hardware and software is managed and maintained by our technology manager, Mrs Amy Eames-Mayer and our two technical support staff: Andy Milne and Nathan Manoussakis.

The students in every Grade 6 classroom have access to their own iPads to support their learning. They will have the opportunity to utilise the technology skills they have developed by using their iPad to support their learning and participating in the Apollo Film Festival, previously known as Golden Mice.
1 to 1 iPad program

The iPads are an integral learning tool in every Grade 6 classroom. Teachers plan activities that develop students’ skills in using the apps on their iPads. Children become proficient at choosing appropriate school apps to complete classroom tasks. The students of Apollo Parkways use technology to communicate, investigate, design, create and think visually. They have access to digital cameras, video cameras and display devices in addition to their iPads. These learning tools enable our students to be active learners and problem solvers at school and beyond. For more information please see the Apollo 1-1 iPad program implementation handbook.

Additional Assistance

In 2015 we will continue our Language & Literacy Support Program, providing a range of students, across grade levels, with additional assistance in the development of language and literacy skills. These programs involve either individual or small groups of students working with a teacher or speech pathologist to address identified needs. At the junior grade levels these programs focus on the development of phonological awareness skills that support literacy, whilst in the senior grades the students generally work on the development of language, writing and comprehension skills.

Pegasus

The Pegasus program is designed to further support the education of highly capable and talented students. In addition to the classroom provision we support selected students with a small group withdrawal program. The selection of students is based on teacher reporting judgements that indicate student performance is well above the expected level for their current grade level. We endeavour to identify the most capable students in that particular year level. A different focus is selected each term to ensure that a range of talents is catered for and a variety of students are given opportunity to participate within this program.

Grade 6 children participate with the Grade 5 children during term one, two, and three. As they work towards their Grade 6 graduation they are not involved in Pegasus in term four.

If your child is selected you will receive a letter informing you of their involvement in a program prior to its commencement.

Our Pegasus coordinator Mrs Amy Eames-Mayer will teach a majority of the Pegasus Programs in 2015.

G.A.T.E.ways

Some students will be offered the opportunity to participate in the G.A.T.E.ways program. This extension program is offered by a privately run organisation to primary school aged children during school times. Participation is optional and parents are required to pay for their child to participate if they accept the offer. You will receive information regarding your child’s possible involvement if they are identified as potentially benefitting from inclusion. This identification may be the result of a class teacher or school recommendation or a formal assessment and report from an authorised specialist.

Mrs Karen Dixon coordinates and manages the dissemination of information for our school regarding enrolment into these programs.

Camping program

The school’s camping program enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a setting outside the classroom. Camps may have a cultural, environmental or outdoor emphasis and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

At Apollo Parkways we aim to provide all children with the opportunity to participate in a sequential camping program that promotes self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, cooperation and tolerance.

The program involves the following set of experiences.

- Prep - breakfast at school with Santa
• Grade 1 - activities after school, followed by a team level dinner
• Grade 2 - an extended excursion that incorporates dinner, returning to school around 7.00pm
• Grade 3 - three day camp to Camp Curumbane (Echuca)
• Grade 4 - three day camp to Phillip Island
• Grade 5 - five day camp to Norval in Halls Gap.
• Grade 6 - five day camp to Coonawarra Farm Resort, Bairnsdale

In 2015 the students in Grade 6 will attend a camp at Coonawarra Farm Resort, Bairnsdale. The dates of the camp are Monday March 16th – Friday March 20th.

Swimming

Swimming and understanding safety in and around the water are essential life skills that all children should have the opportunity to learn.

The ‘School Swimming and Water Safety Program’ published by DE&T is a “learn to swim program” that develops water confidence and provides students with basic skills in water safety and survival. By learning to swim competently, students develop skills that can be used for fun, fitness or as a competitive sport.

At Apollo Parkways Primary School our swimming program is conducted at Yarra Swim School – who employ accredited teachers for all students in the program. All students from Prep –Grade 6 have an opportunity to attend swimming throughout the year as follows:

- Term 1 - Grade 5 & 6
- Term 2 – Grade 3 & 4
- Term 4 – Prep, Grade 1 & Grade 2

All programs run for 8 sessions, with each lesson being 45 minutes. Students travel by bus to the swim school.

Interschool Sport

Whether sport is team-based or individual, it is a great activity for children providing a variety of benefits in addition to physical activity. Participation in sports can help build self-esteem and confidence. Benefits of sport and physical activity for children include reduced risk of obesity, increased cardiovascular fitness, improved coordination and balance, better sleep and improved social skills.

All students in Grade 5 and 6 participate on Friday mornings in a weekly interschool sport program organized by the Diamond Valley District Sports Association. They undertake sports training on Wednesdays at school before assembly. The sports offered concentrate on the following major games.

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<tr>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Winter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Netball</td>
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<td>Cricket</td>
<td>Softball</td>
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<td>Rounders</td>
<td>Football</td>
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<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<td>Bat Tennis</td>
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The Association also organises gala days in hockey, golf, tennis and girls’ football.

Buddy Program

The Grade 6 classes work in conjunction with a Prep class in the school to provide our young children with a ‘buddy’. This gives children security in the playground and a familiar face to look for when they need help or comfort. The program also gives children the opportunity to work together in the classroom and provides them with peer mentoring and assistance to complete group tasks. The children in both grade levels look forward to participating in the activity on a regular basis. This year’s buddy grades are: 6S with Prep D, 6T with Prep C, 6L with Prep W, 6M with Prep R and 6W with Prep M.
Staff

Music & Performing Arts: Mr Timothy Rhodes & Mrs Maree Frisby
Visual Art: Mrs Janice Bowie & Mrs Amy Eames-Mayer
Physical Education: Ms Jan Arney & Mrs Paula Clark
Languages - Italian: Signora Celeste Licastro & Signora Maria DiPierro

The Arts – Music & Performing Arts

All students have a 50 minute performing arts/music session per week. Music lessons are taken in one of two dedicated music rooms. They are well equipped with a variety of percussion, string and woodwind instruments with access to computers and other music technology. The program for all grade levels is sequential and aims to develop students' skills in singing, movement, drama, instrumental work, music appreciation, composition and recording. At Apollo Parkways we also offer a range of performance opportunities and elective programs to foster and extend student learning and talent within the performing arts. All classes focus on the performing arts culminating in the biennial whole school production.

In Grade 6, students continue to develop their music technology skills as well as prepare for transition into a secondary school music program. There are many opportunities for creative and expressive responses within the program where performance by individuals and group is encouraged. They can also participate in the following elective programs that run rehearsals during lunchtime once a week.

Band - Students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to audition and perform as part of the school band. The group performs at school and local events held throughout the year. Our experienced music staff run the band program.

Choir- Students in Grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to audition and perform as part of the school choir conducted by an experienced vocal coach.

Apollo Parkways also offers private tuition by experienced instructors in a number of vocal and instrumental disciplines. These programs run during school hours. All information for interested parents is available from the school office.

The Arts – Visual Art

All students engage in one timetabled visual art session for 50 minutes each week. Throughout the year students’ experience creating, making, exploring and responding to their own art works and those of others. They develop techniques and skills in areas including: drawing, painting, printing, construction, clay and digital photography.

Students also extend their understanding and appreciation of various art styles, principles and concepts such as colour, tone, line, pattern, repetition, contrast, texture, form, shape, symmetry, balance, perspective and viewpoint through two-dimensional and three-dimensional works.

All students in Grade 6 are required to have their own ART SMOCK to protect their school uniform from paint, clay and wet materials. Please ensure that your child’s smock is named and includes their current grade for 2015. Ideally a visible name on the front of the smock is preferred. (Smocks are available from our Uniform Shop.)
The Grade 6 annual art award is presented at the Grade 6 Graduation ceremony. A VCE secondary school art teacher selects an artwork completed at school during our students’ Grade 6 year. The award is to recognise the artistic effort and talent we have amongst our students and encourage enthusiastic artists to work towards achieving their best in their final year @apollo. The selected artwork is acquired by the school and is proudly displayed in the office foyer for the following year. It then joins the exhibition in the school’s boardroom.

Physical Education

Physical and sport education enables the development of fitness, skills and knowledge related to health and wellbeing. Physical education is a vital part of each child’s physical, social and emotional development. All children benefit from regular physical skill development and regular participation in a wide variety of organised sporting activities.

The weekly 50 minute session covers the following areas across the year; Fundamental, gross and fine motor skills, fitness, dance, gymnastics, athletics, swimming and modified sports and major games.

The purpose of the physical education program is to enable all students to:
- develop a positive attitude to physical activity and active participation in sport
- develop skills and concepts that will enhance students' personal development
- develop an awareness of the importance of physical activity and fitness for an enjoyable healthy lifestyle
- develop social awareness and the concept of fair play
- develop foundation skills that enables children to participate in all sports

On the day that your child has physical education they should:
- wear runners (not slip on as these have no grip and are dangerous during activities)
- have a school hat
- bring a water bottle
- wear suitable sports attire, this includes shorts, netball skirt with a school polo. Tights should not be worn on the day your child has physical education.
- shoulder length hair should be tied back

Please check the timetable with your child’s classroom teacher.

Children require a note from home if they are not participating in physical education/sport due to illness or injury. If your child suffers from any medical conditions could you please ensure that the First Aid Officer, Mrs Bodycoat as well as the P.E. staff are made aware of these and we can then tailor the physical education program to accommodate your child’s needs.

Additional sports opportunities

As part of our school’s involvement in the Diamond Valley District Sports Association our school sends a representative team to the following carnivals: swimming, athletics and cross country. Students in grades 3-6 will have the opportunity to trial for selection in this representative team. Trials for each carnival are held at the following times
- swimming - December (for carnival in Feb/March)
- athletics - May
- cross country - April/May

Languages – Italian

Our Italian program aims for students to develop communication skills and the knowledge to understand the Italian language and the culture of the Italian people. Students are given the tools to understand language, culture and humanity in a broad sense. In this way, language learning contributes to the development of interculturally aware citizens, at a time of increasing importance and of rapid and deep globalisation. Students participate in a variety of listening, speaking, reading, viewing and writing tasks to enhance and develop their skills in Italian.

All students from Prep – Grade 6 participate in a 50 minute weekly session. Students in Grade 5 and 6 engage in activities that include exchanging simple personal information and opinions, translating and creating and
interpreting and performing short skits in Italian. They start to read and locate items of information in short texts and write short paragraphs. Students use resources such as dictionaries and guided Internet searching and learn the skills needed to get meaning from written and spoken material. They also use iPads to complete and present tasks using a variety of applications.

Library

Our library program operates for all students across the school. Students in Prep – Grade 2 attend a 50 minute library session weekly, whilst students in Grade 3 - 6 attend fortnightly for a 50 minute session. Sessions will be undertaken by the classroom teacher with the assistance of our library technicians Mrs Angela Brajkovic and Mrs Yas Bodycoat.

Each library lesson will involve a book or literacy experience followed by an activity or the development of library skills. The books and literature studied at each grade level has been specifically selected for its suitability for the age group.
At each visit to the library all children are expected to borrow from the library’s vast collection of books and resources. Please check with your child on what day they visit the library and ensure that they have their books ready for returning and a bag ready for borrowing.
Assessment is a vital part of the teaching and learning process with the primary purpose being the improvement of student performance. For students and teachers assessment is an ongoing part of the classroom program.

In Grade 6 the following are some of the tools we utilise to assess student knowledge and understanding and to inform our teaching.

- Running records – reading
- Common Assessment of Reading Strategies (CARS)
- Gentry spelling test
- SNMY – Scaffolding Numeracy in Middle Years
- Work samples

The gathering, analysing and reflecting on tasks in all curriculum areas enables teachers to make informed judgements about student learning. At Apollo Parkways a variety of assessment methods provide teachers with evidence of what students know and can do, and their particular strengths and their opportunities for improvement. Teachers can then report to parents on how far their child has progressed during the year. Students also use this assessment to set their learning goals for the second semester.

Parents will receive two Victorian Government report cards each year: the first in June and another at the end of the year. Student report cards indicate performance against statewide standards using an A-E scale.

At the beginning of each year the school conducts ‘Parent Teacher Meetings’ which provide an opportunity for parents to meet their child’s classroom teacher and to share important information about their learning that may assist them to settle into a new grade with their new teacher and classmates.

At mid-year students will also be involved in ‘Student Centred Conferences’. Here your child will be able to share their strengths, opportunities for improvement and goals for the year. Their portfolio of work samples and assessment pieces will be used to support the information they provide to you during the 15 minutes of the conference.

Naturally parents can request interviews at other times throughout the year if you have concerns about your child’s development. Please contact the school to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

**ICAS**

Later in the year all students in Grades 3-6 will have the opportunity to participate in the ICAS test for English and mathematics. This is an optional activity that parents pay for if they choose for their child to participate. The University of New South Wales conducts the assessment Australia wide and provides schools with detailed information about the responses submitted by the children who participate. All children who participate are provided with a certificate from the University of New South Wales. We recognise the achievements of our students in the newsletter and at an assembly where award certificates are presented.
Homework

Homework is an important link in the learning process as it serves to reinforce what is taught at school. It is an essential part of our teaching and learning strategies, designed to build skills in our students, and implemented in a way that makes it relevant and rewarding.

Homework enables parents to be involved and share with the teacher the task of educating their children. Regular home practice encourages independent work and study habits and the use of non-school resources. Homework may assist in the development of organisational skills and children taking responsibility for their own learning.

Home reading is a vital part of the home study routine and should be undertaken each night on school days. This begins in Prep with children reading with adults at home. In Grade 1 and 2 children continue this with growing independence. Children in Grade 3 to 6 will continue with home reading, which is done in addition to the expected homework. A home reading diary is utilised from Prep to Grade 3. In Grade 4 children utilise their diary and in Grade 5 and 6 they use the reading diary app on their iPad to record their home reading.

In Grade 6 there will be an expectation of up to half an hour per night work at home, set by the school. Homework is set on Monday and needs to be returned by the following Monday. In preparation for secondary school we encourage students to organise their study time and aim to complete their homework early in the week and submit by Friday. This encourages students to free up their weekends, appreciate and develop their organisation skills and reaps the reward of some well earned ‘down time’.

The homework in Grade 6 consists of home reading, Mathletics tasks set by the teacher and a variety of other activities form across the curriculum. Mathletics is also available for students to independently develop their mathematical skills. Occasionally other tasks may be set for homework to enhance your child’s learning and the classroom program. Please support your child to complete and return all tasks in a timely manner. All Grade 6 students use the calendar app, grade blog and iCal to access, organise and submit their homework.

Classroom assistance

Your assistance in our classrooms is welcomed. We understand that not everyone is available to assist us in this way due to work commitments, the care of younger children or home commitments. At times there may be tasks that can be done at home and you may wish to indicate your willingness to assist in this way.

For those parents coming to support in the classroom this is a very special time for you to spend with both your own child and the other children in the grade and we therefore ask that you do not bring pre-school children along to the sessions.

Parent confidentiality

Apollo Parkways Primary School is grateful to all parents who offer their time to assist in our classrooms. We do however remind you that as a parent helper you are privy to the learning of many students and therefore ask that you respect the privacy of our students and their parents – and honour the need for the strictest confidentiality.

In your role as a parent helper we ask you to support and encourage all students by praising their efforts. Be mindful of making judgements and recognise that all students learn at different rates and have different learning needs.

If at anytime you have questions or concerns please speak with the classroom teacher.
Parents taking photographs at school events

Apollo Parkways Primary School asks that any parent or visitor to our school who may be taking photographs be mindful of their use of these photographs – particularly where the photograph may include other children, either directly or in the background.

Parents should be aware that there are a number of students whose parents do not give permission for their children’s photographs to be placed on the Internet – and as a school we are required to ensure that this is adhered to.

We therefore request that those taking photographs be conscious of the wishes of other parents and not post photographs on the Internet or social media sites.

School uniform

Apollo Parkways Primary School operates with a compulsory school uniform as a way of strengthening students’ sense of belonging, unity and identity. We ask that students wear the correct school uniform during all school activities including excursions. We ask parents to note these particular aspects in regard to school uniform:

- Any unsafe footwear and/or inappropriate adornments (including nail polish and make up) are not permitted.
- For safety reasons, students should wear only stud or small sleeper earrings, watches and jewellery of religious or personal significance.
- As a ‘SunSmart School’ it is a requirement that school approved hats are worn during terms one and four and when the UV index levels rise above 3.0 between September and the end of April. Naturally hats can be worn at any other time if students choose.
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<th>Integrated curriculum unit</th>
<th>Possible excursion Cost (estimated)</th>
<th>Other school event Cost (estimated)</th>
<th>Swimming</th>
<th>Camping program</th>
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<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Well Being</td>
<td>Interschool Sport (Covers both summer and winter sport seasons) $170.00 per student First Aid session (whole school attending) No cost</td>
<td>Mathletics (annual cost) $9.00 per student</td>
<td>Grade 6 Swimming Program $75.00 per student</td>
<td>Grade 6 Camp – Camp Coonawarra $375.00 per student</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Cultural Diversity</td>
<td></td>
<td>Life Education (whole school attending) $10.00 per student</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Global Balance</td>
<td>Grade 6 End of Year Excursion $28.00 per student</td>
<td>School Magazine (optional) $15.00 per copy Grade 6 Graduation $40.00 per student</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**

The above costs are approximate and provided as a guide only. Parents will be notified of exact costs prior to the event. Other school activities are listed in the calendar for the whole school.

If payment for an activity is required, please send payment together with the permission note to reduce administrative handling.

_Late payments_ for events _cannot be accepted_ unless this has been previously arranged with the school leadership.