



Foundation Information 2017

Thursday 9th February

Dates:

➤ Term 1

31 January – 31 March

➤ Term 2

18 April – 30 June

➤ Term 3

17 July – 22 September

➤ Term 4

9 October – 22 December

Curriculum Days

18 and 19 April

22 May

Public Holidays

13 March – Labour Day

25 April – ANZAC Day

12 June – Queens' Birthday

7 November – Melbourne Cup

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Welcome!

The Foundation Team welcomes you to a new year at Heany Park Primary School. We look forward to getting to know you and your child throughout the year as we work together to provide engaging and challenging learning opportunities. We encourage you to contact your child's classroom teacher for any information, questions or concerns. If we are busy before or after school, please phone or email to make an appointment.

The Foundation teachers operate as a team, working and planning together. We support our students to further develop their initiative, self-discipline and independence as learners whilst nurturing them to develop confidence and a sense of self-worth.

This information book has been created to assist you in understanding some of the things your child will experience this year. There will be a Foundation fortnightly bulletin about learning and teaching to keep you updated. This will be posted on the school website. If you require a hard copy to be sent home, please request this via your classroom teacher.

Communication

All school newsletters, fortnightly learning updates, notices and other information can be accessed via our school website www.heanyparkps.vic.edu.au

Our newsletter and other information can also be accessed via our 'Tiqbiz' program for computers and 'Tiqbiz' app for smartphones, www.tiqbiz.com. For important reminders/notifications we use the Tiqbiz app on smartphones as an SMS service. This is our preferred means of communication.

Notices requiring a reply will be sent home as a hard copy. They will also be available electronically on our school website for you to print.

If your child is absent from school please provide an absent note on return to school. Please inform your classroom teacher and the office in writing should you be planning an extended absence.

The QKR app is also available for school payments eg excursions, sporting events.



Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

IB learners are:

Inquirers
Knowledgeable
Thinkers
Communicators
Principled
Open-minded
Caring
Risk-takers
Balanced
Reflective

“The illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn.”

Literacy

Literacy skills are emphasised throughout each day across all the curriculum areas.

Reading

The purpose of reading is to construct meaning from a variety of printed and visual texts. Reading is an essential part of our classroom program; we explicitly teach strategies to help support students to decode and make meaning from texts. Combined with effective modelling by the teacher, this enables our students to further develop their comprehension skills, accuracy, fluency and expand their vocabulary. The knowledge of letter sounds and high frequency sight words are essential to develop automaticity for beginning readers.



Writing

Your child will participate in our school wide approach to writing with the explicit teaching of text types for different purposes and audiences. Students will explore a range of genres and develop skills to enable them to become proficient writers. Spelling and Grammar are integral to our writing program. Children will be introduced to Victorian cursive script, with a focus on correct letter formation, placement and pencil grip.

Speaking and Listening

Students will be engaged in various tasks to develop their Speaking and Listening skills. These include the aspects of being a good listener, how to ask open questions and how to present an oral presentation in a manner that engages the audience. Students will be encouraged to use a clear voice and use an appropriate volume and pace when speaking. Following instructions is also an indicator of good listening skills. Show and Tell is an integral part for learning these skills and developing confidence.

Numeracy

In Foundation, students develop their mathematical skills and understandings through problem-solving in a variety of different ways, using hands on materials in real life contexts. Each lesson includes at least one key learning focus, e.g. Number (counting, place value and patterns), Space (shape and location), Measurement (estimating and measuring length, mass, area, capacity and volume), Chance (likelihood) and Data (interpreting data and creating graphs). To develop mental computation strategies, and to make learning fun, lots of songs, picture story books, multimedia and games are included.



Transdisciplinary

We start the year with activities and tasks which allow your child, the class and teacher to get to know each other. An Essential Agreement will be developed in each classroom. This establishes the expectations and guidelines for how the class will operate and treat each other, to ensure everyone can be the best learner possible. It helps us to settle into new routines and habits for the year ahead and is set with high expectations. This supports the IB attitudes and high quality teaching and learning for the year.

All learning starts with gathering prior knowledge and misconceptions and designing tasks to build on students' knowledge, understandings, skills and attitudinal development.



Special Events: Semester 1

23 February – Picnic and Reading night

9 March – School Council AGM

15 March – Students begin attending school on Wednesdays

26 April – Rowville CFA Excursion

12 May – Mothers' Day Afternoon Tea

22-26 May

Celebration of Learning and Education Week

16 June – Museum Excursion

IB attitudes and Values:

Appreciation

Commitment

Confidence

Co-operation

Creativity

Curiosity

Empathy

Enthusiasm

Independence

Integrity

Respect

Tolerance

This year we have six units of inquiry:

These are detailed on the Yearly Planner which is inserted within this newsletter. You may want to place this on your fridge for easy reference. Please note the dates for opportunities for you to connect with your child's learning.

Excursions & Incursions

Throughout the year, students will have opportunities to learn both within and outside the classroom with a variety of incursions, guest speakers and excursions. These have been planned to enhance and elaborate on the understandings and skills developed throughout our Transdisciplinary learning.

There will be opportunities for parents to be involved in these events along with other whole school activities such as Cross Country, Harmony Day, House Athletics etc.

Our first event this year will be our Foundation Family Picnic on Thursday 23rd of February, from 4:30-6:00pm where you can all get to know each other! Our classrooms will be open from 4:30–5:30 pm for you to explore our learning environment. This will be followed at 6:30pm by an information session for parents about supporting your child's reading development at home.

Further information for this event, plus the others throughout the year, will be sent home at appropriate times.

Assessment

During Term 1, every Wednesday up to and including the 9th of March will be used to assess your child on their literacy and numeracy skills. These assessments are an online process required to be completed by all Victorian Government schools. There is no pass or fail for these assessments; they provide us with a snap shot of what each child can do when they start school so that our teaching programs can accurately meet student's needs.

The literacy assessment involves oral language, letter recognition, reading comprehension and writing. The numeracy assessment involves counting, number recognition and 1 to 1 correspondence.

Ongoing assessment occurs every day and informs what is to be taught and learnt next. Teachers conduct a variety of assessment tasks throughout the year. This includes standardised assessment and teacher-devised tasks that determine student achievement for reporting purposes.

Data from the online literacy assessment is used to begin student's work in reading groups. Student's reading progress including the strategies they are / are not using and their comprehension is closely monitored. Assessment takes place on an ongoing basis over all lessons. It is used to plan teaching content and group students according to their learning needs.

Students who are identified as requiring further assistance or extension will have an Individual Development Plan (ILP) prepared for them. Programs or tasks will be provided for school and at home to address student's specific learning needs. Each term students will be encouraged to reflect on their skills, understandings, work habits and effort. Teachers will work with students to identify, set and achieve personal learning goals to promote their



Five Essential Elements of the PYP

Knowledge:

What do we the students to know about?

Concepts:

What we want students to understand?

Skills:

What skills want students to be able to do?

Attitudes:

What we want students to feel, value, demonstrate?

Action:

How we want students to act?

progress.

Homework Policy

A copy of our homework policy is available on the school website and will be re-published in the Whole School Newsletter next week (16th February) After the English Online assessment has been completed, students will begin to receive sight words to learn to help with automaticity when they encounter them in texts. There will be a variety of known and unknown words to learn and revise. Students who require extra help consolidating their letter/sound relationships may receive some additional alphabet activities to help acquire recognition of the name and sound of each letter.

Our Foundation Team



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