Welcome!

The Foundation Team welcome 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.

We look forward to meeting you at the ‘Getting to Know You’ interviews on 9th or 11th February after school. We hope you have booked a time.

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.

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 (Ph: 97645533) should you be planning an extended absence.

Our Foundation Team

Cassie Wright
Team Leader
0CW

Anne Heitmann
0AH

Kym Ryan
PYP Coordinator
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

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. A 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 Learning
We start the year with activities and tasks which allows your child, the class and teacher to get to know each other. An Essential Agreement will be developed in each class to support students to operate in a group according to their learning needs.

Assessment
Ongoing assessment occurs everyday 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.

Homework Policy
A copy of our homework policy is available on the school website. An electronic copy has also been sent via Tiiq and a hard copy was sent home on 28 January.

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.

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

School values:
• Respect
• Acceptance
• Integrity
• Lifelong learning

IB attitudes and values:
• Appreciation
• Commitment
• Confidence
• Co-operation
• Creativity
• Curiosity
• Empathy
• Enthusiasm
• Independence
• Integrity
• Respect
• Tolerance

“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.”

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.”