What’s happening in the classroom?

Literacy

Reading
During Term 2 reading instruction sessions will continue to include different forms of narrative text types as well as a variety of selected informational texts to complement work on early research skills. Research skills will form part of the Integrated Inquiry unit. Emphasis will be placed on searching for main ideas and key facts within any particular factual passage and to identify supporting statements to the main ideas. Children will continue to practise phrasing their oral reading appropriately so that it sounds interesting and text meaning is maintained. The children will also be encouraged to read for pleasure and share their books with their peers. The literature component of the program will include the Premiers Reading Challenge picture story books, poems, songs, and factual texts related to our Integrated Inquiry unit.

Writing
This term, emphasis will be placed on the following text types: recount, narrative, caption labelling, reflection writing and some procedural text work. Mind maps, PMI charts, Fact Files and Venn Diagram Thinking tools will be included as part of the written language focus.

Spelling
Level 2 children will focus on accurately spelling words from their Spelling Steps list. Their learning will include the following chunks and blends: sw, oy, nt, ar, fl, ee, all, i sound as in y, eel, ow, ill, ew, ed, ing, er, tr, ied. The children will be encouraged to strive for accuracy when spelling personal word lists compiled from the Integrated Inquiry unit. They will have spelling words to learn and revise and will be encouraged to create their own challenge word lists.

Speaking and Listening
This term, the children will concentrate on public speaking skills and their peers will act as the audience. They will plan, rehearse and deliver important early oral language behaviours to effectively get their message to an audience in both formal and informal situations.

Maths

Number - the children will:
• Continue to practise skip counting by 2’s, 5’s and 10’s to 100 and later to 1000, forwards and backwards, beginning from any starting point.
• Create and solve number sentences arising from number stories using addition and subtraction.
• Recognise patterns in the whole number system.
• Model, represent, write and understand number up to 999.
• Calculate mentally with numbers up to 20.

Space - the children will:
• Identify, name and use common terms to describe features of simple shapes and objects.
• Compare and classify shapes and objects using simple special criteria.
• Construct recognisable representations of shapes as seen and described.
• Make simple spatial pictures, patterns and constructions from verbal and visual instructions.

Measurement and Data – the children will:
• Recognise and use the concept of area.
• Explore a variety of length units and their uses in appropriate use in measurement.
• Use informal units to estimate, measure, compare and order the size of objects.

Integrated inquiry unit of study
‘Life Goes Around’ is the title of the Integrated Inquiry unit for Term 2. The focus of the unit is the study of different life cycles. The children will acknowledge that all living things have a beginning and end, and go through different growth and development stages. They will explore the importance of appropriate nourishment, shelter and habitat for plant and animal survival. Classroom chicken hatching, as well as a ‘Butterfly Adventures’ incursion will enhance the concepts about life cycles.
Learning Technologies
Students will continue to develop their skills on Microsoft PC’s. Students will use the Microsoft Office suite to develop and extend their ICT skills. They will learn to create PowerPoint presentations and use animation software. They will continue to develop their skills related to digital imagery including taking, uploading and editing media. Students will enhance their skills through use of the Library computers, ICT lab, and classroom computers.

‘You Can Do It’ social skills program
The foundation for Term 2 is Organisation. This encourages the children to develop a feeling of ‘I Can Do It’ by practising behaviours such as setting goals. The weekly Values Program will continue and a new value will be introduced fortnightly during Monday morning assemblies.

Aspects of the Specialist Program to note include:

Art:
The theme in the Art Room this term is Painting and Drawing. The children will experiment with different drawing and painting techniques using a variety of media such as highlighters, textas, chalk, oil pastels and paints. We aim to have students experimenting by mixing paints and creating different shades. Topics will be related to the classroom Integrated Topics where relevant.

Mandarin:
The Grade 1 children will start the term with learning some words for body parts. They will continue with learning Mandarin greeting phrases. They will consolidate their knowledge of numbers in Mandarin via games and computer activities. The Grade 2 children will start the term with activities to consolidate their learning of the Mandarin words and phrases they have learnt. They will learn words for family members.

Physical Education:
Term 2 will begin with striking, catching and throwing (for games such as cricket, rounders & teeball). Students will learn to strike using various sporting implements ie tennis rackets, T-ball and cricket bats. They will throw in different styles and catch with and without gloves. Students will continue to start every class with a brief fitness and stretching component, for general health and fitness.

Music:
Group work will be a focus as well as group dances. Years One and Two are consolidation years for beat and rhythm. Children will be developing further the basics of music notation and start applying it to un-tuned instruments. Singing songs from popular movies such as the Lion King and Peter Pan, will help develop performance skills.

Dates to remember:
Wednesday 21st April
Butterfly Adventures incursion
Monday 26th April
Anzac Day Public Holiday – Students not required at school
Thursday 6th May
Mothers Day Stall
Monday 10th May
Chickens arriving
Friday 14th May
Curriculum Day – Students not required at school
17th to 21st May
Education Week
Monday 17th May
1C’s Assembly
Tuesday 18th May
School Open Evening
Thursday 20th May
Grandparents and Special Friends afternoon
Friday 21st May
Chickens departing
Monday 31st May
2B’s Assembly
Monday 14th June
Queens Birthday – Students not required at school
Tuesday 22nd June
Parent Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 23rd June
Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday 24th June
Multi Age Day - Africa
Friday 25th June
Term 2 Ends 2:30 pm

Level 2 Team Members:
Miss. Narelle Smith, Ms. Nadia Costabile, Mr. Josef Burke-Smith, Mrs. Laraine Clacher, Mrs. Rebecca Cornall, Mr. Andrew Noordhoff, Miss. Natasha Mayer, Mrs Sandy Mettrick, Mrs Liz Clow, Mrs Michelle Beagley and Mrs Valerie Blake.