Dear Parents,

I’m sure that like me, you are still trying to work out what happened to Term 1. I know it was a shorter term, but it whizzed by.
I hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday, I certainly did. All children completed work which they were proud of. They certainly earned themselves a rest!

This newsletter is designed to provide you a ‘snap shot’ of the exciting learning opportunities the children will experience this term.

Inquiry Unit: Aussie Inventions

Our inquiry unit this term has a distinctly Aussie twist and is closely linked to the science curriculum. Children have selected an Aussie invention to investigate. They have then selected the way in which they would like to present their information from one of the following options
1. Picture story book
2. Creative writing
3. Working model
4. Create your own invention
5. Poster
6. Wall Chart
7. Board Game
8. Photographs

We are hoping to enter some of the students work in the Science Talent Search. We are lucky to have help from Manju a secondary Science teacher (on leave from Balwyn High) who has encouraged and assisted students to enter this competition for many years.

Literature Circles.

Friday’s reading rotation will involve the children working in mixed ability groups to discuss a novel in which they have displayed an interest. Children will need to bring their novel to school each Friday having read up to a predetermined page or chapter. The group will then discuss in detail the events of the story and interesting words and make predictions about what will happen next.

Activities related to the book will be undertaken by the group.
If your child is finding the reading difficult and for some this may be the case, I would encourage you to read aloud the novel whilst they listen. They will then be able to participate in all the discussions and activities.

Homework Routine

I have been happy with the amount and quality of homework completed by most of the children in 3/4/5/6 thus far.
Home work expectations for this term remain the same as for term 1: daily reading, times tables and spelling practise.
Please remind children to pack their homework folder each Monday and Friday as they are required at school on these days.
This term the children will be required to complete extra homework in relation to the Aussie invention they have selected for the Inquiry Unit.

Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Our class and school goal is for every child to complete the challenge; for us that means to read fifteen books before the end of August. Children must read 10 books from the official list and five books of their own choice. Many of the children are well on the way. Children can record the titles of books read on the recording sheet they have been given or they can continue to use their diaries or reading logs. No matter which way you choose, I ask you to sign to verify that the books have indeed been read. There are two boxes containing Challenge books in the classroom.

Auslan, PE, Sustainability and Digital Art rotation

We continued the rotations started last year with the addition of Sustainability in term 1. Although the children thoroughly enjoyed these sessions, the teachers felt that the 4 hour long sessions were leaving little time teachers to cover all areas of the curriculum. We have decided to trial a fortnightly rotation which sees each class participate in two sessions in the first week and the other two sessions the following week. Each session will remain an hour long.
Footy tipping
We have started a class footy tipping competition. Each Friday children select the teams they think will win during the round. Scores are totalled at the end of the round.

Literacy
Reading sessions this term will focus on four comprehension skills: inference, sequencing, synthesis and making connections. To make an *inference*, a reader must combine a number of pieces of information from a text. They must "read between the lines" and think about what may be only suggested or hinted at in a piece of writing. *Sometimes the most important "take" from a piece of text is on an inferential level.* We will be using the author’s clues to figure out what the text really means.

*Sequencing* provides the reader the opportunity to show they understand the order of events in a story or the order events occur in during an activity, for example in a factual text about how bees make honey.

*Synthesising* allows a reader to step back from a text, and make a generalization, create an interpretation, draw a conclusion, develop an explanation. It is as if the reader pauses periodically, reflects, ponders about the meaning of a text, and then eventually exclaims, "Aha! I get it!" We will be putting the pieces of the text together and looking at them in a different way.

*Making connections* occurs when students think about the text in relation to connections they can make to self, to texts, and to others. We will be making connections about what we read to things we know or have experience, to other texts we have read, listened to or viewed and to what we know about others.

This term in writing we will create a range of persuasive texts, using a variety of techniques to convince the reader that the belief expressed is believable. Watch out for emotive language, rhetorical questions and quotes from experts in your children’s writing. Procedural texts and information reports will be written as part of our Science Inquiry Unit.

ANZAC Day service
Some of the Year five/six children have researched information for a speech to be delivered during the ANZAC Day service. The service which was held on Wednesday 24th April was conducted by the children. We were pleased to welcome members of the Whittlesea RSL and community members. Peter Duncan, a past Middle Kinglake Primary School student and World War 2 veteran laid a wreath in honour of ex-Middle students. The wreath was placed at the base of our new memorial rock. The Whittlesea RSL organised a plaque which names all WW2 veterans from the Kinglake Central area and was donated to replace the memorial boards which were destroyed along with the school on Black Saturday. In 2010 Alexandra Huggins and Blake Ellis approached the RSL on behalf of the school, asking if they could assist us replace what they saw as a significant piece of the school’s history.

If your year 5/6 child was not involved in the ANZAC Day service they will work with Tim Hemsworth to prepare and present our Remembrance Day Service in November.

Maths
A major focus in mathematics throughout the year is the need for students to understand what they are doing, rather than simply ‘getting the right answer,’ which is often done by following a rule (which is not properly understood in the first place). Naturally, students will be at different stages as they progress towards a full understanding in maths. In order to find this stage, all students are assessed using the Number Fluency Assessment (NFA) which provides both teachers and students with specific information about what strategies a student understands well (is fluent) and the strategies on which they need to work. This information is used to provide students with daily practise (10 minutes) at their current stage of development to support them progressing. If you ask your child what they are working on in their daily practise they should be able to tell you!

Maths lesson are timetabled for 1 hour per day and in term 2 will cover the following topics:

**Number and Algebra:**
- Properties of numbers
  - Odd/even
  - Factors and multiples
  - Prime, composite, square and triangular
- Solving problems using the 4 operations
  - Addition/subtraction/multiplication/division
- Mental strategies
- Worded problems
- Times tables (including fact families)

Number lines
- Model ¼, ½, 1/3
- Count by ¼, ½, 1/3
- Compare and order unit fractions
- Count by fractions and decimals
- Compare decimals, fractions, percentages and ratios

Measurement and Geometry:
Make models of 3D objects and describe features
Compare and describe 3D shapes that result from combining and splitting common shapes
Construct 3D shapes from their 2D nets
Construct simple prisms and pyramids

Statistics and Probability:
Identify and describe the chance of an event occurring (descriptors include: certain, probable, likely, unlikely, impossible)
List outcomes of a chance experiment
Recognise probability ranges from 0-1
Describe probabilities using fractions, decimals and percentages.

Inter School Sport
On Fridays the children will participate in Interschool sport competitions in T-Ball, football and netball against children from Kinglake, Kinglake West, Ivanhoe and Doreen Primary Schools.

District Sport Draw 2013
Games to start at 12:00pm. Please ring Opposition school to confirm start time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 1</th>
<th>Round 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>June 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On our curriculum day so in process of being changed.</td>
<td>On our curriculum day so in process of being changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGS v MKPS</td>
<td>MKPS v IGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doreen v KWPS</td>
<td>KWPS v Doreen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPS v Bye</td>
<td>KPS v Bye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 2</th>
<th>Round 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>June 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KWPS v IGS</td>
<td>MKPS v IGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKPS v KPS</td>
<td>KWPS v MKPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doreen v Bye</td>
<td>Doreen v MKPS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 3</th>
<th>Round 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>June 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPS v KWPS</td>
<td>KWPS v KPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGS v Doreen</td>
<td>Doreen v IGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKPS v Bye</td>
<td>MKPS v Bye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 4</th>
<th>Round 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>July 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doreen v KPS</td>
<td>KPS v Doreen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KWPS v MKPS</td>
<td>MKPS v KWPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGS v Bye</td>
<td>IGS v Bye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 5</th>
<th>Round 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>July 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKPS v Doreen</td>
<td>Doreen v MKPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPS v IGS</td>
<td>IGS v KPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KWPS v Bye</td>
<td>KWPS v Bye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IGS football games are now at Plenty Campus.
Finals to be played on Friday 2 August.

Please feel free to arrange a time to catch up if you have any queries.
Karen Somers