Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2015 school year! We are currently working our way through the ‘Quality Beginning’ program, where students and teachers collaboratively establish processes and expectations for an effective learning environment.

Below is an outline of what will be covered in year 2 classes during term 1. As always, the teaching and learning programs at PPPS will be structured so that the wide range of student abilities are met. Year 2 teachers are all very excited about another fabulous year, and are looking forward to working with you to achieve the very best for your child.

**English**

**Reading:** The Early Years Literacy Program will be implemented using a wide variety of texts at different reading levels. Teachers will use the strategies of guided reading, independent reading, shared reading and modelled reading to broaden students’ understanding of effective reading strategies. At year 2 the reading program focuses on teaching students strategies that promote a high level of thinking and discussion about the text that has been read. Activities to extend comprehension skills will include group discussion, sequencing events, retells, multiple choice responses, answering questions about the text, and serial and picture book reading. As part of our independent reading, students will be selecting books from our classroom libraries. In order to provide a variety of books to cater for different interests and abilities, we are asking for donations of unwanted books from home. If you have any books at home that your child has finished with, please send them to school for our classes to enjoy.

**Writing:** The focus will be planning, composing, recording, editing and revising. Writing sessions will have an ongoing focus on understanding and applying punctuation (capital letters, full stops, question marks) and extending students’ vocabulary range. The students will practise the correct formation of letters and numbers, focusing on starting points, correct sizing and accurate entry and exit of each letter.

**Speaking & Listening:** The emphasis will be on some of the attributes of a good speaker and listener – eye contact, voice projection and body language. Students will be expected to listen effectively to oral texts and follow instructions.

**Mathematics**

**Number:** The focus for term 1 will include counting by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s from different starting points and using number patterns. Students will investigate the place value of numbers to 1000 using hundreds, tens and ones and develop strategies to mentally solve basic addition and subtraction number problems.

**Measurement, Probability, Statistics and Geometry:** Topics will include time (hour and half an hour) using analogue and digital clocks and length using centimetres and metres. Students will draw, label and describe simple two and three dimensional shapes and use a range of spatial vocabulary to give directions and understand instructions.

**Humanities and Science**

Our Humanities focus will cover, health (diet, sleep and exercise), building social relationships, working in teams, managing personal learning, safety, environmental awareness and anti bullying. Our Science focus is on how push and pull affects the way an object moves or changes shape. We will explore ways that objects move on land, in water and in air and identify toys that use the forces of push or pull.

**E- Learning - Fridays**

In eLearning during term 1 the focus will be on file management, correct file saving procedures and expanding their skills in the use of a variety of ICT information products, in particular Microsoft PowerPoint. Students will begin to create a PowerPoint presentation about year 2 that incorporates text, images (photos) and backgrounds. Students will use a digital camera to take photos of their friends and the school, and with assistance will import these photos into their PowerPoint presentation. This PowerPoint presentation will be added to throughout the year. Finally, the students will be introduced to animation and create a short animated movie using the iPad app “Toontastic”.

**Languages (Indonesian) – Mondays**

During Languages (Indonesian), students will be immersed in a structured language environment using content drawn from their experiences in immediate and familiar situations such as the home, classroom and school. They are encouraged to speak in Indonesian, and participate in a range language activities and games. The main topics for this term are Greetings, Personal details, Feelings and Numbers 0 – 20.

**Visual Art – Fridays**

In term one, students will develop their drawing and painting skills and will be creating their own flower people collage. They will use acrylic paint, oil pastels, and a large range of collage materials. They will be exposed to a variety of different techniques and tools when making their collage. Students will learn about Picasso’s unique portraits. Students will experiment with colour mixing to create secondary colours and different shades of the one colour when creating their own Picasso masterpiece. Students will also focus on shape and pattern when drawing and painting a huge hot air balloon.

**Physical Education – Thursdays**

Mr Scanu is excited to teach all of the year two students in Physical Education this year. The basic motor skills of dodge and kick will be reinforced during minor games and activities. As an extension to Physical Education lessons, each home group teacher takes their class out on a weekly basis for platoon sport where they reinforce concepts and skills taught in P.E. The importance of playing safely, cooperatively and within the rules is discussed and reinforced.
Home Learning
In Year 2 the home learning expectation is 30 minutes daily. This 30 minutes can be made up of a combination of reading practice, spelling practice, time on Mathletics, learning maths fact and other activities related to students’ individual learning goals. It is important that your child bring his/her plastic wallet and take home book to and from school every day.

Student Welfare
Our approach to student welfare reflects the things we value at PPKS. Students, as stakeholders, are expected to behave in a way that reflects their commitment to these values. We use Quality Tools to monitor student behavior. Student Welfare is also supported by access to a DET Speech Pathologist, and an Educational Psychologist. We also offer support through access to counseling with a registered provider, Healthy Minds, provision of a school First Aid Officer and our own student welfare coordinators. Coordinator of year 2 student welfare is Linda Philippedis. If you have any concerns please contact your child’s class teacher.

Absences
If your child is unable to attend school, it is a legal requirement that a note is sent the first day your child returns explaining his/her absence. These notes are filed for reference. Absences and lateness will be noted on your child’s report. We thank those parents who consistently support our learning program by ensuring their child is attending school regularly, and on time. Remember: IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY unless you are sick or there is a family crisis.

Drop off and pick up
We ask that you do not wait on the decking between the classrooms in Block F before or after school (unless in the case of extreme weather). The decking area can become quite crowded and dangerous if parents and small children are on the decking. We hope that you understand that we do this to provide a safe environment for the students to enter and exit their classrooms.

Parent Helpers
We will soon be asking for volunteers to assist with our classroom programs. Remember, you need to have participated in one of the ‘Volunteer Helper’ training sessions in order to help in any capacity within the school. Check the school newsletter for upcoming times and dates.

Newsletters
Newsletters and most notices are sent home on Thursdays with the youngest child. It is most important that you read the newsletter to keep up to date with what is happening at school. The newsletter is also available online at www.plentyparklands-ps.vic.edu.au. Any notes that are lost or misplaced can also be accessed through the school website.

Year 2 Staff Emails
Michelle Donahoo and Nicole Campbell 2-24
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Simon La Rocca 2-25
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Zoe Billing 2-26
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Linda Philippedis 2-27 (CIL, student welfare)
philippedis.linda.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

Vanessa Pasceri 2-28
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Important Dates

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<td>Curriculum day</td>
<td>Friday 13th February</td>
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<td>Chris Dacos parent information session</td>
<td>Monday 16th February</td>
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<td>School Photos</td>
<td>Tuesday 24th February</td>
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<td>Year 2 Healthy Lunch Day</td>
<td>Thursday 26th February</td>
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<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 9th March</td>
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<td>Family Fun Night</td>
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<td>Nude food day</td>
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<td>3 Way Conferences</td>
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<td>Last day of term</td>
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