Welcome back!
Below is an outline of the learning and teaching programs for term one. There are many exciting things happening this term in the year 5 rooms. As there is a wide range of student abilities in each classroom, the teaching and learning programs will be structured so that all students’ needs are met.

PHYSICAL, PERSONAL AND SOCIAL LEARNING

At the beginning of the year all students are involved in a Quality Beginning program that is designed to promote a smooth transition into the new year level and to reaffirm the school values. Embedded in the Quality Beginning program is the You Can Do It Program.

This term the focus is on ORGANISATION. In class your child will be learning the importance of setting goals and planning out their time. There will be a focus on: building social relationships; working in teams; managing personal learning; communicating with others and thinking skills. Congratulations to the year 5 students on a smooth transition from year 4 and good start to year 5.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE – The Light Show

Students will explore the properties of light and how it enables us to see. Students’ thinking about light and its role in our lives and our community will be developed using a range of hands on activities. They will experiment with different materials (transparent, translucent and opaque) and determine how they affect the transmission of light. Through investigations students will explain how objects reflect, absorb and refract light, and how we can use light to meet our needs. Team work and thinking skills will be central to many of the activities carried out during the term.

HOME LEARNING

Home learning will consist mainly of independent reading on a daily basis and tasks such as continuation of classroom work, assignments, essays and research. Home learning is a consolidation of the work the student has been focusing on in class each week. Unfinished classroom work may also be sent home during the week. Home learning is the student’s responsibility and should be spread out over the week in order to foster independence and organisational skills.

ENGLISH

Our reading program in term 1 will focus on using a range of strategies when reading appropriate texts (not too hard, not too easy), monitoring for accuracy and understanding, searching for and remembering information, making predictions and connections, reading between the lines and thinking analytically about the text. Students will read texts selected by the teacher and self selected texts. We call these ‘just right’ texts. There is a classroom process, devised with the students, to guide them in their selection of books that are an appropriate level and also of interest to them. At all times, there is a major focus on reading comprehension – ‘about’, ‘beyond’ and ‘within’ the text. They will meet with their teacher individually for regular conferences in which they will set personal reading goals. They will also conference in small groups to practise various reading strategies and discuss topics.

In writing, all year 5 students will develop their skills within the Writer’s Workshop. This process has been seen to give students the greatest opportunity to develop independence and confidence with their writing. Some of the specific text types that will be focused on in term 1 include fictional texts such as narratives, and persuasive texts such as arguments and speeches. We will also spend time exploring the language and structure that good writers use when composing texts, and the ways in which good writers enhance their writing. We will also focus on handwriting, punctuation, grammar and spelling.

Students will have many opportunities to speak in front of others and will complete several oral presentations including a Junior School Council representative (JSC) speech either, expressing interest to become a JSC or talking about the attributes of an effective leader. Attributes of good speakers and listeners will be emphasised and confidence will be encouraged.

MATHEMATICS

This term students will continue to work in the following dimensions: Number, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. The major focus for term one will be on place value, mental strategies for the four processes (+, -, ×, ÷), counting and patterns, money and time. ICT resources will be incorporated regularly including the Mathletics program. Students will also be involved in assessment and review of a range of topics during this term.

HEALTH

The focus of this unit will be on how the body changes as we grow, puberty, stages of development across our lifespan, healthy lifestyle choices, cyber safety, health promotion in the community and the importance of feeling safe in different situations. Students will complete a range of activities including role plays, posters and mini investigations. They will also participate in Healthy Eating Day.

LANGUAGES

During term 1, in Languages (Indonesian) lessons students will be given the opportunity to continue expanding their Indonesian vocabulary through activities related to their immediate environment. They will be encouraged to speak in Indonesian and participate in a range of language activities and play Indonesian games.

Students will be making a poster of their family tree and a project of their favourite season. Students will also learn about Indonesian culture from what they see in photographs, pictures and the internet (using websites suggested by the DET).
MEDI

During term 1 in Media the focus will be on file management, correct file saving procedures and expanding the students’ skills in word processing and computer animation. Using Microsoft Word, the students will insert, customise and format a table in a word document to produce a class timetable. In computer animation, students will create 2D stick figure animations using Pivot Stickfigure Animator. This program allows students to create stick figure animations easily by moving sections of the stick figure to create a chain of animation frames that produce an animation when combined.

STUDENT WELFARE

Our approach to student management reflects the things we value at Plenty Parklands Primary School. Students, as stakeholders, are expected to behave in a way that reflects their commitment to our school values. We use Quality tools to monitor student behaviour. By ‘living our values’, and through positive reinforcement of appropriate behaviour, coupled with an awareness of logical, behavioural consequences, we achieve the most powerful strategy for the development of students accepting responsibility for their behaviour. Student Welfare is also supported by access to a DET Speech Pathologist, and an Educational Psychologist. We also offer support through access to counselling with a registered provider, Healthy Minds, provision of a school First Aid Officer and our own student welfare coordinators. Kristy Caruso and Maria Stella are the welfare coordinators for Year 5. If you have any concerns please contact your child’s home group teacher or welfare coordinator.

You Can Do It - YCDI

In the YCDI Program this term, students will be asked to revisit their concepts of the program and to use an Infinity Diagram and then determine a class operational definition of Getting Along. They will be referred to Habits of the Mind and to use this understanding in the process. The lessons will incorporate Friend or Foe, Make and Keep Them and Friendly Conversations. They will be encouraged to participate in a range of activities to reflect their understanding. Students will then review their Definition at the end of Term. It is planned that Resilience will be incorporated in these discussions.

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is available online at www.plentyparklands-ps.vic.edu.au and becomes available at 9.30 am each Thursday of the school term. When you register on line you will receive a reminder email each week. Some families have requested that a paper copy be sent home and this along with most notices is sent home on Thursdays with the youngest child. It is most important that you access the newsletter to keep up to date with what is happening at school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/SPORT

Mrs Kellie Goldspink and Mr Sebastian Scanu continue to have the pleasure of teaching year 5 in Physical Education each week. The students will be challenged during athletic type activities which include the skills of jumping, throwing and running. All year five students will participate in the ‘Beep Test’ to assess their aerobic fitness level at the beginning of the year. If they can swim 50 metres, they will be able to attend the school swimming trials for selection into the PPS swimming squad and participate in either the interschool/intraschool sports program. This year we are continuing the intraschool sports program at Epping Leisure City with activities taken by professional trainers who will instruct and coach students through a wide variety of sports.

Specialist Timetable Term 1

This timetable may change due to various whole school activities.

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MUSIC

In Year 5 Music this term, we’ll light up our music with shadow puppetry. Let’s get those black and white notes on the keyboard creating amazing soundtracks.

ABSENCES - ‘IT’S NOT OK TO STAY AWAY’

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Curriculum Day February 13
Chris Daicos February 16
Interschool Sport starts February 20
Swimming Trials February 18
School Photos February 24
Labour Day Public Holiday March 9
Family Fun Night March 12
3 Way Conferences March 26
Final day of term March 27 (1:30pm finish)

Year 5 Camp April 13-April 16

Year 5 Teaching Staff
5-3 Mrs Lauren Heath – health.lauren.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
5-4 Ms Lisa Marino – marino.lisa.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
5-5 Mr Andrew Cavalierios (to be advised)
5-6 Ms Kristy Caruso – caruso.kristy.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
Student Welfare – Mrs Maria Stella – stella.maria.r@edumail.vic.gov.au
P.E. – Mr Seb Scanu and Mrs Kellie Goldspink
scanu.sebastian.s@edumail.vic.gov.au, goldspink.kellie.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
Media- Ms Kerrie Shelden – shelden.kerrie.r@edumail.vic.gov.au
Music – Mrs Kirsten Yates yates.kristen.a@edumail.vic.au
Languages – Mrs Sarjit Ladd – ladd.sarjit.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
You Can Do It (YCDI) Ms Jo Creed - creed.jo-ann.j@edumail.vic.gov.au