Welcome to the 2015 school year! As always, Term 1 promises to be a busy and exciting time. Students have been busy getting to know their teachers, making new friends and settling into their year 1 classes this past week. We have also been working our way through the 'Quality Beginning' program, where students and teachers collaboratively establish processes and expectations for an effective learning environment. Our Quality Beginning program is designed to promote a smooth transition into the new year level and to reaffirm the school values. Below is an outline of what will be covered in year 1 classes during term 1. As always, the teaching and learning programs at PPS will be structured so that the wide range of student abilities are met. Year 1 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: As with Prep, the year 1 classes will be teaching reading according to the Early Years Literacy model. The program will build on skills developed in Prep with an increased emphasis on each student’s growth as an independent reader. Activities will include focused teaching groups and independent learning tasks. Students will develop their word attack, reading fluency and comprehension skills using a range of texts and other resources. We will also be doing a special investigation into books written by Mem Fox and Pamela Allen.

Writing: As a continued development of the skills introduced in Prep, the focus will be on recount and simple narrative writing. Writing sessions will include an ongoing focus on punctuation (capital letters and full stops), different sentence patterns and using the sounds within words to ‘have a go’ at writing new words.

Speaking & Listening: Teaching will focus on the attributes of a good speaker and listener – eye contact, voice projection and body language. To complement the skills developed in Prep, students will be expected to restate and follow instructions. Speaking and listening skills will also be applied when students present information orally.

Handwriting: As motor skills continue to develop, the students will practise the correct formation of letters and numbers, focusing on starting points, correct sizing and accurate entry and exit from each letter, pencil grip and posture. Students also participate in a variety of fine motor activities to develop their hand and eye coordination skills.

Mathematics
As in Prep, the Early Years Numeracy program will continue to be implemented. Skills learnt in Prep will be extended and reinforced and new concepts will be steadily introduced. Students can use Mathletics to reinforce skills taught in class.

Number & Algebra: The term 1 focus for number will be on counting, number patterns, writing numbers and place value (tens, ones). The Cool Counting program will form part of the home learning in year 1.

Measurement & Geometry: Topics will include time measurement (to the nearest hour) and length measurement using a range of informal units. Students will identify and describe the properties of simple shapes.

Statistics and Probability: Students will collect and record data using simple graphs and charts.

Health
This term in Health, children will be learning about healthy foods and healthy bodies. They will be participating in ‘Nude Food’ day and a healthy foods program. Students will also attend several in-school activities relating to health and safety, including a RACV visit and a Responsible Pet Ownership presentation. They will have weekly tasks to complete about healthy eating as part of their home learning.

Languages (Indonesian) – Mondays
During Languages (Indonesian) this term, students will locate Indonesia on the world map, learn to greet each other, introduce themselves, and say days of the week and months in a year in Indonesian. They will be encouraged to use the Indonesian language through a range of fun activities and games. Indonesian is taken by Mrs Sarjit Ladd on a fortnightly basis.

Music – Tuesdays (1-16, 1-21, 1-22, 1-23) & Fridays (1-15)
We’ll be sunsmart, road safe and learn the highs and lows of sound in year 1 Music this term. First of all though, we’ll get into beat and rhythm and find out what makes our instruments happy! Let’s have fun learning songs and music games. Music is taken by Ms Anne McKay this term.

Physical Education – Thursdays
Mrs Kellie Goldspink is excited to meet the year one students for Phys. Ed. classes this year. She will be introducing the skills of dodge and kick and will reinforce them through a series of movement patterns, activities and minor games. In addition to the weekly Phys. Ed. classes with Mrs Goldspink, students will have platoon sport with the year one teachers. Year one is a time for students to know how to tie their own shoe laces up so that they remain snug and safe in their runners during Phys. Ed. classes.

Visual Art – Fridays
Visual Art is taken weekly by Ms Wendy Keating. In term one students will develop collage skills and experiment by manipulating, changing and feeling different materials to create 3-D art works. They will be exposed to a range of joining methods and use a variety of different tools when making their collages. When painting and printing students will mix colours to create secondary colours and experiment with changing the texture of paint to achieve different effects. Works will be based on the topic of ‘Animals’.

Library – Tuesdays (1-15), Wednesdays (1-21, 1-22, 1-23) & Fridays (1-16).
Students visit our school library once a week to learn library skills and borrow books to take home. Students must have an appropriate library bag to use when borrowing books and will not be allowed to borrow if they have misplaced or forgotten their bag. Please take the time to check your child’s library day and encourage them to bring a bag for book borrowing on that day. If your child has misplaced their library bag, a simple replacement is a ‘green bag’ from the supermarket!
Home Learning
In year 1, the expectation is that students complete a combination of the following as part of their home learning:

- Read their take home book (at least 5 nights a week)
- Healthy Eating tasks (1 each week – see Home Learning Book)
- Practise reading and writing High Frequency Words from their word list
- Cool Counting program
- Mathletics tasks / Live Mathletics

In addition, students will get a chance to bring home the Maths Monster and Writing Mascot for a night. Students will not need to complete any other home learning tasks on the night that they have the Maths Monster or Writing Mascot. Home learning tasks should take no more than 30 minutes a day to complete.

Student Welfare
Our approach to student welfare 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 these values. We use Quality tools to monitor student behaviour. Student welfare is also supported by school based Educational Support Staff, a Speech Pathologist, an Educational Psychologist, First Aid Officer and year 1 student welfare coordinator (Sue O’Hehir). If you have any concerns, your initial point of contact should be your child’s home group 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. Absences and lateness will be noted on your child’s report. Please note; Phone calls to the office are NOT considered to be an absence note – written notes are needed in order to be filed for reference. We thank those parents who consistently support our learning program by ensuring their child is attending school regularly, and on time. Remember: EVERY DAY COUNTS.

Uniform
Wearing the correct school uniform is compulsory, including on excursions. A note from home is required if your child will be out of uniform. Sunsmart hats are compulsory from September to the end of April. We encourage all students to bring a water bottle to school.

Staff emails
- Sue O’Hehir ohehir.susan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
- May Sem Wong Wong.may.sem.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Christine Gioules gioules.christine.c1@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Samantha Tyers tyers.samantha.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Sarah Cunningham cunningham.sarah.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Sarjit Ladd (Indonesian) ladd.sarjit.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Stephanie Serollo (YCDI) serollo.stephanie.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Anne McKay (Music) mckay.anne.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Kellie Goldspink (Phys Ed) goldspink.kellie.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Wendy Keating (Visual Art) keating.wendy.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Parent Helpers
Notices for parent helpers will go home shortly. Remember that you need to have participated in one of the Volunteer Helpers’ training sessions in order to help in ANY capacity at the school. Please check the newsletter for dates and times of training sessions. We look forward to seeing you in our classrooms.

Newsletters
Newsletters and most notices are sent home on a Thursday 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. Remember you need to notify the office if you would like a hard copy of the school newsletter sent home each week.

Transition Activities
In term 4 students participated in numerous transition activities to assist them in their transition to year 1. This transition process has continued in term 1. The Quality Beginning program helps students get to know other students in their class and assists them in using Quality Learning processes effectively within their new classroom. For example, students work with the teacher to set up effective packing up processes and also discuss what 5 star Quality learning looks like.

Drop Off and Pick Up
We ask that you do not wait on the decking between the classrooms in Block E or Block F before or after school (unless in the case of extreme weather). Arrange to meet your child in a familiar place in the school yard or wait under the covered walkways at either end of Block E or F. We hope that you understand that we do this to provide a safe environment for our students (your children) to enter and exit their classrooms. We have over 350 students who need to use these areas and it can become quite crowded and dangerous if parents and small children are also on the decking. Also, your child and other students find it difficult to focus on their learning and become distracted when they see and hear their parents and siblings.

Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13th February</td>
<td>Curriculum Day – No students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16th February</td>
<td>Chris Daicos Parent Forum 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th February</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th February</td>
<td>Family Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th February</td>
<td>Year 1 Parent Information Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9th March</td>
<td>Labor Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th March</td>
<td>Family Fun Night 5pm – 8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th March</td>
<td>Nude Food Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>3 Way Conferences 10.30am – 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th March</td>
<td>Term 1 ends – 1.30pm finish</td>
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