

# News from Grade 5/6

Welcome to what promises to be an exciting year!

This newsletter contains information to help ensure that your child/ren's year starts smoothly. We hope to see you at the **Grade 5/6 Open Classroom** on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 1pm** for more details of what to expect throughout the year.

*Meanwhile, in alphabetical order...*

## Camp

The Grade 5/6 camp is booked for 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August. We will be away for four days and three nights. Students were involved in selecting this year's camp last year on our Transition Day. From the three options provided, this camp was the number one choice. The approximate cost will be \$260. More information will be provided at the Open Classroom session and permission forms will be sent home later this term.

## Class Blog

Our Class Blog address for 2014 is <http://upps56team.global2.vic.edu.au>. Please visit often as we love sharing our learning with you. We also love reading comments, so please comment often! You can use the 'Subscribe by Email' option on the right hand side of the blog (shown in the image to the right) so that you receive an email when we publish a new post. You can cancel your subscription at any time.

### Subscribe by Email

Subscribe and never miss a post!

ex: someone@mydomain.com

Subscribe

There is a 'Parents' tab at the top of the blog which will have information about the term's curriculum. There are also links to notices handed out and upcoming events for Grade 5/6 students.

## Diaries & Record of Reading

All students will have a student diary. We are currently waiting for them to arrive at school. Having a diary is an important stepping stone to Secondary School and an opportunity for independence and organisation. Diaries are also a great form of communication between home and school. Please sign your child's diary once a week. Diaries should come to school each day and will be collected on weekly on random days. This year, 5/6 students will use their diary to record their reading. Students will be expected to write the title of the book read and keep track of their total nights reading.

## Email

We like to keep parents completely up to date with what is happening in our classroom. This is often done through email as it is quick, easy and supports our school commitment to sustainability. We will be collecting email addresses. In addition to the class blog, we will be emailing a fortnightly update to parents who provide us with an email address. There will also be a hard copy available for those without email access. The update will be a single A4 page written by two students.

Students will also have an 'ePals' email address. At Level 5 and 6, the curriculum states that students must learn how to compose and manage emails. We use 'ePals' as it allows teachers to read all emails sent and received by students. Emails are approved by teachers before landing in inboxes. Grade 6 students will be able to use their login and password from 2014 and Grade 5 students will receive a username and be able to create their own password.

### **40 Book Challenge**

This year we are all participating in the 40 Book Challenge. The aim is for each student (and teacher) to read 40 books by the end of the year. We will be creating a list of different categories that books can fit in. The focus of the challenge is to read and finish a variety of books – some that are our preferred type of text and others that we might not normally read. Once we have created our categories the list will be glued into reading journals.

### **Hats, Sunscreen & Sunglasses**

All students are required to wear a broad brimmed hat outside during Terms 1 and 4. These can be purchased from the Uniform Shop. Students are also encouraged to wear sunscreen and bring sunglasses to school if they wish.

### **Healthy Snacks, Hot Lunches & Water Bottles**

Students are able to eat healthy snacks during class time. We recommend that students bring at least one healthy snack to school every day. Some students may like to bring two snacks as there is an option to eat at 10am and again at 12:30pm. Healthy snacks can be fruits or vegetables.

Pie warmers are available every day to heat student lunches. They do not cook food, just warm it up. Hot lunches should be clearly labelled and wrapped in foil or a container that will fit in the pie warmer's narrow shelves.

Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school each day.

### **Homework & Home Reading**

Our aim for homework this year is to develop habits and provide tasks that will make the transition to Secondary School homework more seamless. Diaries will be very important in keeping track of homework and due dates. After speaking to local Year 7 Co-ordinators, we are trialling the following homework tasks:

**Flipped Homework:** Students will be asked to prepare for lessons at school. This may involve reading, research or watching a short video clip online. There will usually be a quiz, multiple choice questions or short response required. The knowledge gained from completing the Flipped Homework will be used in lessons at school. If the task is reading based, students may choose to read the 'flipped homework' text as their 'reader' text.

**Reading:** Students are expected to read for 15 minutes each school night. We encourage students to read a variety of texts including books, magazines, websites, newsletters, newspapers, flipped homework texts etc.

**Finishing Off School Work:** This type of homework task is included in our homework as this happens at Secondary School. If students use their time unwisely at school they will be asked to complete the work at home. This is their responsibility and not yours.

Please note that this does not apply if a student uses all their class time well and doesn't finish the task.

**Research Projects:** Students may have a research project to complete at home. The project will usually link in with our Inquiry Unit.

**Overnight Homework:** Occasionally, students may be asked to complete a short task overnight (as this happens at Secondary School). It should take no longer than 15 minutes.

This year all students have their own USB. This is another stepping stone into Secondary School and should make working on projects at home and school easier.

The first homework task has been sent home today. Students who choose not to complete their homework by the due date will be required to complete it at school during recess and/or lunch time breaks until it is finished.

### Parent Helpers

Parent helpers are an essential part of our classrooms. If you are interested in helping in our class, please let us know! If you have not done the Parent Helper Training Course at Upper Plenty, keep an eye out in the school newsletter for dates. If you have a spare hour each week, please consider volunteering your time. Roles vary and range from listening to children read, carrying out spelling tests and working with individual or small groups of students.

### Rotations

On Fridays, students will participate in UPPS rotations in mixed age groups within their House groups. The timetable for Term 1 is below:

Grade 3 – 6 Blue & Red House: Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

Grade 3 – 6 Green & Yellow House: Performing Arts & Sustainability

### Specialist Subjects

Students will participate in hourly sessions of Physical Education, Science and Art each week. For Art and Science classes, students will be split into year level groups. Students will also continue learning Indonesian. These sessions will be 45 minutes.

The timetable is below:

Grade 5 Students		Grade 6 Students	
Art with Mrs Lewis	Tuesday @ 11:30am	Art with Mrs Lewis	Tuesday @ 12:30pm
Science with Miss Fenech	Tuesday @ 12:30pm	Science with Miss Fenech	Tuesday @ 11:30am
Indonesian	Wednesday @ 2:15pm	Indonesian	Wednesday @ 2:15pm
Phys. Ed. with Miss Fenech	Thursday @ 9am	Phys. Ed. with Miss Fenech	Thursday @ 9am

## Team Teaching

After a very successful and productive year of team teaching in 2014, we will be team teaching again this year. This means that the 5/6 class is **one class** with **two teachers**. We call ourselves The 5/6 Team.

For **administrative purposes** (roll, initial parent point of contact, some specialist classes etc.) students will be in their **year level** group. Grade 5 students are tagged to Mrs Placek and Grade 6 students are tagged to Miss Crowther. This means that all students have a 'Home Room' teacher and all parents have a first point of contact.

For **educational purposes** students will be grouped in a **number of ways**. Students in both 'Home Room' classes will work together in mixed and like ability groups, depending on the curriculum area. Both of us will teach and interact with all children at different times each day.

Students who have the same educational needs, whether they be a Grade 5 or Grade 6 student, will work together in the same small teaching group, usually during literacy and numeracy sessions. For example, a Grade 5 student may work with one teacher for reading and the other for numeracy or writing. There will be other times, such as Inquiry, when all students work together and there are no teacher groups. We plan all learning and assessment tasks together. Your child will have two teachers meeting their educational needs.

### What are the advantages of team teaching for our Grade 5/6 students?

- Students work in like ability groups, focusing on their specific needs, regardless of year level
- Students have a larger pool of people to choose from to work with during mixed ability groups
- Students belong to a larger group (but not too large), enabling greater development of friendships and more peer models
- Students have the opportunity to work with two teachers who have complimentary styles and expertise
- Teachers can plan a more rigorous curriculum for students
- Teachers can work more independently with students
- A stepping stone to Secondary School where students have a number of teachers

As always, if you have any concerns please let us know. We ask that you make an appointment so that we can discuss the concern properly. Please either drop in, phone or email to make an appointment time.

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Carolyn [crowther.carolyn.v@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:crowther.carolyn.v@edumail.vic.gov.au)

We look forward to working with you and your child/ren in 2015 and making it a year to remember.

We hope to see you at the **Grade 5/6 Open Classroom** information session on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 1pm.**

Kind regards,

Amy & Carolyn

# Please complete and return

by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

## Open Classroom Information Session

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

will / will not be attending the Open Classroom information session

At the information session, I would like teachers and students to tell me more about:

Team Teaching

Literacy Block

Numeracy Block

History, Geography, Humanities, Civics & Citizenship etc.

Genius Hour

Communication (blog, emails, class newsletters etc)

Homework

Camp

Class Bank Account & Fundraising

Interschool Sport

Other (please list below)

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