Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Time is flying, and we are already two weeks into Term 2!

As you can see, we have a very eventful term coming up: school photos, NAPLAN, art exhibitions and more! We are particularly looking forward to taking part in the Vesak Day art exhibition at the Melbourne Town Hall, and hope that you will get a chance to visit it with your children.

We are also very pleased to welcome Mr Jason Isma in the Foundation-2 classroom. He has spent his first week getting to know his class better, and they are now settling in to the new routine. We are also happy to have a new student, Adrian Ong, joining the F-2 class. He is already making a fantastic addition to our school community, with a big smile every day and his immediate willingness to join in and ‘have a go’!

Warm Regards,
Jacqui Bosman

Important News

Vesak Art Exhibition

We are proud to announce that Hoa Nghiem Primary School is taking part in the UN Vesak Day Children’s Art Exhibition at Melbourne Town Hall. The theme is ‘creating a beautiful world’, and our artwork is focused on building a Buddhist connection with our environment through mindfulness of the natural world.

We are using this opportunity to build an even stronger school community through creating a mural. The school is lucky enough to be working with Beverly Cooke, a wildlife artist and former education support worker, to create the work. All students will join together for the first two sessions. They each have their own part of the mural and, because we are painting on cotton, they will be able to take their work home. Finished works can be sewn onto cushions, bags or other things so that you will be able to keep them for many years.

Upcoming Events

April 25
ANZAC Day

May 5
School Photos

May 7
Vesak Day Exhibition

May 10-12
NAPLAN Test Period

May 23
Pupil Free Day

June 13
Queen’s Birthday

June 22
Term 2 Reports Released

June 24
Last Day, Term 2
The exhibition can be viewed at Melbourne Town Hall on May 7th, from 11am-4pm. Additionally, a bus will be leaving from Hoa Nghiem Primary School on the 7th to take students and their parents/guardians to the exhibition should they wish to attend.

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**Canteen Changes**

As we begin to head into the winter months, our canteen menu is about to change. We are planning on simplifying the menu for Wednesday’s and Friday’s to focus on preparing the meals that students most enjoy. The following items will be available on both Wednesday and Friday in Week 4:

- Spring rolls with mixed salad
- Hu Tieu (rice noodle soup)
- Toasted sandwich (cheese or cheese and tomato)
- Fried noodles
- Fried rice
- Flavoured milk

If you have any other suggestions, or a particular vegetarian meal that your child enjoys, please let us know by Wednesday, April 27th at the very latest so that we can consider adding it to the menu.

**Uniform Policy**

A letter went home to all families last week, reminding everyone of the school policy regarding our uniform. This policy was ratified by the School Board during its meeting on Tuesday night, including an update to reflect how breaches of uniform will be managed. Please note the following:

- It is a requirement of attendance at Hoa Nghiem Primary School that all students wear correct school uniform, unless discussed and approved with the classroom teacher or Principal. This is a common expectation of most schools, particularly private ones.
- Correct footwear is a part of the uniform policy. All footwear worn during non-sport days must be black, including laces (where applicable). Plain coloured soles are acceptable. Students may wear running shoes of any colour on their PE day.
- Where there is a reason that a student cannot wear correct uniform, a note must be provided to the classroom teacher that states why the student is out of uniform and when correct uniform will be worn.

The uniform policy reflects our belief that the wearing of correct uniform, in a clean and tidy state, shows respect and pride in attending our school. It also prevents students from engaging in competitive behaviour around wearing popular ‘brand name’ items. Please help by making sure that your child is wearing the correct uniform and talking about the importance of displaying respect for, and pride in, our school through the wearing of its uniform.

From Tuesday, April 26th, the following will occur when students do not attend in correct uniform:
- The first breach of uniform policy will result in a note being sent home with your child requesting that your child attend school in correct uniform or that a note be written explaining why they are not wearing their uniform correctly.
- If the student continues to be out of uniform, their parent or guardian will be contacted by the Principal to discuss the issue.
- If there is an additional instance, within the same term, of a student being out of uniform this will result in a formal meeting being called between the Principal and the student’s family.

**News from the Classroom**

**F-2 News**

We have had a great start to the Tem in F-2I: where we have welcomed a great new student, Adrian Ong (not to mention a new teacher)! We spent our first week together focusing on getting to know each other and ‘settling in’ to the classroom routine. This included doing some experiments: making guesses about what might happen and seeing what the results were. We saw how shadows move during the day and how heat and cold can cause change. We’ve also been learning how awareness of our mind and body can help create harmony in our learning community. This week has seen a return to more formal learning: exploring Shape in Maths and finding out about Fairy Tales in Reading. We are looking forward to finding many ways to share our learning with our friends and families during the rest of the year.

**3/4 News**

The 3/4s have made a flying start to Term 2, as usual! We were straight back into our work, with a particular focus on checking the progress that students have made in reading. They have all had great success with the most important part of reading: comprehension (understanding). I am also very proud of the progress that most students have made in their Beep Test- a PE test that checks how far (and quickly!) each student can run.

This term we are working very hard on reading and understanding non-fiction. We are also doing persuasive writing: learning how to write basic essays and express opinions that are based on facts and experiences. The students are posting these on a class blog, where they are expected to comment respectfully to others and show good ‘digital citizenship’. This helps build a strong knowledge of how to work on computers (a skill that is more and more important, especially in high schools), as well as making them better writers. In Maths, we have started looking at 3D shapes and angles as the start to our term, and will begin to get back into subtraction and division in the coming weeks.

**Vietnamese Language News**

Term 2 has come finally and the Vietnamese class is entering its second week. Since Vietnamese is a tonal language written in the Roman alphabet, the students are first taught to recognise the similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese by comparing the letters of the alphabet. In the first week, F-2I has started learning the 29 Vietnamese letters. 3/4B is beginning to read, write and even sing the 29 Vietnamese letters. It is amazing to see the students’ progress. They can make simple introductions, understand basic classroom instructions as well as make
basic communication in class. Over the next two weeks we will continue to build up the language from the alphabet song and begin reading stories to help further understand tones.