Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Chúc Mừng Năm Mới and welcome to the first term of the 2016 school year. It has been a cold and rainy start, but thankfully it has not dampened our enthusiasm!

We have had an excellent start to the year, with some ‘buddy’ activities between the 3/4 and F-2 classes and lots of activities to help the children get to know others in the school. We are also very excited to announce that the new playground has been installed near the Nirvana Buddha and will be opened for students to use next week.

I hope that you enjoy this installment of our newsletter, and look forward to say hello when I am in the yard.

Warm Regards,
Jacqui Bosman

Important News

Return of Term 1 Document Pack

Thank you to those families that have already signed and returned their important forms. If you have not already returned these forms, then just a reminder that the following needs to be signed and returned to your child’s teacher as soon as possible please;

- Internet and technology use agreement
- Homework club sign up (for interested families)
- Local excursions permission

Drop Off Times and Arrangements

We have noticed some children arriving at school very early in the morning (8:30am). Please note the following information about drop off times and arrangements:

- Children should not be on school grounds (yard and playground) unattended before 8:45am. There is no supervision for children before this time, as teachers are busy setting up for the day.
- When dropping children off, please note that parking spots in the drop-off zone immediately in front of the school gate are limited to 5 minutes. Early arrivals who want to supervise their children before school should park elsewhere in the temple carpark.
**Homework Club**

Another reminder of the HNPS 'Homework Club' an after school program for students who may require help with homework or a quiet space to work. The club will operate from 3:45-5:30pm from Monday to Friday, and be closed during school holidays or pupil free days. Tutors are volunteers, though if your child already has a tutor we are happy for them to come in to work with your child. The club is supervised by Ms Bosman.

If you are interested in having your child attend homework club, please complete the Homework Club sign up form which was sent home with your child in the Term 1 Document Pack.

**News From the Classroom**

**Setting the Scene F-2 Classroom**

This week, the classroom focus has been on providing opportunities for children to get to know each other. Children have been encouraged to share some of their likes and dislikes, interests and experiences, whilst establishing a positive learning environment and classroom expectations and procedures.

We have made quite a few discoveries this week! One of these discoveries is that numbers are very important and can be used to describe ourselves. Our ‘Math About Me’ unit has helped us explore a range of different numbers, measurements as well as time and calendars in a fun way. Please feel free to come and have a look at our Math About Me display on our classroom window.

As we are becoming more comfortable within our classroom and the wider school, we look forward to introducing new programs from next week including PMP (Perceptual Motor Development Program) and buddies!

**Setting the Scene 3/4 Classroom**

The 3/4s have been incredibly busy over the last week and a half. While we’ve had some fun getting to know each other, we’ve also started most of our subjects!

I am very proud of the ‘personal museums’ that all of the students constructed. These were a great way to let students get to know a bit about each other, and every child put in a huge effort to make them as good as they possibly could. We are already a very hardworking class!

One of the big things that we have talked about is the importance of setting goals and working hard to achieve them. Each student has set their own goals in Reading, Writing, Maths and Personal Learning (behavior). We are also learning to think about ourselves and others in a positive way, so that we don’t give up or make others feel bad.

In the next few weeks, we will also start two special programs: the Grade 4 leadership project and Grade 3 NAPLAN preparation. Grade 4s will join F-2Cs PMP (Perceptual Motor Program) class to be role models for the younger children and help them develop important physical skills; Grade 3s will be learning more about how NAPLAN works, particularly how to manage their time and understand questions clearly.

**Absence Policy**

The school must be notified of any absences, early departures or late arrivals. In all cases, an additional absence slip will need to be signed by a parent and submitted to the school office.

If your child is going to be absent, please notify the school office by phone on 9017 2771.

If your child is going to be leaving school early or arriving late to school, we request that you first report to the office to sign an absence slip.

An extended period of absence, for example, a family holiday must be notified to the school in writing.
Tết

Today, the F-2 and 3/4 classes worked together on some activities in preparation for Tết. We learned about traditions like the giving of red envelopes and created our own. We discovered that pink peach blossoms and yellow blossoms come from different parts of Vietnam and have different numbers of petals, and went for a walk around the Temple to see the marigolds, kumquats and pink and yellow blossoms. Afterward, we worked together to decorate our red envelopes by drawing our own blossoms. We also learned Vietnamese New Year greetings and made some of our own best wishes for our buddies. In the 3/4 classroom, we made New Year banners in Vietnamese and wrote poems to show our respect for our mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Homework Policy

Homework is an important part of the learning process and is a valuable way in which children can share their learning from the classroom with their family at home. As of next week, you can expect that your child will bring home homework. Homework will be tailored to your child’s learning needs and will be distributed on a Monday with the expectation that it is to be completed and returned to school by the following Friday. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child’s homework, please don’t hesitate to speak to your child’s teacher.

Canteen is Here!

Our school canteen will be opening on Wednesday 10th February for lunch orders and then every Friday and Wednesday after for lunch orders. If you would like to order your child’s lunch from our delicious menu, follow these steps;

1. Write your child’s name on the top of the order form (example attached).
2. Write your order on the form.
3. Send your order form with your payment to school with your child.

Lunch orders will be collected by 9:30am each day. Late lunch orders will NOT be accepted.