Dear Parents,
Welcome to Grade 6 at Craigieburn Primary School. The following information explains the way the Grade 6 area operates. It is designed to assist you in understanding the programs and classroom procedures.

The Grade 6 Staff for 2016:

Grade 6A  Room 33  Kim Marks  
Grade 6B  Room 34  Michelle Ferraro  
Grade 6C  Room 35  Rachael Noble  
Grade 6D  Room 36  Alan McCoy
English
The English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy. Together the strands focus on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating.

Reading
The Grade 6 teachers use the ‘Cafe Reading’ program to develop comprehension skills, fluency and expand students' vocabulary. The Cafe Reading program encourages a love of reading and helps increase reading stamina. Children are shown strategies to select suitable books called ‘good fit books’ and have regular conferences with their teacher about their reading progress and goals.

Writing
Students will develop their skills in a range of text structures and writing genres. Language features include complex sentences, unfamiliar technical vocabulary, figurative language, and information presented in various types of graphics. The children will create a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive types of texts. Students use planning and editing structures to create and publish their own work in a range of different forms. Grammar, punctuation and word enrichment forms an essential part of the weekly writing program.

Spelling
The Grade 6 spelling program incorporates the Soundwaves program to use a sound-to-letter strategy which acknowledges that sounds can be represented more than one way in written form. It then explores the letters that represent these sounds and how they can be put together to form written words. Each week the children are pre-tested with new list words and create 10 personal spelling words based on the weekly soundwaves strategy and common spelling words.

Mathematics
The teaching of mathematics is broken into three content strands: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. The students will look at understanding, fluency, problem-solving and reasoning in each of the three content strands. These skills reinforce the significance of providing the language to build in the developmental aspects of the learning of mathematics.

Each week the children will participate in five mathematics lessons designed to cater for the different ability levels in the classroom. They will be pre-tested at the start of each new topic and post-tested when that area of maths has been completed. These pre and post-test results allow both the teacher and students to evaluate personal learning and use the data to set personal learning goals.
Inquiry Topics
The following topics will be covered and integrated into the curriculum:
Term 1 – **Launch into Learning** and **Civics and Citizenship**

Specific topics for Terms 2 to 4 are yet to be decided as the children's interests, needs and skills are guides to new areas of learning. The following curriculum areas will be part of the inquiry units in 2017:

- Geography
- History
- Science
- Health

**Digital Technology**
Digital Technology is incorporated into all areas of the classroom program. Students have been involved in lessons about becoming eSmart when using technology. eSmart lessons include information about protecting online identity, appropriate use of technology (including social media) and cyber bullying.

**Welfare**
Our Term 1 ‘Launch into Learning’ program focuses on the students’ rights and responsibilities as student leaders and independent learners. Regular 'Thumbs up' lessons throughout the year will continue to build on these concepts and help build upon children’s confidence, social development and teamwork skills.

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**Reporting to Parents**

**Term Outlines**
Term outlines will be added to the school webpage at the beginning of each term. They will also contain information about excursions/incursions, curriculum days, camp dates and other special events.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**
Parents will be given the opportunity to formally meet their child’s teacher at our Launch into Learning barbeque, which will be held on Wednesday the 29th March. Further details will be sent home, inviting you to attend. Parent Teacher interviews will be held in Term 1. Students are encouraged to attend the Parent Teacher interviews to discuss their Personal Learning Goals.

**Reports**
Mid-year and End of Year reports are sent home, at the end of Term 2 and Term 4. Children in Grade 6 are typically working towards the achievement of Level 6 in the Victorian Curriculum. More information about this can be found at: [http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au)
**Graduation**

Graduation is an important part of Grade 6. At the end of term 4, the school hosts a Graduating Ceremony that includes a formal dinner, special awards and a year level performance. To help celebrate the end of the children's primary school education they are invited to attend an end of year excursion to Funfields in Whittlesea. More information about this exciting event will be available later in the year.

**Communication with Classroom Teachers**

All Grade 6 teachers are most happy to discuss your child with you. However please try to make an appointment before or after school. This will ensure you have a private time to speak with the teacher. Teachers would prefer to keep the 8.50 – 9.00 am time free to greet students and prepare for the morning session. Please contact us if you have any concerns or problems, as outlined in the Map of Care below:

**Grade 6 Map of Care**

1. Your child’s classroom teacher
2. Grade Level Team Leader – Miss Michelle Ferraro
3. Grade 6 Coordinator – Jim Beattie (Assistant Principal)
4. School Principal – David Naismith

**Excursions, Incursions and Special Activities**

Excursions and incursions are an important part of student learning and support classroom topics. They allow students to discuss and participate in ‘real life’ experiences that build on their skills and understanding.

It is important that students attend excursions and incursions to benefit and extend their knowledge. Information regarding excursions/incursions will be sent home as early as possible to allow organisation of payment.
Homework
Homework is an important part of the classroom program and allows students to develop positive work habits and to manage their time effectively. Homework will be handed out on Friday and is due back on Thursday the following week. The children will be given activities for spelling, English, Maths and other curriculum areas for consolidation. Home Reading is considered a homework task and students are encouraged to have parents sign their student diaries after completing home reading. Student diaries are to be taken home and returned to school daily. We expect that homework (including home reading) can be completed in 30 to 40 minutes daily over the course of the week. Please see your child’s teacher if you have any concerns about homework or home reading.

Student Welfare and Discipline
Craigieburn Primary School has a Whole School Discipline Policy and students are expected to behave and work in a positive manner and respect the rights of others. Children can be rewarded with house points, student of the week/month or other classroom incentives in recognition of upholding the school values.
In accordance with the school policy, students who continually misbehave in the classroom, frequently disrupt others, or fail to respect students and school property will receive a time-out in their classroom. Teachers will have restorative discussion with students after a time-out and reinforce school behaviour expectations. Parents will be notified if their child is not fulfilling their responsibilities. If parents have any concerns about the welfare or behaviour of their child, they are encouraged to arrange a meeting with their child’s teacher.

Water Bottles and Fruit Break
We encourage students to have a bottle of water on their table. We also ask children to bring fresh fruit to class daily to be consumed during fruit break. Fruit break allows students to have a snack between recess and lunch, re-energise and continue to focus on their work.

Attendance
An initiative of the Education Department is the “It’s Not OK to Be Away” program. This initiative encourages students and parents to think about the reasons for absenteeism and make school attendance a priority in the child’s life. Our goal for each child is to have no more than 12 days absence for the whole year. If your child is absent, please provide the classroom teacher with an explanatory note when your child returns to school.

Punctuality
It is most important that all children aim to be at school on time in the morning, ready to begin class at 9.00am. Lateness does occur occasionally however we urge you to ensure your child is punctual as constant lateness upsets the classroom routine and causes lost crucial teaching time. The classroom teachers will be in the room by 8.50 am and children are welcome to come in and be organised for the day as part of our soft start to the day. The soft
start initiative allows children to focus themselves for the day, seek assistance for homework, complete unfinished work, read or use Mathletics.

Collecting Children Early
When you need to collect your child early from school, it is necessary to visit the office prior to going to your child’s classroom. There is a sign on the interior door of each classroom which outlines your child’s specialist timetable or a written message to tell you where your child’s class can be located. If you are still unable to find your child then we suggest you return to the office for assistance.

Uniform
It is an expectation that all children will wear correct school uniform. Runners suitable for sport are required on days your child has Physical Education and each Friday for Interschool sport. If your child is going to be out of uniform for any particular reason, please write an explanatory note to your child’s teacher.

Hats
All children must wear a Craigieburn Primary School hat during Terms 1 and 4. Non-school uniform hats are not accepted. Students who do not have a hat to wear will be excluded from playing outdoors and will be asked to remain under shelter during recess and lunch times. Graffiti and torn hats are not acceptable and a new one will need to be purchased.

Money/Notices
All money and notices sent to school go to the child’s room and are collected in a red bag that is locked and then sent to the office.

Interschool Sports
Throughout the year, the Grade 6 students will be involved in the interschool sports program. They will have the opportunity to play a range of sports against local primary school teams. The Term 1 interschool sports are:
- Netball
- Softball
- Cricket
- Volleyball

Mobile Phones
Grade 6 students are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school. It is the child’s responsibility to hand the phone to their teacher by 9:00am each morning. Classroom teachers will lock up student phones during the school day and return them at home time. Parents will be informed if children neglect to hand their phone to their teacher or use them inappropriately.

School Banking
School banking day is Tuesday. Bank books are collected in the classroom and sent to the office.
Specialist Classes & Timetable
Your child will be participating in the following classes this year:
Art, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Digital Technologies and Library

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6A</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Semester 2</td>
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<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>Thursday 10.00-11.00</td>
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<td>Phys Ed</td>
<td>Thursday 9.00-10.00</td>
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<td>Digital Technology</td>
<td>Wednesday 11.30-12.30</td>
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<td>Library</td>
<td>Tuesday 10.00-10.30</td>
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<td>6B</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Semester 2</td>
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<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>Thursday 9.00-10.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Phys Ed</td>
<td>Thursday 10.00-11.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Digital Technology</td>
<td>Wednesday 12.30-1.30</td>
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<td>Library</td>
<td>Tuesday 10.30-11.00</td>
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<td>6C</td>
<td>Art</td>
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<td>Performing Arts</td>
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<td>Phys Ed</td>
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<td>6D</td>
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<td>Digital Technology</td>
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<td>Library</td>
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Further information regarding our whole school is available at www.craigieburnps.vic.edu.au
Thank you for taking the time to read the Year 6 information package.

Parents who have any further questions please contact your child's teacher. We look forward to working with you and your child successfully this year.

Grade 6 Teachers