Dear Families/Carers,

Welcome back! Can you believe that it is already Term 4, 2015? 1/2 Jungle Drums are amazed with how quickly the year has gone by! With only one term to go, we are enthusiastically planning our individual learning goals that we want to achieve before the end of the year. You can come and see them outside our classroom on our corridor display!

At the end of last term we finished publishing our narratives. We are very eager to share them with you so if you get a chance pop in, make yourself comfortable and ask your child to read their book to you! We guarantee that you will fall into the book world and be speechless by the creativity and structure of their stories. We have very talented, inspired and imaginative authors in our classroom! I cannot wait to see how persuasive they can be in their writing later this term!

To help students broaden their friendship groups as they transition to years 2 and 3, all of the 1/2 classes will meet at 11am for lunch on the grass outside the 1/2 courtyards. All teachers will encourage year 1 students to congregate under one tree and year 2 students under another. Each week students will be given a topic before leaving the classroom. During eating time they will share their response with a friend from another class. We will be checking in with our students and you can support this at home by asking how their “Social Lunch” went that day.

Do not forget that swimming programs will take place in weeks 4 to 6. The Aqua safe program is available for all year 2 children and the AIS clinic is a great opportunity for the year 1 children to strengthen their skills and have fun in the water! Please get those permission slips in or see me if you have any questions or concerns.

I have outlined an overview of Term 4 and important dates. Other dates may be added as the term progresses so please check the school website regularly: http://www.turners.act.edu.au. If you would like to discuss anything in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me to arrange a time.

Inquiry
To meet the needs of the Australian Curriculum outcomes for physical science, this term year 1 and 2 students will be inquiring into different topics. To accommodate this learning year two students will spend two hours a week working with Ilesha and her year twos while year one students from our class and lesha’s will work with me. Inquiry investigations will still take place in the classroom.

Inquiry Year 1- ‘Look! Listen!’
Light and sounds surround us, bringing a wealth of information about our world. We use light and sound to communicate with each other. Sounds can be as different as beautiful music or screaming sirens. Light can transmit the pictures from a television screen or the expressions of someone’s face. Through this unit students will investigate how sources of light and sound are produced and how they travel.

Big idea- Light and sound are produced by a range of sources and can be sensed
Lines of Inquiry:

- Our senses are used to learn about the world around us
• The sun as a source of light
• Objects can be seen when light from sources is available to illuminate them
• We use light and sound to communicate with one another

Inquiry Year 2- ‘Push-Pull’
Forces are at work in everything that we do- we push to open doors and pull to tie ropes. Gravity pulls on things to make them fall down or to keep them down. Through this unit students will have the opportunity to explore pushes and pulls by investigating, observing and gathering evidence about how these forces act in air, water and on the ground. Students will identify the effect of the pull of gravity and learn that both air and water can ‘push’.

Big Idea – Forces change the way things move.

Lines of Inquiry:
• Forces can be harnessed to do useful things
• The balance between opposing forces determines whether objects float or sink
• The forces of gravitation determine how things move

Through this inquiry students will work with the Australian Curriculum Science areas. Students will develop the skills of planning and conducting experiments and processing and analysing data and information. For further details, please see the link below:

Literacy
The literacy practices in 1/2 Jungle Drums respect and cater for each child’s uniqueness and curiosity. The children will continue to participate in learning experiences and explore reading strategies that are designed to reinforce the individual reading goals of each student. We will continue to extend our understanding and skills in the areas of comprehension (understanding what is being read), accuracy (being able to decode the words correctly), fluency (reading with an expressive, interesting voice) and expanding their vocabulary (finding out about new words and using them in their writing).

Thank you for continuing to support your child’s reading at home. I look forward to seeing the Turner School Reading Log on a regular basis to see what is capturing your child’s interests and ensure there are a variety of different books being read at home. If you need another Reading Log to record please do not hesitate to see me. The log helps me support your child’s development.

We will continue to connect our reading skills to our writing by discovering and collecting interesting words, sentences, phrases and thoughts (“Author’s gifts”) in our reading journals. We will continue to challenge ourselves and try to recreate this in our own writing. We will be incorporating the ‘Bump It Up’ wall into a variety of different lessons and topics across the learning areas this term to improve our quality of work. The children are very enthusiastic about comparing and mapping their own writing to the examples on the wall. They can then decide what features they need to improve to ‘bump up’ a great piece of writing to an amazing piece of writing.

We have started this term with a focus on procedural writing to link in with our Science inquiries. Ask us about the origami animals we made by following a procedure! Feel free to send recipes, instructions or any other examples of procedure writing in with your child for them to share with the class! Following this, we will move into exposition writing and engage with persuasive texts. Stay tuned for the activities that they will try to persuade the school to allow them to do towards the end of the year! Students will learn the structure and language features associated with these types of texts in real life contexts. We will continue to learn about grammatical features and put these understandings into practice while engaging in the writing process.

Word Study/Spelling
We will continue to improve student word awareness and spelling. As I mentioned at the beginning of the year, I believe that if students can investigate and understand the patterns in and meaning of words, they can develop their word consciousness. I will be providing an environment that promotes word awareness in every child and teach the strategies
that effective spellers use. Our five key spelling strategies that we will be focussing on this term are **Sound** (focussing on and recording the sound of words), **Visual** (focussing on the 'look' of words and visual patterns), **Meaning** (thinking about the word meanings - base words, prefixes/suffixes, root words, homophones, etc.), **Connecting** (making connections with other words) and **Checking** (proofreading and making use of other resources). 1/2 Jungle Drums are challenging themselves to be aware of when they do not know how to spell a word and consciously employ a variety of different strategies to assist them to write a word accurately. They have all made such great progress this year.

**Talking and Listening**

Talking and listening activities occur formally and informally in the Jungle Drums classroom every day. The Mystery Bag will be sent home again each night with a different child. The purpose of the mystery bag is to increase talking and listening skills by planning a short oral presentation. This will help the child focus on speaking and communicating clearly and confidently to peers. Students will be given the opportunity to listen to other presentations and also respond to questions with appropriate answers after their own presentation. When you receive the Mystery Bag please read the instructions within the folder and have fun completing the activity with your child.

**Mathematics**

This term we will continue building understanding of multiplication and division as sharing items between groups. Children will engage with a variety of mental computation strategies to assist their fluency and accuracy of problem solving. The students will also be involved in measuring and comparing the capacities and volume of objects using appropriate uniform informal units. To link in with measuring of volume and capacity, children will also be engaged in measure and comparing the mass of objects using balancing scales. Later in the term, children will be focussing on time durations including months, seasons, weeks, days and hours and apply this knowledge in understanding how to read a calendar. The concepts we are covering this term present lots of opportunities for some weighing and measuring at home.

The children will continue to practise their number skills by challenging themselves with short, sharp and frequent mental computation activities each day after lunch during their ‘Ten Time’. Just a reminder that you can support your child at home by asking them to show you their activities they have learnt on the set of number cards that I sent home at the beginning of Term 3. Please refer to the school website [http://www.turners.act.edu.au](http://www.turners.act.edu.au) if you would like more information about these specific strategies. Or, alternatively, please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any questions.

**PE and Health**

Last term, the class voted that they would like to learn soccer skills and we had lots of fun building our fundamental movement skills, learning the rules and developing our game sense (our understanding of how we work together and problem solve in team sports). This term 1/2 children will continue to practise a variety of fundamental movement skills through dance. This will include regular Perceptual Motor Development sessions where children will work on spacial awareness, rhythm and the ability to successfully respond to sensory information.


Fitness activities will also occur regularly through the week, please ensure that your child wears a brimmed hat, has appropriate footwear and has plenty of water to drink each day by providing a labelled drink bottle. We adjust our PE in Term 4 to suit hotter weather.

**Library with Norma John**

This term in Library students are completing independent projects on Australian authors and illustrators using The Literature Centre website via Turner’s very own virtual library, Library for Kids. These projects will be presented using a graphic organiser in Microsoft Word and displayed in the Library later on in the term.

**Music with Kirsty Robinson**

In music sessions the children are working on a great arrangement of a terrific piece by an internationally renowned Australian composer for the end of year concert. It’s quite challenging but the children love it. In other work they are making decisions about tempo, rhythm and voice style to create different musical effects.
**Indonesian with Sue Boyce**
This term the children will be introduced to the Indonesian vocabulary to describe parts of the body. They will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge through conversations, games and songs.

**Art with Sally Visser – Marchant**
In Art class this term children will study the work of Edvard Munch, Kandinsky and Vincent van Gogh within a program that links with the year 1 and year 2 inquiry units. They will be experimenting with a range of mediums throughout the term such as fabric collage, painting papier mache.

**Social Skills**
We will continue to focus each week on being responsible and accountable for our own choices and actions. During class meetings we vote on any concerns or issues that we feel are most important to discuss at the time and brainstorm the most effective solutions for all who are involved. During this time we love to become creative and interactive by incorporating our best drama skills to develop understandings of specific social skills. I have noticed the beautiful manners and choices (in learning and socialisation) that have developed in the classroom and I congratulate the children on their cooperation with one another.

**General Reminders 😊**
Don’t forget Turner is a nut aware school. There are children with serious nut allergies in the 1/2 cohort so please keep this in mind when packing your child’s lunch and recess. Please help to encourage your child in building independence of organizing their own belongings by providing them with positive feedback about their ability to pack their own items into their school bag.

Please have a look at the Turner School website and read Jen Faul’s team update for term 4. It touches on an important point that parents and carers may like to consider at home. A huge THANK YOU to all of the parents who have volunteered in our classroom this year! We really appreciate your time and efforts in assisting our classroom to be a place of sharing and celebrating learning experiences together. As always please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I am looking forward to another wonderful term of learning!

Thanks and best wishes,

Lauren French

[lauren.french@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:lauren.french@ed.act.edu.au)

**Important dates for 1 / 2LF Term 4, 2015**

The newsletter and website will keep you updated with all events.

**Wk3** Wednesday 28th October – Children’s Week Whole School Assembly including Read Aloud 2.10pm Snr Hall

**Wk 4** Year 2 Aqua Safe at CISAC

**Wk 5** Year 1 Swim School at AIS and Yr 2 Aqua Safe at CISAC

**Wk 6** Year 1 Swim School at AIS

**Wk 7** Wednesday 25th November Jnr Assembly 2.10pm Snr Hall

**Wk 8** Wednesday 2nd December End of Year Concert 5.30 picnic and 6.30 concert commences

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