



MING-DE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TOOWOOMBA INC

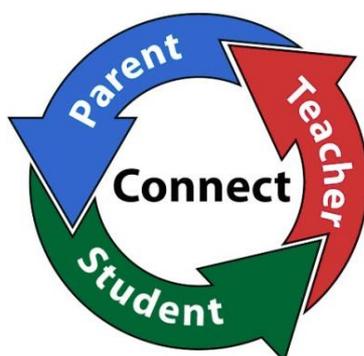
School Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

❖ Message from Miss Ann	1
❖ Some Reminders	3
❖ Subject Descriptors	
Year 4	5
Year 2/3	7
Prep/Year 1	9
❖ Welcome Miss Anna Robb	11
❖ Reminders	12

Message from Miss Ann

Parent Information Afternoon & Mother's Day Celebration



It was wonderful to welcome so many of our parent/carers to the school last Friday to join us in an afternoon of activities. I hope all mothers/mother figures had an enjoyable Mother's Day and were thoroughly spoilt by your children.

Thank you for your quick responses to my Parent Survey. If you still have not emailed/sent back your survey, I would appreciate it if it could be done as soon as possible.

My next task is to collate all responses and provide feedback to you all.

Student protection is everybody's business

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing

Ming-De International School is committed to providing education and care to children and young people to assist them to develop into high achieving, supported students, positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and which they will serve.

All children and young people who come to Ming-De International School have a right to feel and be safe. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

We have a zero tolerance for child abuse and other harm and are committed to acting in students' best interests and keeping them safe from harm.

The School regards its child safety responsibilities with the utmost importance and is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and maintaining a child safe culture.

Each member of the School Community has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually, and collectively, to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all students is at the forefront of all that they do, and every decision they make.

Student protection is everybody's business

All staff working at Ming-De International School undertake annual child protection training and undertake further in-services as they become available. Staff must report any evidence or suspicion of any form of child abuse (physical, neglect, sexual and emotional) immediately to the Principal, [Miss Ann](#) or to one of the other Student Protection contacts: • [Mr Tony Wang](#) • [Miss Eileen Lim](#).

Child Protection Contact Posters are displayed throughout the school and students are educated on safe practices through their Assembly periods and the Health Curriculum using the Daniel Morcambe Child Safety Curriculum.

More information about our approach to child safety can be found on the Ming-De website. Students who have student protection concerns can discuss this with any one of our student protection contacts.

Sport

Following the success of the swimming classes, Ming-De is continuing to look for other opportunities for students to participate in physical activity/sports beyond the weekly PE classes.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas on how we can provide the students with more sporting opportunities.

Email/call administration admin@ming-de.qld.edu.au 4630 6813

Music

Does your child/ren play a musical instrument?



Looking at other opportunities we can offer your child/ren at school, I am interested to find out how many of our students can play a musical instrument.

If your child does play a musical instrument, can you Email/call administration admin@ming-de.qld.edu.au phone 4630 6813 and provide the name of your child/ren and the instrument they play.

Ming-De International School has a theme topic for each Term which the teachers will integrate into their lessons and practices.

The four topics for the year are:

- Term 1 - Filial Piety
- Term 2 - Sibling Love
- Term 3 - Loyalty
- Term 4 - Trustworthiness

These four topics are picked from the 8 eight virtues, which provide a framework for the teachings of Buddha as our underlying ethos:

Loving and honouring parents, love among siblings, loyalty, trustworthiness, benevolence, love, harmony, and peace.

Therefore, the aim of our teachings is to promote the importance of being a moral and upstanding member of society. The standards for being such a person are the above virtues and understanding of how to care for, respect, help and love others.

Some reminders

Rain Boots



Although I realise that we have had a lot of rainy weather, rain boots are not suitable for the children to wear at school. Last week I saw several the younger children find it difficult to walk and run in the boots during break times and they make feet hot and sweaty when worn all day. Please ensure your child/ren come to school each day wearing their school shoes.

Hair Clips

No



YES



I have noticed that a number of girls are increasing the number of hair clips they wear to school each day. They come in all different shapes, sizes and many different colours as shown in the accompanying graphic. Can I please ask that no more than two small hair clips are worn to school each day and this is in the school colour of blue?

Some reminders

Too many additions to the Stationery List



Introducing the Stationery Pack this year was to make sure that all students had access to the same equipment, and to lessen the borrowings that occur throughout the day. Unfortunately, the habit of bringing all sorts of small items to school is starting again and sharing/giving other students such items cause problems to occur between students in the classroom.

Can I please ask parent/carers to check their child/ren's bag before they set off to school each day to ensure extra items are not included?

Art smock



Please be reminded to bring an art smock or old T-shirt WITH LONG SLEEVES for your child/ren to keep in school for their Visual Arts lesson.

We hope to minimise the chance of having paint and glue on your child/ren's school uniform when they are creating their masterpieces.

Lunch Bag



Can parent/carers please organise a lunch bag that can be used to keep your child/ren's lunch bowls and utensils all in one place?

Uniform Shop

Our School Uniform Shop will reopen next week. We open every Thursday.

For covid reasons, please call our office and book a time at least one day before you come to our shop. If you can't be onsite, we may also provide delivery services to Pure Land College.

What are students learning in term 2?

Year 4 Subject Descriptors

MATHS

This term, we will mainly focus on fractions and decimals. Students are investigating equivalent fractions and count by quarters, halves, and thirds, including with mixed numerals. Students also need to make connections between fractions and decimal notation. We will also compare and describe two dimensional shapes that result from combining and splitting common shapes. Students will use Tangrams to explore the combinations of common shapes.

TECHNOLOGY

This term, we are learning to use Excel to record data and to make graphs. We will use Excel to record the number of different types of rubbish we bring to school. Students will also learn how to do the main 4 calculations using Excel.

HASS

This term, we are continuing with the History unit where we learn in depth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. We will investigate how long they have been connected to the land and their traditional ways of living before the European settlement. Students will write their own questions and conduct online research to find reliable resources to guide their investigations.

SCIENCE

This term, we have a Physics unit where we learn about different types of forces, such as gravity, friction, and magnetism, and identify their applications in our everyday lives. We write predictions, hypotheses and conduct fair tests to find valid evidence.

VISUAL ARTS

Students continue to learn about the basic elements of Visual Art: line, shape, colour, texture, and tone, to make their own artworks that are inspired by artworks they experience both in class, and in their own personal time. They will use visual conventions, techniques and processes learned in class, to communicate their ideas.

CHINESE

Year 4 students have successfully learnt the foundation of Chinese Pinyin and explored Chinese through recognising the traditional Chinese characters and the components, strokes, and the sequence of writing Chinese characters. This term we focus more on handwriting. Students are provided more opportunities to write Chinese characters in a standard way following certain sequence in the context of invitation, dinner time and celebrations.

Students engage with Chinese culture through participating in community and school-based celebrations, rhyming verse, songs, poetry, and stories.

Year 4 Subject Descriptors

ENGLISH

We will explore a variety of narrative texts which come from our Australian Dreamtime, from modern authors, Asian cultures and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our first one is Charlie and the Chocolate factory. We are using this text to improve and practice certain literacy skills, particularly

- Oral language (through shared and guided reading, songs and discussions).
- Reading and reading comprehension (syllabifying, decoding unfamiliar vocabulary and looking at different viewpoints).
- Spelling (through a program known as Words Their Way) which is tailored to the individual level of each student.
- Writing particularly recount and narrative. Also developing their knowledge of grammar, concentrating on tense and understanding how an interesting sentence is put together.

HEALTH - Being Healthy, Safe and Active

Using the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum Year 4 students will learn how to Recognise, React and Report when they are feeling unsafe. They will have the opportunity to recognise, and understand, Safety Clues and Situational Awareness - which means using the clues around us to help us decide if we are unsafe.

PE

This term, we will finish off the “skip roping” unit where students learn and practise various skipping techniques like twister, bell hop, one foot hop etc. We will also learn the main health benefits of skipping. Students are also practising badminton to enhance their team skills.

MUSIC

We will cover the following topics:

- In Aural Training we will experience high and low, echo rhythms, and the difference between steps and leaps.
- In Sing & Play we will learn the song “Tafta Hindi” to sing and perform on tuned and untuned percussion, to improvise new lyrics, and to perform it as an ensemble. We will also start to learn “Monkey and the Turtle.”
- For the Composition section we will improvise a melody on a tuned instrument using the first five notes of the A minor scale, create a one bar melodic pattern and write it using stick notation, and create another composition using musical dominoes also to be written down.
- Finally, in the Connect section we listen to part of a Mozart Symphony, the theme from Dr Who, and the song “What a Wonderful World” to examine instruments of the orchestra, how these pieces compare with music of today, how music affects its listeners, and what messages music gives to us.

Year 2/3 Subject Descriptors

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Year 2 will be learning about mixtures in our unit for chemical sciences. Students will investigate how materials can be combined to make the things we use and consume every day. In this unit, students will study the materials used to make a three-layered face mask and understand how each part has its own purpose. They will identify the ingredients in mixtures and their uses.

It would be appreciated if parents could help students explore and understand that mixtures are a combination of 2 or more substances. Parents may discuss the different ingredients used to make different foods and drinks at home, as well as the ingredients of different mixtures found at home (E.g., paints, soap, foods, drinks etc.).

MATH

In term 2, Year 2 students will develop understandings of:

- Units of time – telling time (o'clock, half past, quarter to) and working with a calendar
- Features of 2D and 3D shapes
- Fractions – halves, quarters, eighths of shapes and collections
- Interpreting maps
- Multiplication and division
- Money – Counting coins and notes
- Area of shapes

It would be appreciated if parents could help children practise counting money, telling the time at home and begin learning their times tables up to 5.

ENGLISH

This term Year 2 will read, view, and listen to a variety of texts to explore how depictions of characters in print, sound and images create stereotypes. Students identify stereotypical characters in texts and create an alternative character description to present to an audience of peers.

When reading or having conversations with children at home, it would be appreciated if parents could discuss the characters and how they are depicted. E.g., The bear was big and scary, or the princess was very brave and strong.

HASS

In term 2, Year 2 will explore how changes in technology have shaped our daily life. In this unit students will identify how and why the lives of people have changed over time while others have remained the same and compare objects from the past and present.

At home, it would be appreciated if parents could share and discuss with children about the types of technology our parents and grandparents used in the past and how they worked compared to what children see and use today. E.g., typewriters and computers or oil lamps and lights etc.

Year 2/3 Subject Descriptors

CHINESE

Students will continue exploring the foundation aspects of Chinese language through Pinyin. They have learnt the 23 initials and started a new journey of learning vowels, four tones and the rules. They will learn to recognise basic character forms that represent familiar objects and ideas and convey significant cultural meanings.

Students who have successfully learnt the foundation of Chinese Pinyin, will continue learning components, strokes, and the sequence of writing Chinese characters. This term we focus more on handwriting. Students are provided with more opportunities to write Chinese characters in a standard way following certain sequence. They develop the awareness of the structure of each character by recognising the components and strokes. They confidently use Chinese for class activities and group responses, participating in active listening and action-related talk, pronunciation game and play.

Students engage with Chinese culture through participating in community and school-based celebrations, songs, and stories.

HEALTH - Being Healthy, Safe and Active.

Students will be doing a unit on Child Safety, accessed through the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum. They will look at what being safe means, and what unsafe means. They will have the opportunity to learn how to Recognise, React and Report when they are physically unsafe or feeling unsafe in a range of situations. We will be learning about key safety messages and strategies to keep safe.

VISUAL ARTS

Last term students learned about and explored use of line, one of the basic elements of Visual Art. This term students will continue to explore the use of line, as well as focussing on shape - another basic element of Visual Art. They will have the opportunity to make artworks in different forms to express their ideas, observations, and imagination, using different techniques and processes involving both line and shape.

MUSIC

We will cover the following topics:

- In Aural Training we will include echo singing, echo rhythms, pitch direction, and simple and compound metres.
- In Sing & Play we will learn the song “Charlie Over the Ocean” to sing and perform on tuned and untuned percussion, to add improvisations individually and as an ensemble. We will also start to learn “La Cucaracha.”
- For the Composition section we will create musical ideas to express emotions using a limited range of notes, write them down, perform and explain them to the class, and work with a partner to combine our ideas.
- Finally, in the Connect section we will explore instruments of the orchestra, the concept of timbre, and using an example of popular music from the late 1930s to discuss where and why people create music.

Prep/Year 1 Subject Descriptors

SCIENCE

Prep and Year 1 students learn the common features of a plant and the importance of each body part through planting, drawing, and observing the plants on campus. They investigate how plants absorb water by implementing a science experiment “Rainbow Cabbage” and “Red Celery”. Students explore the animals that live in water and on land to develop awareness of different plants and animals that live in different habitats to meet their needs. They learn the consequences of habitat changes by seasonal reason, human activities, and natural causes so that they know how important it is to look after our planet to be a better home for all of us.

MATHS

Prep and Year 1 students will review the numbers we have learnt last term and further explore ordinal numbers and number words. Students will make connections between number names, numerals, and quantities of objects. They will learn to order small collections and group objects based on common characteristics and sort shapes and objects to create patterns. Students will develop confidence and concept with number sequences and skip count by twos, fives and tens starting from zero. Represent and solve simple addition and subtraction problems using a range of strategies including counting on, partitioning and rearranging parts.

Prep: Develop the concept of ‘parts of a whole’ and ‘halves’. Prep students learn to recognise Australian coins and notes by the value and features.

Year 1: Develop the concept of fraction and recognise one-half as one of two equal parts of a whole, one quarter as one of four equal parts of a whole, extend to one eighth for advanced learners as part of the differentiation. They learn to add, subtract, and compare money amount in addition to identifying Australian coins and notes by the value and features.

TECHNOLOGY

This term, we are continuing with the “farm technology” unit where we talk about the design of farms, and how modern technologies are used to help farmers. Students use Lego blocks to create their ideal farms with animals, fruits, and vegetables.

HASS

This term students will be continuing their learning about Family, with a focus on exploring and investigating their personal and family histories, how families are similar/different and how families celebrate together important celebrations.

Prep/Year 1 Subject Descriptors

ENGLISH

Students will experience:

- Phonic and sight word knowledge and recall.
- Reading and writing skills: decoding and putting sounds together to write simple words and sentences.
- With the support of a reading log, readers and parent supervision the students will take part in our home reading program.
- Speaking and communicating confidently in English to each other and an audience. Towards the end of the term, we will share songs and stories which we have written.

CHINESE

Students continued exploring the foundation aspects of Chinese language through Pinyin - single initials, some compound initials, four tones and the rules. Students confidently use Chinese for class activities and group responses, participating in active listening and action-related talk, pronunciation game and play. They will be immersed in the sounds and sights of Chinese. They read short texts in Pinyin, share ideas about daily life and adapt the language they know to different contexts. Classroom interactions are mediated by teacher demonstrating, questioning and interactive talk in Chinese. Students learn to create phrases in Pinyin and structure simple sentences and short paragraph in Pinyin under certain circumstances.

Students begin to engage with Chinese culture through participating in community and school-based celebrations, songs, and stories.

HEALTH - Being Healthy, Safe and Active.

Students will be doing a unit on Child Safety, accessed through the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum. They will look at what being safe means, and what unsafe means. They will have the opportunity to learn how to Recognise, React and Report when they are physically unsafe or feeling unsafe in a range of situations. We will be learning about key safety messages and strategies to keep safe.

VISUAL ARTS

Last term students learned about and explored use of line, one of the basic elements of Visual Art. This term students will continue to explore the use of line, as well as focussing on shape - another basic element of Visual Art. They will have the opportunity to make artworks in different forms to express their ideas, observations, and imagination, using different techniques and processes involving both line and shape.

Welcome Miss Anna Robb

English Alive!



A Love of Literacy is our goal

“Where My Feet Have Trod”

It is a joy and a privilege to be here at the Ming-De International School, where the central focus is to enlighten the individual and offer a pathway to a higher life.

I began my Teacher Training in New Zealand and have been teaching in state, catholic and Vendantic schools for 32 years. I have two grown children and three grandchildren. Having recently shifted from Maleny to Highfields, I am still slowly becoming familiar with the area, especially in terms of where to buy good organic vegetables! Thank you Pure Land for your vegetable gardens and shop.

My most recent school was the River School in Maleny where I taught for 20 years. This school is based on Universal human values and supports the children through the Australian curriculum, daily meditation and yoga to become more compassionate, useful people.

When I arrived in Highfields and saw that there was a school with spiritual values which I resonated with, I hoped that perhaps one day a position might become available.

The children are a delight to teach and very clearly enjoy the learning process.

Reminders

It is important that we have up-to-date contact information for parents and guardians so that we can keep you informed. To advise of any change to student or parent personal details (including email, mailing address, home phone, mobile or emergency contact details), please email admin@ming-de.qld.edu.au.

In the email, please include your child's name and Year level.



✓ Parent Handbook

The Parent Handbook is now fully translated. If you need a copy of it, please email admin@ming-de.qld.edu.au for it to be emailed to you.

✓ Food Allergy

Please be reminded that nuts or food containing nuts is not recommended to be brought to school as it may be a source of allergen for some children.

✓ Late Arrival

If your child arrives in school after 8.30am, please go to the Reception Office and one of our friendly staff members will take your child to his/her classroom.

✓ Chinese Translation

If any parent/carer(s) wants the subject descriptors to be translated into Chinese, please send an email to admin@ming-de.qld.edu.au.



**Ming-De International
School Toowoomba**

48 Althaus Rd

WESTBROOK QLD
4350 Australia
Mon. – Fri. 8:30-16:30

PHONE

07 4630 6813

E-MAIL

admin@ming-de.qld.edu.au

WEBSITE

www.ming-de.qld.edu.au

