



Government  
of South Australia

Department for Education  
and Child Development

# Learning Community 1A & 1B Newsletter



## Term 1 2018

### Dear Families,

We would like to welcome you to Parafield Gardens R-7 School! For those that we might not have met yet, our names are Alana Papahristos and Allira Wellington and we have both been a part of the Parafield Gardens School community for over seven years.

This year Room 1a and Room 1b will be working together in a joint classroom environment. The class will also be taken for specific lessons by specialist teachers each week. Health and Physical Education will be taken by David Poulain and Kylie Neilson, Music and Drama by Georgia Yates and Amanda Drury. Nhan Chau will also be teaching Vietnamese.

So far, we are very pleased to see how well the children have settled in to their new class. Every child is becoming more confident and independent in the classroom and it's wonderful to see lots of new friendships begin to blossom! This year we will be taking advantage of using alternative working spaces and the environment to optimise student learning and promote engagement, such as using the courtyard learning space and alternative seating.

Please carefully read through this newsletter as it contains useful information about what you should expect this year and how to help your child be well prepared. Acquaintance night, on Wednesday the 21st of February, will also allow for us to provide a more comprehensive overview, as well as an opportunity to chat and discuss any questions.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

As the children enter a new social environment they are expected to be kind and respectful of adults and their peers and encouraged to make new friends, to share and take turns. We will be using 'Bucket Fillers' as a positive reinforcement method to promote good behaviour. More information will be sent home in your child's folder.

In the classroom we will be learning about and working to establish 'growth mindsets', which is crucial to learning in the early years of school. A growth mindset encourages students to believe that they can learn more and develop new skills if they work hard and persevere. Rather than giving up if they do not succeed the first time, children with growth mindsets will see challenges and



### DIARY DATES

#### Week 2

**Thursday 8th February**

**R-7 Assembly**

#### Week 4

**Wednesday 21st February**  
**Acquaintance Night 6:00pm**

**Thursday 22nd February**

**R-7 Assembly**

#### Week 6

**Thursday 8th March**

**R-7 Assembly**

#### Week 7

**Monday 12th March**

**Adelaide Cup HOLIDAY**

#### Week 8

**Wednesday 21st March**

**Harmony Day**

**Thursday 22nd March**

**R-7 Assembly**

#### Week 9

**Friday 30th March**

**Good Friday (HOLIDAY)**

#### Week 10

**Monday 2nd April**

**Easter Monday (HOLIDAY)**

**Thursday 5th April**

**R-7 Assembly**

#### Week 11

**Friday 13th April**

**Last day of Term 1**

**Early dismissal 2:00pm**

mistakes as opportunities to improve their own learning and skills.

The children will also be encouraged to become independent learners and this includes becoming familiar with classroom routines.

When a child tells you they don't like or are no good at something, encourage them to use the word **YET**.

"I don't like this **yet**" leaves room for change.

"I'm no good at this **yet**" gives space for improvement.

**YET**

A very cool word.

### Daily Routines

Adjusting to a new classroom may be difficult for some and children will be exposed to a lot of new information during the first term of school, however, it is important that we help to foster the children's independence and organisational skills. You can help your child be successful by encouraging them to follow a morning routine of unpacking their own schoolbag – including their Take Home Folder, drink bottle, placing any lunch orders in the lunch box and beginning their morning activities.

Our school day commences at 8:35am, when the outside doors will be opened and students may come into the class to start getting themselves organised for the day. If a student arrives later than 8:45am they will need to report to the office first to collect a late pass.

### Take Home Folders

Each child has a plastic 'Take Home Folder' which will include their Diary, Take Home Reader\* (Week 5) and sound book. This folder will be taken home each night and it is important that it is returned each morning as it will be a major form of communication between home and school. All important notes, letters and behaviour notifications will be placed in this folder. We would like to encourage parents to use student diaries if they have any questions or queries. If you do, leave a note to let your child know so that

they can place it on our desks in the morning. Please note that your child's diary contains a lot of valuable information, so we encourage you to take the time to read through it. It will also need to be replaced if lost or damaged. If your child has been absent you will receive a text message from the school which you can reply to with a brief explanation. If you have not notified the School Office or provided a note in your child's *diary* by the next day a green absentee note will be sent home.

\*All Reception classes will not be assigned Take Home Readers until Week 5, however students will take home a poem or rhyme each week that we have been learning in class to share with their family.

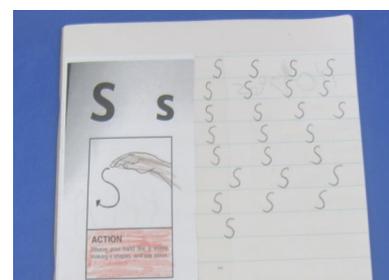
### Homework

Readers will start coming home as of Week 6. Readers will be changed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Having the reader over two nights will allow your child to have a stronger knowledge and understanding of the book as well as develop valuable confidence and fluency.

### Reading Tips

Before reading with your child, talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about. While reading reflect on the book so far and imagine what will happen next. When you have finished reading talk and ask questions about the book. When you come across an unknown word, pause, prompt (look for clues, read-on, sound out) and always praise.

Students will also need to practise their Oxford Sight words. When your child can confidently read each word without pausing they know that word by sight! Children have also been given a Sound book, where children can practise the daily Jolly Phonics sound that we have learnt in class. Children are encouraged to practise the formation of the letter and share the songs and actions with families.



## Curriculum Overview

The classes lessons and learning experiences will be adapted to meet the needs of the Australian Curriculum.

## English

Over the term we will be working to develop children's reading and writing skills by having a big focus on the Jolly Phonics program. Children will be introduced to a new sound each day and will develop their skills in identifying sounds in words, segmenting them and blending them. Children will practise tracing and forming familiar words, like their name, through a range of engaging writing activities. We will also have a large emphasis on correct letter formation and be encouraging children to participate in various fine motor activities to strengthen their handwriting abilities.

Big Books and rhymes will also be used to model reading and comprehension strategies.

In order to help in developing oral language and boosting confidence, each child will have an opportunity each week to share something from home in front of the class. This activity promotes children to develop strong speaking skills, self confidence and provides the opportunity to speak to an audience. We will have topics each week to encourage discussion. Supporting your child by helping to find an appropriate item from home and discussing some ideas to share with the class would prepare them for their sharing and help to build their confidence in speaking in front of a large group. An item does not need to be brought in every week, items which are 'off topic' will not be shared and I also encourage children not to bring in anything valuable in case it is lost or damaged. Please refer to the 'Sharing Roster', which will be sent home separately.

The MORE  
that you read,  
the MORE things  
you will know.  
The MORE that you  
LEARN,  
the MORE places you'll go.



## Mathematics

This term we will be working towards developing our number knowledge and skills using numbers from 0-20. Subitising will be a large focus, where children develop their ability to instantly recognise the number of objects in a small group. We will practise these skills using a range of dice games, memory games, flash cards, dominoes and by identifying groups in story books. We will be doing a lot of counting, sorting and organising groups of objects, sometimes involving larger numbers, to develop a strong understanding of quantity. Stories and rhymes will also be used to allow children to make meaningful connections to concepts.

## Science

During Science this term we will be focussing on biological science, particularly investigating what people, plants and animals need to survive and grow. This unit will support students to develop their skills in observation and reflection and will also incorporate lots of opportunities for hands on learning experiences, to experiment, make and design models.

## Technologies

This term Design and Technology will be integrated throughout Science, Maths and Computing lessons. This allows the students to utilise their problem solving and design skills in a variety of ways. Our class will have the opportunity to develop their ICT skills through using iPads, where they will be learning basic computer skills and how to independently load familiar programmes and apps. The class will also be introduced to coding, where they will get the opportunity to experiment with and program 'BeeBots' and 'Spheros'.



## History/Geography

This term as we get to know each other we will be learning about 'Ourselves' and celebrating all of the things that make us special and unique, our families and cultural backgrounds.

*Always have a go!*

Remember **mistakes** are  
stepping stones to **learning**!

## Visual Arts

This term visual arts will be incorporated into many subject areas to provide engaging learning experiences for the class. Students will participate in experiences using a range of materials and techniques. We will also explore the work of famous artists and, in more depth, the work of a chosen artist.

## Health and Physical Education

During term 1 in Health lessons, students will investigate keeping healthy, safe and active. There will be a focus on sun safety and the ways in which we can keep protected from harmful UV rays. Nutrition will also be researched, including looking at the different food groups, and how food keeps us healthy. In Physical education students will have the opportunity to participate in dance and a range of body movement explorations. Students will also practise fundamental movement skills both with and without equipment. Participating in physical activity teaches students key learnings such as cooperation, resilience and social skills.

Please be aware that your child has Health and PE on Wednesday and therefore will need to wear appropriate sports shoes, clothing and a hat to be able to fully participate in lessons.

## Music and Drama

This term in music, students will focus on beat and musical opposites through dancing, singing, movement activities and playing untuned percussion instruments. They will explore different ways that sounds are made, eg. hit, plucked, blown or shaken. Students will develop their singing voices through games and imitation.

In drama, students will learn to develop a character through varying the pitch and pace of their voice. They participate in process drama activities where they will learn how to become 'Superhelpers.'



## Reminders and important notices

- It is important that all students bring a drink bottle of water to school each day.
- Our PAL classes are Ms Cuconits and Ms Karapas' year 7 classes. They will be listening to students read and also participating in various PAL activities.
- Hats are compulsory all year at PGR-7 School. If your child does not have a hat they will have to sit in the shade during break times. A new hat can be purchased for \$5.50 from the Front Office.
- Please ensure all clothes and belonging are clearly labelled.
- If any parents are interested in volunteering to listen to students read please see the front office. Any support would be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing parents at acquaintance night on Wednesday 21st February, where we will have a better opportunity to meet and discuss your child's learning progress and children can spend some time with their parents in their new classroom.

Kind Regards

**Allira Willington and Alana Papahristos**