



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education
and Child Development

Room 23 Newsletter

Term 1 2018



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to all families. I hope your child has had a good holiday and is ready to meet some new classmates and embark on Year 2 learning.

Clearly, reading is an important part of any child's education. Here is something for you to ponder...Oscar Wilde once said, "If one cannot enjoy reading a book over and over again, there is no use in reading it at all". This is especially important for children who are reading from Level 1-20, because it consolidates their reading strategies and increases confidence. I encourage all parents to spend time discussing their child's reader as much as possible. This will not only help develop language skills, but will also work towards achieving a minimum reading level of 21 (which is the suggested guideline for Year 2 children by the end of this year). **A useful tip:** when the children are reading difficult words, ask them to **SAY THE SOUND OUT LOUD - NOT THE LETTER**. By using this method you can hear if they are reading correctly. Please also support your child to regularly practise their Sight Words. To this end, your child will soon bring home a PGR-7 Diary which will include the new Oxford Sight Words, strategies for helping with spelling and other useful content.

The children's **Diary** has a dual purpose. It will make the daily journey between home and school (as a vehicle of communication), as well as serving as a Spelling Work Book. **IF YOU WRITE ME A MESSAGE, PLEASE ASK YOUR CHILD TO BRING IT TO MY ATTENTION THE FOLLOWING MORNING.** The children will have a new spelling list each Friday and will also be tested on the previous week's words each Friday. (We will start this in the next week or so). I encourage parents to help their child in preparation for this weekly spelling test.

I am sure you are all aware of the **Jolly Phonics Program** in which our children were involved last year. The homework component of this will continue this year, so I would be very grateful for your support with this.

Occasionally during the year, animals may be brought into the room as a part of the Oral Language component of News. Of course the children will wash their hands at the end of such events, but if your child is allergic or you would not like your child to participate in this, please let me know.

If you would like to **cover your child's books, please take them home on a Friday and aim to return them the following Monday.**

As many of you know, schools have a legal obligation to monitor the attendance of our children. To this end, the office will send parents and caregivers an SMS at 10:00am if your child is absent and we have not received notification. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this matter. In the interests of the children's safety, we would like to minimize the number of adults on our school grounds. For this reason we ask that if you need to communicate with your child during the day eg to drop off lunch; to collect them early etc, please go to the front office and the matter will be followed up from there.

As the library is no longer operational for individual borrowing due to the STEM Works, there will be no set borrowing day. The children will however, have the opportunity to borrow books from our class library.

WHAT'S ON THIS TERM

Assembly will be held on Thursday at 9am in the hall in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, & 11

Wednesday 21st February Acquaintance Night and Governing Council AGM at 6:00pm in the Hall.

Week 7

Monday 12th March Adelaide Cup HOLIDAY

Week 9

Friday 30th March Good Friday (HOLIDAY)

Week 10

Monday 2nd April Easter Monday (HOLIDAY)

Weeks 10—11

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Week 11

Friday 13th April

Last day of Term 1

Early dismissal 2:00pm

SPECIALIST STAFF

Ms Amanda Drury—
Music & Drama

Mrs Wendy Galletta—
Teacher Librarian

Mrs Kylie Neilson—
Health and PE

Mrs Kathy Skinner—
English as a second language or dialect Teacher (EALD)

Mrs Melissa McDonald—
STEM facilitator



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Working Together

Comments and Feedback to:
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BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT Treating each other respectfully is an important value at school. I use a Restorative Justice approach where I ask the children to be involved in being part of the solution. As a whole group, we have discussed: (a) why we need rules (b) what our class and school rules are and (c) the consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

ENGLISH This term we will begin weekly spelling tests and focus on high frequency words. Our writing lessons will have an emphasis on recount genre ie the stating of events in sequence - 'On the weekend.....' Our second genre will be Persuasive Texts. PGR-7 is also rolling out an exciting new, research based program called *Brightpath*. The students will be using the *Brightpath* writing ruler to measure and improve their narrative texts. This subject also includes handwriting lessons.

MATHEMATICS We will investigate the counting sequences of 2, 3, 5 and 10. We will also deal with calendars; explore half and quarter transformations; work with hundreds, tens and units to 1,000; and work with 2D and 3D shapes.

SCIENCE Our Primary Connections topic is entitled 'Water works'. It is the Earth and space sciences sub section of this curriculum. It will be a cross-curricula theme involving lessons in Technology and Visual Arts.

VISUAL ARTS This term our learning will include a component of indigenous art. We will explore a variety of techniques and mediums such as dot painting, clay modelling and we will also be involved in appraising our creative products.

TECHNOLOGIES Our focus this term will be the Design and Technologies component of this subject, where we will access iPads and Laptops. We will use a traditional fairy tales theme to estimate, calculate and use spatial reasoning to construct a bridge for The 3 Billy Goats Gruff, a chair for Goldilocks and the 3 bears etc.

HASS The History component of this subject will be our focus for T1. We will use photos and artefacts to compare objects from the past and present. Our learning will identify how and why the lives of people have changed over time.

STEM STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. We are looking forward to critical thinking and problem solving challenges that are an integral part of STEM. Our work will include programming the school robots to perform simple tasks.

GROWTH MINDSET

At Parafield Gardens R-7 School, we encourage students to have a 'Growth Mindset'. There have always been conflicting arguments about intelligence with some believing that intelligence is something you are born with (nature) and others believing that intelligence can be changed or developed. *"Our studies show that teaching people to have a 'growth mind-set,' which encourages a focus on effort rather than on intelligence or talent, helps make them into high achievers in school and in life."*

Carol Dweck

We therefore place an emphasis on hard work, persistence and resilience at this school.

A MATTER OF SAFETY

In 2018, this building is accommodating several more classes than in the past. There are several hundred students entering and exiting the building. To avoid injuries to either Room 23 children, parents, caregivers and smaller brothers and sisters we ask that you please stand outside the double doors to collect your child. Your anticipated cooperation is appreciated.

Health and PE (Mr David Poulain)

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 **Friday** and therefore will need to **wear appropriate sports shoes, clothing and a hat** to be able to fully participate in lessons.



Music and Drama (Ms Amanda Drury)

Welcome back to Parafield Gardens R-7 Music, Dance and Drama programme. This term our students will get down with the beat, learning what beat and rhythm is, and how to read, write and play a variety of rhythms. They will explore music opposites such as fast and slow, loud and soft, high and low, using singing, dance moves, and percussion instruments. Students will learn different ways to use their voices in singing and character development and enjoy opportunities to develop character roles in Drama by changing pitch and pace of their voices, facial expression and body language. With these skills, students will explore Process Drama, where they will learn how to become 'Superhelpers.'



HERE IS THE NEWS ROSTER I will inform you of the weekly themes as the term progresses. We will commence this roster in Wk 3 (12th Feb), and the topic will be Free Choice.

<u>M</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Th</u>	<u>F</u>
Rachel A Cooper	Theo Tyson	Daisy Angok	Quintrell Lily	Tung Mang Rabacca
Ella-Rose Chloe Claire	Addison Thomas Sahaj	Rachel L Livya Salman	Neev Phoebe	Jessica Sandrine

It's been wonderful to meet many parents and caregivers during the first few days. I look forward to a happy and productive year with you and your child.

Kind regards,
Sue Pasalidis