



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education  
and Child Development

# Room 29 Newsletter

## Term 1 2018



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Hello and welcome to the new school year and to Year 4 in Room 29. We hope that you have had a relaxing holiday break. Your child's class teachers are **Mrs Maughan** (Monday, Thursday & Friday) and **Mrs Gretsas** (Tuesday and Wednesday). We promote learning that is engaging, creative, challenging and relevant. We encourage our students to embrace challenges, to persevere and to celebrate successes. We are looking forward to getting to know all of our students in the upcoming months, but would like to start this process with a little help from you. Each student is special and unique in his or her own way. No one knows this better than you. That's why we'd like to give you the opportunity to tell us **in a million words or less**, anything and everything you think will help us to better know and understand your child. Please either write or email us. Here are some suggestions to help get you started:

- The thing that I love most about my child is...
- My child is great at...
- My child needs extra help with...
- My child's attitude toward school is...
- My child's approach to completing a task is...
- At home, my child is responsible for...
- Outside of school, my child is involved in...
- My expectations for my child at school are...
- So far in school (previous years), my child has been doing...

Over the next two weeks we will be participating in activities that relate to our school PEACE values in order to establish class rules and expectations that will allow children to feel safe and happy at school and allow for effective learning. We will be participating in identity activities that help us get to know each other better and help develop a sense of belonging. We will also be participating in cooperative learning activities so children become aware that although we may have differences, everyone deserves respect and can benefit from the different knowledge and experience that each one of us has.

### What's on this term

This term Assemblies will be held on Thursdays in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, & 11 at 9pm in the hall

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

#### Week 7

**Monday 12th March**  
Adelaide Cup HOLIDAY

#### Week 8

**Wednesday 21st March**  
Harmony Day

#### 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**

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*Working Together*

Comments and Feedback to:  
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We know that students who have a positive attitude towards their learning will make good progress and be successful. Consequently, instilling all our students with 'growth mindsets' has become a key priority for the school. We want all our students to relish challenges, embrace their mistakes as part of the learning process, value the importance of effort, respond carefully to feedback and take inspiration from others. This will help them to achieve, not only with us, but also in their future lives as adults.

Early in the term, your child will negotiate their Maths and English goals with us. Students will reflect on data from last year and from early assessments that will be completed within the first two weeks of school. These learning goals will be sent home and further discussed with you at the parent/teacher/student conferences in Week 10.

The classroom is open on the first bell at 8:35am. By 8:40am the students should be in class and ready to begin the day. If they arrive after this time they will need to go to the office and sign in and receive a late slip.

**If your child is away, you will need to contact the school.**

If you have not contacted the school an SMS text will be sent to you by 10am and you can respond to the text. Please remember that you must report to the office first if you wish to deliver lunch to your child or collect them early. Due to extra

classes in the building and the STEM works we would also like to encourage all parents/caregivers to wait for their children outside of buildings.

Students will have weekly homework that will commence in Week 3. They will have a homework book that will contain Maths and English activities. Spelling homework will only be required if the student has not completed set activities during class time. At times there may also be special projects or incomplete school work. I strongly encourage families to make some time to read with your child.



*"Reading is the single most important skill necessary for a happy, productive and successful life. A child that is an excellent reader is a confident child, has a high level of self esteem and is able to easily make the transition from learning to read to reading to learn."*

Each student has been given a diary. Any important information regarding school events and homework will be recorded in the diary. It is an expectation that the diary is at school every day and signed at the end of each week.

Our email addresses can be found at the bottom of the first page and can also be used as a point of contact. We encourage all families to keep in touch as we believe strong links between home and school have positive impacts upon student learning.

We will be having an **Acquaintance Night on Wednesday the 21st of February** where you will have a chance to visit the classroom and meet with us.

Finally, help us to help you! Please clearly label all school equipment and items of clothing especially, jumpers, jackets, drink bottles and hats. Labelled items are easily returned to students or can be easily identified in lost property.

## Maths

Students will continue to revise and develop Natural Maths and Big Ideas in Number strategies to *Trust the Count* by playing maths games, using flash cards, participating in numeracy talks, problem solving and completing mental routines. In addition to this, students will be working towards achieving the following learning objectives



- Odd/even numbers
- Addition/subtraction with larger numbers
- Place value beyond ten thousands

## English

This term students will work on developing their skills to write persuasive texts and narratives.

Students will be developing their effective comprehension strategies by using and building prior knowledge, predicting, generating and answering questions, monitoring comprehension, inferring, visualising, identifying and summarising and responding. This will be integrated in a daily literacy program that will include the Daily Five; read to self, read to someone, listen to reading, work on writing and word work.

In Spelling students will have a weekly contract to complete which will focus on phonological, visual, morphemic and etymological spelling knowledges. A test of their words will be taken each Friday morning.



Our class novel will be linked closely to our HASS unit of work and we will be reading **Storm Boy** by Colin Thiele.

In handwriting students will be reviewing the correct letter and numeral formations and will then be progressing on to joined letters.

## Science

In Science this term students will be exploring Chemical Sciences in a unit of work called *Package it Better*. This unit links science and technology with literacy in the classroom. It provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of the design of packages and the choice of appropriate materials to use. Students design and test a package that will safely deliver a fragile gift. Through investigations students observe and gather information about what makes a successful package.



## HASS

In HASS this term students will explore the ideas that:

- Aboriginal Australia is made up of many cultures
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are Australia's Indigenous peoples
- language and land are important to the identity of Indigenous cultures
- Indigenous peoples express their cultures in many ways
- people, place, language and song are connected in many ways.

## Design and Technology

This term the students will be creating a language-learning program. They will work collaboratively to create a computer program to learn a traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language.

## Visual Arts

During our Visual Art lessons students will draw on artworks from a range of cultures, times and locations. They will explore the arts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and of the Asia region and learn that they are used for different purposes. Students will be encouraged to use materials, techniques and processes to explore and produce their own artwork.



## Music and Drama with Miss Yates

This term music, students will focus on reading, writing and playing rhythms. They will define and create ostinato patterns and learn about tempo and dynamics. Students will participate in dance activities where they will focus on body zones, levels and direction.

In drama, students will explore the different elements of a character. They will use facial expression and their voice to adopt and maintain a character. Students will participate in process drama and improvisation activities.

## Health and PE with Mr Cuconits

My name is Matthew Cuconits and I am extremely excited to begin the year working at Parafield Gardens R-7 School. I am taking over the Health and Physical Education role from Andrew Kite this year as he has moved on. I look forward to meeting and working with all students during 2018. In term 1 students will learn about the dangers and effects of the sun and gain a greater understanding surrounding the Sun Smart program. Students will also be involved in exploring the concept of safety and keeping safe, as well as taking an in depth look at healthy lifestyles and nutrition.

The term 1 Physical Education component involves the following:

Introductory / getting to know you session aimed at making all students more comfortable with their peers and environment.

Athletics – Students will learn a variety of track and field events including high jump, long jump, shot put, discus, sprints, 800m run and relays. They will also have the opportunity to try out for the SAPSASA athletics team.

Cricket – The following skills will be practised and developed over a 5 week unit; Catching, throwing, batting, bowling. Students will also learn the rules of the game and how to score.

Term 1 will also consist of a lunchtime sporting competition for year 4-7 students. Basketball has been chosen due to its popularity and teams will play every Wednesday in the Hall.



# StudyLadder

Inspire Motivate Achieve

StudyLadder is a web based educational program designed by teachers. The program is curriculum based and covers Mathematics, Literacy as well as other subjects. Your child has been given a username and password which can be used to access StudyLadder. It is not compulsory for your child to use StudyLadder at home, however regular access will help them reinforce what they have been taught in school. It will also help to build their confidence through practice. Your child will NOT be able to chat with anyone using StudyLadder. However, we still encourage you to supervise your child at all times when using the internet.



This year we are using class dojo to encourage important skills, like working hard and participating. I'll also use it to communicate with you: we can instantly share messages, updates and photos from the class. We would like to strongly encourage all families to join our class and sign up for ClassDojo! You can use it on any device: it is a simple free mobile app for iOS and Android, and can also be used from a computer at [www.classdojo.com](http://www.classdojo.com).

Thank you for taking your time to read through the class newsletter. We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year.

Kind Regards,

*Adele Maughan and Laura Gretsas*