



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education
and Child Development

Room 31 Newsletter

Term 1 2018



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2018 School year. We would like to introduce ourselves and extend our welcome to new families joining us this year. Our names are Katrice White and Laura Gretsas, and we will be your child's teachers in room 31 this year (Katrice on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Laura on Thursday and Friday). As your child's classroom teachers we will work together and communicate regularly. We have consistent expectations and follow the same routines on a daily basis. We look forward to getting to know you as we work together supporting your child's learning and education this year. This newsletter has a range of information regarding curriculum, communication and general classroom routines, so please hold onto it to refer back to throughout the term as needed.

At Parafield Gardens R-7 School we have a learning culture that values the achievement of personal excellence. One way in which we support students with this is through promoting a growth mindset and goal setting. This term we will work with your child to set relevant and achievable learning goals, and support your child in working towards them. You will receive a copy of these goals in week 6. We encourage you to talk with your child about the strategies they will use to achieve their goals, and revisit them regularly to see how they are coming along.

Your child's school diary will be our primary form of communication. However, we encourage you to come and talk with us before or after school if you have any questions or concerns. If you do write a note in the diary, please make sure it is dated and ask your child to bring it to our attention that day. If your child is absent from school, please phone the school that day, or write a note in your child's diary explaining their absence.

Behaviour

As a class we have discussed our school values of '*working together*' and '*making good choices*'. Together, we have devised a *Code of Conduct* for room 31. We will support and encourage children to make good choices, and to develop positive attitudes towards themselves, others and their learning environment. The school has a behaviour management procedure which will be followed when children make choices which put themselves or others in danger, or which disrupt their own or other's learning.

What's on this term

**Thursday 8th February
Assembly**

**Wednesday 21st February
AGM and
Acquaintance Night
6:00pm in the Hall**

**Thursday 22nd February
Assembly**

**Thursday 8th March
Assembly**

**Friday 9th March
Student goals sent home**

**Thursday 22nd March
Assembly**

**Friday 30th March
Public Holiday
Good Friday**

**Monday 2nd April
Public Holiday
Easter Monday**

**Tuesday 3rd — Monday 9th
April
Parent/teacher
Interviews**

**Thursday 5th April
Assembly**

**Friday 13th April
Last day of term
Early dismissal 2:00pm**

Homework

At Parafield Gardens R-7 School we strive to include parents and caregivers wholly in the academic development of their children. Providing families with the opportunity to work together and observe their children completing tasks at home assists in ensuring this communication occurs. In year 3, your child is required to do 20 minutes of homework each school day. This includes 10 minutes of reading and 10 minutes of set homework. Each day your child will bring home a levelled reader or novel, as well as a homework book in which there will be a contract consisting of a variety of tasks from which they can choose. Students will also be provided with logon details for the online program *StudyLadder*, which they may access in addition to their set homework tasks. There may be occasions when students will be required to complete work which was not finished at school.

Curriculum

English

The English curriculum incorporates three strands: *language*, *literature* and *literacy*. We will integrate all three within our English program throughout the year. This term we will have a particular focus on the narrative and persuasive genres as we explore the structure and organisation of these text types. Students will also extend their skills in reading, oral language, handwriting, spelling and grammar.



Mathematics

The Mathematics curriculum incorporates three strands: *Number and Algebra*, *Measurement and Geometry*, and *Statistics and Probability*. While we will be starting off the year with a focus on Number and Algebra, all three strands will be explored throughout the year and cross-curricula links made between mathematics and other subject areas. This will give your child opportunities to develop rich knowledge and understanding, and provides meaningful contexts in which they can apply their mathematical skills.

Science

Throughout the year we will be using the Primary Connections science resources, which are aligned with the Australian Curriculum. Your child will develop their skills in predicting, observing, recording and analysing, through fun, hands-on science lessons. This term our topic is 'Feathers, Fur or Leaves'. Through hands-on activities, students will explore how living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and how they can be distinguished from non-living things. They will use this knowledge to investigate the animal groups in the leaf litter within our own school grounds.



Humanities and Social Sciences

We will be working with room 32 during HASS lessons, and to start off the year we will be learning about Australia. From the past to the present, and the people to the places. Students will develop their inquiry skills as they question, research and analyse information using a range of resources. Your child will have opportunity to work collaboratively and present their findings to their peers.

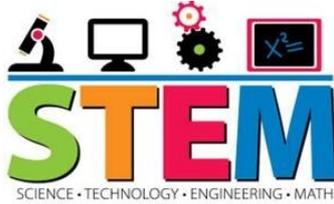


Visual Arts

To tie in with our Humanities and Social Sciences learning this term, students will explore Aboriginal art and compare it to that of other cultures. Students will experiment with a range of mediums and techniques to create their own works of art which will be displayed within our classroom. You are welcome to come in and have a look!

Technologies

This term we will be learning about e-safety and how to be responsible users of digital technologies. We will also develop inquiry skills through a hands-on integrated Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program where students will work collaboratively to problem solve using the engineering design process.



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 practice 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's and therefore will need to wear appropriate sports shoes, clothing and a hat to be able to fully participate in lessons
David Poulain - Specialist Health/PE Teacher

Music and Drama

This term in 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.



Working Together

At Parafield Gardens R-7 school we have an ethos of *working together*. These values underpin our daily routines and expectations. In addition to classroom routines and responsibilities, each class within the school takes on a responsibility for the year which allows students to gain a sense of contribution to our school community. This year students in room 31 will be responsible for setting up the eating area next to the canteen each day.

This year we will be teaming up with the students in rooms 5 and 8 for our Peer Assisted Learning program. Your child will have opportunity to develop valuable leadership skills as they support the younger students with reading, and participate in other PAL activities throughout the year.

Remember, as part of our Sun Safe policy, hats are required to be worn outside all year. Please ensure your child's hat is named.



We look forward to a wonderful year with your child in room 31.

Katrice White and Laura Gretsas

Classroom teachers

