



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education
and Child Development

Room 34A & B Newsletter

Term 1 2018



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to term one 2018! We hope you have had an enjoyable break and holiday season! Term 1 holds some very important and exciting learning opportunities for your child, with a large focus being on classroom structure, routine and expectations. This year Rooms 34a & b will run as one collective learning unit which will provide both challenges and new experiences for both students and teachers alike.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that it is extremely important for your child to arrive to school on time each day. If your child is late to arrive, they must go to the front office to receive a late slip. You will otherwise receive an SMS that your child is absent and you will need to respond as soon as possible. Acceptable absences are family or illness. If travelling you will need an exemption.

Absentee explanations are a parent/caregivers legal responsibility not your child's. We prefer that absences are phoned in that day between 7:30am and 8:20am.



Expectations

In order for students to be successful they will need to reflect on the school's code of conduct:

*Follow instructions given by staff
Work and play safely
Care for property
Share and include others*

We encourage the students to approach either classroom teacher and other school staff themselves where possible, regarding any issues that they might have in order to develop their own set of problem solving strategies. However, we understand that sometimes students need that bit of extra parental support. The leadership team is also available to students and families to discuss any matters further.



What's on this term Diary dates

February

21st	Acquaintance Night
28th	Excursion

March

12th	Adelaide Cup Holiday
21st	Harmony Day
30th	Good Friday Holiday

April

2nd	Easter Monday Holiday
10th	Aquatics Day
13th	Last Day Term 1 Early dismissal at 2:00pm

Remember

- ◆ Assemblies will be Thursday mornings, on even weeks
- ◆ Students wear hats all year round!
- ◆ Bring a drink bottle



Literacy

In Term 1 our class will be studying the award winning novel *Holes* by Louis Sacher. Students will explore how Sacher uses humour and suspense to engage the audience. Students will have opportunities to work both independently and in groups, while they develop their understanding of character and plot development.

As a part of our class expectations, students will complete a weekly spelling contract, aimed at increasing phonological awareness as well as extending vocabulary.

Literacy rotations will be held three times per week focusing on core English skills such as handwriting, comprehension, grammar, punctuation and oral language.

PGR-7 is also rolling out an exciting new, research based, program called *Brightpath*.

Room 34 will be using the *Brightpath* writing ruler to measure and moderate their persuasive texts. The ruler offers students clear and achievable writing goals, promoting self regulation and motivation. If you would like to know more, head to the *Brightpath* website or drop in and we will take you through your child's writing scores. www.brightpath.com.au

Numeracy

Term 1 concepts will be explored through group and individual problem solving, explicit teaching, Natural Maths methods and rehearsal.

Our focus will be on:

- * number concepts
- * problem solving
- * financial Maths
- * fractions & Decimals



Throughout Term 1, rooms 34a & b will be participating in a differentiated maths program that will be working with two target groups. This will allow students the opportunity to work individually and in small groups with students of similar ability, while also providing opportunities for extension. Within this program, we will be showing a focus on developing number skills and problem solving.

HASS

Business and Economics will see students investigating the concepts of opportunity costs, trade offs and sustainability.

In Geography students will be exploring the inquiry question: *How do places, people and cultures differ across the world?* We will have a particular focus on global inequalities and poverty.

Science

We will be taking a problem based approach to biological science this term, developing an understanding of how living things interact with their environment. Students will conduct a range of controlled scientific experiments to determine ideal growing conditions for various edible plants. They will be challenged to use their data to justify a plan of action suitable for a struggling local farm.

STEM

STEM learning in term 1 will see students exploring the world of waste, recycling and sustainability. Students will have the opportunity to analysis and investigate recycling within the school and work towards improving our current methods.

The Arts (a note from Ms Britz)

The class will work collaboratively to experiment, create, compose and play body percussion, table/ chair and stick percussion and will use cups as their percussion instrument. Students will maintain their own rhythmic patterns whilst other intricate rhythms are played at the same time. They will perform their percussion compositions to their peers and evaluate each other's work. In drama. they will be given the opportunity to work collaboratively in groups. They will develop their stagecraft and characterisation skills.

Health and PE (a note from Mr Cuconits)

My name is Matthew Cuconits and I am extremely excited to begin the year working at Parafield Gardens R-7 School. In term 1 students will learn about the dangers and effects of the sun and gain a greater understanding surrounding the Sun Smart program, as well all aspects of nutrition. Students will also participate in athletics and cricket.

If you have any queries or concerns please feel free to get in contact with us.

Regards, Bekk Resili & Annie Sobey (formerly Miss Williamson)

Permission Slip

During the course of the year, through our curriculum studies, we occasionally watch videos and documentaries. Some of the ratings will be PG Please indicate if you give permission for your child to watch these videos.

I do / do not give permission for my child to watch PG rated videos in Room 34a and b during 2018.

Parent/Caregiver's

Signature: _____