



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education
and Child Development

Room 7 Newsletter

Term 1 2018



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2018 school year in room 7 which is a year 2/3 class. My name is Tracy Smyth and the students call me Miss Tracy. I am married with 5 boys, I live locally and I look forward to working together with families and building strong relationships which will support your child throughout the year.

If you have a concern about your child or their learning, please contact me to make a time to chat.

Personal Items

Water bottles must come to school every day with water only in them please. Lunch boxes are kept in your child's class in the hot weather and their schoolbag in the cooler weather. Please name all items belonging to your child. This ensures that if something is misplaced there is a greater chance of it being returned.

Communication

Each student has a reader folder which will hold their reader, sight/spelling words and communication books. Any notes which need to go home will also be placed in their reader folder.

If your child is absent you must inform the school promptly. This can be done by ringing the school or sending an SMS. Parents who have not notified the school of the reason for the absence will be contacted for an explanation. Students arriving late must go to the front office for a late slip prior to coming to the classroom.

Class DOJO

This year I will be using ClassDojo 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. It's the easiest way for you to see how your child is doing at school and to get in touch with me. ClassDojo also has a new feature called Student

Story which allows students to share their work with you.

I'd like all families to join me 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.



What's on this term

Assemblies are held on Thursday of Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 and 11

Wednesday 21st February

Acquaintance Night and Governing Council AGM at 6:00 in the Hall.

Week 7

Monday 12th March

Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Week 8

Wednesday 21st March

Harmony Day

Week 9

Friday 30th March

Good Friday Public Holiday

Week 10

Monday 2nd April

Easter Monday Public 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:
Tracy.smyth499@schools.sa.edu.au

English

We will be using the Daily 5 and CAFÉ in our class this year. This program helps to build independence in the students. By the end of the year it is expected that EVERY child is achieving a minimum reading level of 21 (year 2) or a minimum Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) Scaled Score of 95 (Year 3). The best way to achieve this is to listen to your child read aloud EVERY day and then have a conversation afterward about what they have read! I am always happy to demonstrate how to achieve this if you need some strategies.

This term in English we will be reading a variety of texts related to our Science and HASS topics and we will focus on comprehending and developing expertise in descriptive writing, narratives and persuasive writing. We will have a particular focus on audience, noun groups, sentence structure, referencing, paragraphing and spelling. We will continue to revise and learn about spelling patterns, grammar and handwriting throughout the term. Students will read every day.



Maths

This term we are focusing on a number of areas. We will be learning about patterns, shape and measurement. A large focus will also be made on the Big Ideas in Number. Students are expected to Trust the Count by the end of year 2 and have a good understanding of Place Value by the end of year 3. We learn maths through games and mental routines. If you would like to see these in action please come in and I can demonstrate how this works.



Growth Mindset

At Parafield Gardens R-7 school we encourage students to have a growth mindset. The theory of long ago was that "No matter how much you learn or how hard you work, your intelligence stays the same!" (Albert Binet 1857-1911). The most recent theory is "The distinguishing feature of geniuses is their passion and dedication to their craft, and particularly, the way in which they identify, confront, and take pains to remedy their weaknesses" (Good, Rattan, & Dweck, 2008).

In other words...

It's not what you are born with that matters; it's your mindset that matters.

Fixed Mindset: Intelligence is a fixed trait.

Growth Mindset: Intelligence is a quality that can be changed and developed.

Kind regards

Tracy Smyth

Health & PE with Matthew Cuconits

My name is Matthew Cuconits and I am extremely excited to begin the year working at Parafield Gardens R-7 School. This year I have a full time position in the area of Health and Physical Education. 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.
- 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.

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.