



Government  
of South Australia

Department for Education

# Parafield Gardens R-7 School

## Room 23 Newsletter Term 2 2018



### Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to all. We extend a special welcome to Abeeha who joined us during the last few days of Term 1. This is an opportune time to remind you that I have an 'Open Door Policy'. It's great to have chats informally, but if you would like my undivided attention please make a mutually suitable time. Here is a description of programs for this term.

### ENGLISH

We will continue our weekly spelling test. Our focus in Written Language lessons will be to consolidate our earlier topics of Persuasive Text (putting forward a strong point of view), Recounts and Narratives. This term we will focus more specifically on an analysis of text (developing reading strategies, questioning and comprehension).

**Oral Language:** This is a continuing focus throughout the term. Poetry, songs and *Show and Tell* are an integral part of oral language. It is also given special attention during 'No Pen Days'.

**Close Writing:** These are weekly lessons where we join with Room 24 students and work on the Interactive Whiteboard to analyse aspects of texts such as: identifying unfamiliar words and improving fluency.

**Guided Reading:** The students are exposed to a variety of texts. They work in small groups according to their reading ability.

**Grammar:** Our work this term will focus on various aspects such as verbs, proper nouns and conjunctions.

**Handwriting:** Each week we have a letter and number focus. We use the *Smartboard* to help the children practise correct letter formation. We also discuss posture, placement of book and pencil grip.

### MATHEMATICS

Components of the Number, Measurement and Geometry Strands will be our focus for the next couple of months. The children will use a variety of resources to carry out investigations in measuring area; analyse the effect of one-step slides and flips; and work on fractions, such as half, quarter and eighths. They will also undertake tasks relating to time, e.g. quarter past and quarter to.

### SCIENCE

This term our work is based on the Primary Connections program entitled "Push, Pull". It is part of the Physical Sciences module that involves undertaking experiments in force and impact, exploring human movement and recording observations. It would be much appreciated if you could help your child with the homework component.

### STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths

STEM learning in term 2 will see students focus on reducing the effects of plastic in our environment. The children will do an audit on class and school litter, then work in groups to identify ways of minimizing rubbish at a local level.

### TECHNOLOGIES

This term our focus will be on the Design component of this subject. The students will design, make and appraise a playground. The unit of work will culminate in self evaluation as well as peer and teacher assessment.

### What's on this term

**Assemblies will be held on  
Thursday Weeks 2, 4, 6,  
8 and 10  
At 9:00am in the Hall**

**Wednesday 9th May  
School Photos**

**Tuesday - Thursday  
15th - 17th May  
NAPLAN TESTS (Year 3, 5  
and 7 students only)**

**Tuesday 5th June  
No Pen Morning**

**Monday 11th June  
Public Holiday**

**Tuesday 12th June  
PUPIL FREE DAY**

**Wednesday 4th July  
Reports Go Home**

**Friday 6th July  
Last Day of Term 2  
Casual Day with  
gold coin donation  
Early Dismissal 2:00pm**



## HASS

History will be our HASS subject this term. We will focus on various elements such as toys, schools and clothing. We will make comparisons with the past, the present and predict designs for the future.

## VISUAL ARTS

This term we will have a focus on indigenous art, Reconciliation Week and dinosaurs. The students will be involved with Dreaming Stories and make artworks about prehistoric creatures.

## Health and Wellbeing Program with Ms Kylie Nielson (every Friday)

We had a fun filled first term, getting to know all about each other, learning dance and fundamental motor skills in PE as well as sun safety and nutrition in Health.

This term we are looking forward to focusing on Hockey and invasion games early in the term and net/wall/court games towards the end of term for PE. In Health we are learning about the five senses and healthy lifestyle/hygiene. There will also be a focus on friendships and getting along with each other this term.



## Music and Drama with Ms Amanda Drury (every Wednesday)

Welcome back to another term of fun filled Music, Dance and Drama lessons. This term proves to be exciting as our students participate in the Datiwuy Dreaming Programme where they will learn several songs and activities from an Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander background. This will end in a fabulous *Musica Viva* performance, an incursion which will occur in week 8. Alongside this our students will continue to learn about beat, rhythm, pitch and dynamics, including basic notation and composition using both our voices and instruments. Students will groove along to music, this time learning about the body and how it is used in dance, including control, posture, strength, balance and coordination. Drama will see children using their imaginations to come up with places, times, characters and imaginary props while improvising with process drama and may even spot a dinosaur or two along the way!

## OTHER INFORMATION

- ◆ If you have unwanted empty bottles and cans at home, please bring them to school. In conjunction with other classes throughout the school, we collect these products and use the money to buy resources for our students.
- ◆ Donations of empty 2 litre ice cream containers that we use for storage at school, would also be appreciated.

- ◆ Students are required to wear their hats at recess and lunch times throughout the year. Please ensure your child also has a named, school jumper or jacket in readiness for the colder months.

## HOMEWORK

I know that as parents, there are many demands made on your time, but setting aside a couple of 10 or 15 minute time slots daily for reading and spelling practise, is a great way to improve your child's literacy. Where possible, a quiet time in the morning and another time in the afternoon is ideal for consolidation.

## STUDENT ABSENCE

Thank you to the parents and caregivers who help us monitor the safety and well being of our students. Please continue to let the office know of your child's absence. A text message will be sent to you on the day, if you have not notified the school by 10:00am.

## FRESH FRUIT FRIDAYS

As adults we are all aware of the benefits of fresh fruit and vegetables. I would like the students to also become increasingly aware of this. To this end we will begin a "Fresh Fruit Friday" program, where I ask for your support in providing your child with a piece of fresh fruit for recess (and/or lunch) - especially on Fridays. I will use a digital sticker system as a motivational tool to encourage student involvement. This project will begin in Week 3 (Friday 18th May). Thank you for your anticipated support.



## PALS (Partners At Learning)

Last term our children met their older PAL and began making cross site friendships. This cross age tutoring will have a special focus later in the term when we undertake tasks together for Reconciliation Week.

## School Code of conduct for students

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

## PARENT WORKSHOP IN READING

Learn how to empower your child so that they develop more confidence with their reading while learning new skills. Learn how to make reading time more enjoyable and not just another thing that needs to be done!

Our Term 2 reading workshops are predominantly **aimed at parents of R-3 students (5 – 8 year olds)** but are open to all year levels. Sessions are available in weeks 2 and 4. Please see me for a booking form.

I look forward to another productive term with the students.

*Kind regards,  
Sue Pasalidis*