



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Hello and welcome to the new school year and to Year 4 in Room 30. I hope that you have had a relaxing holiday break. My name is Mrs Gretsas and I am your child's class this year. At Parafield Gardens R-7 School we promote learning that is engaging, creative, challenging and relevant. We encourage our students to embrace challenges, to persevere and to celebrate successes. I am looking forward to getting to know all of my 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 I'd like to give you the opportunity to tell me anything and everything you think will help me to better know and understand your child. Please either write or email me. 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 the class 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. The students will be participating in identity activities that help us get to know each other better and help develop a sense of belonging. The students 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.

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.

What's on this term
THIS TERM ASSEMBLIES WILL
BE HELD ON

Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, & 11
at 9pm in the hall

Wednesday 13th February
Acquaintance Night and
Governing Council AGM at
6:30 in the Hall

Week 7
Monday 11th March
Adelaide Cup HOLIDAY

Week 8
Thursday 21st March
Harmony Day

Weeks 10
Monday 1st to
Friday 5th April
Parent / Teacher Interviews

Weeks 11
Wednesday 10th April
Casual Day with Gold Coin
Donation

Friday 12th April
Last day of Term 1
Early dismissal 2:00pm

Early in the term, your child will negotiate their Maths and English goals with me. 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 in Week 6 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 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.”

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development



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.

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

I will be having an **Acquaintance Night on Wednesday the 13th of February** where you will

have a chance to visit the classroom and meet with me.

Finally, help me 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

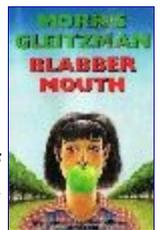


- odd/even numbers
- addition/subtraction with larger numbers
- place value beyond ten thousands

English

This term, students will take part in a daily 5 literacy block each day which will involve reading, writing and spelling tasks. Students will work on some activities individually as well as in groups according to their skill level and needs. The Literacy block will include activities in sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, handwriting, phonics, spelling, vocabulary, guided reading, narrative writing, persuasive writing, comprehension and reading strategies and literature responses.

Students will have weekly spelling contracts which will give them opportunities to learn and spell unfamiliar words using a variety of activities. Spelling tests will be every Friday morning.



Our class novel is titled *Blabber Mouth* by Morris Gleitzman.

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

Science

This term, students will participate in activities that investigate Biological sciences. Students will look further at living and non-living things, their life cycles and the importance of the environment to survive. Students will be asked to plan and conduct scientific investigations, communicate their findings and compare and represent their findings.

HASS

This term in HASS, students will be looking at Australian history, exploring significant celebrations, events and commemorations, First Fleet, European exploration and colonisation in Australia and life for Indigenous Australians before and after European colonization. Students will explore the importance of the environment to people and animals and the Custodian responsibility for the country.

Design and Technology

This term, students will participate in activities that investigate the sustainability of materials, systems, components, tools and equipment for a range of purposes. Students will take part in creating a future environmentally friendly product using their sustainable knowledge to plan, evaluate and select appropriate, sustainable materials.

Visual Arts

This term in visual arts students will participate in activities that explore artworks and art techniques from different cultures and times, in particular artwork by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. Students will be given the opportunity to explore an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artist further and create an art piece that showcases their techniques.



Music and Drama with Miss Yates

This term in music students will read, write and compose rhythms using ta, titi, za and tika tika. They will investigate the difference between beat and rhythm and practise their discoveries through playing bordun and ostinato patterns using xylophones. They will perform dances using different levels, direction, shape and tempo.

In drama, students will use facial expression, body language and gesture to become characters and show their reaction to different situations. Students will focus on creating and sustaining a setting using tableau and mime. They will investigate the effects of tension and focus in dramatic works and apply these to their performances.

Health and PE with Mr Cuconits

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 the health benefits of physical activity.

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.



AUSLAN with Ms Krohn

Language Other Than English – Australian Sign Language is the recognised visual language of the Deaf community. During First Term the students will be reviewing basic greetings, numbers and colours, and expanding Auslan vocabulary and grammar features through various class related topics. The students will learn through sign games, songs, video, the use of IT equipment, signed conversations and written projects.

Homework

Students will have weekly homework that will commence in Week 3. They will have a homework book that will contain their homework contract, advising what is required of them each night for homework.

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 will be 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, I encourage you to supervise your child at all times when using the internet.

Studyladder
Inspire Motivate Achieve

Kind Regards,

Laura Gretsas