



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education

# Room 4 Newsletter

## Term 1 2019



Dear Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to Learning Community 4. A very big welcome to those of you who are new to the Parafield Gardens R-7 School community. We are so pleased that you have selected our school to support and guide your child, and your family, through their primary education. As I am sure you are aware, we are a United Nations Global Peace School. This prestigious title encompasses our view of your child and education. We see your child as our future and wish nothing more than to see them happy, healthy and successful. We look forward to getting to know all the children and creating rich and valuable relationships. We understand that the beginning stages of school life can be very overwhelming (for both the children and parents) and we hope that we can work together to prioritise the school transition. We strongly believe that if your child feels safe and happy, they will flourish across all areas of school.

I have 2 children myself, and remember the challenges we faced during this time. My sons are now 17 and 15. Ky is starting Year 12 and Ash is starting Year 10. I remember their first days of school very well. Ky was confident and comfortable, ready to play and learn until things became challenging. Ash was not keen at all to start school. He started very slowly and loved it in the end. Now that they are both in the final stages of secondary school, I often reflect on the journey and the saying, 'It takes a village to raise a child' could not fit more perfectly. My husband Paul and I could not have raised our boys without the care, patience and support of their teachers and our community. I hope that I am able to help you where ever needed along the way.

I absolutely love teaching and am very proud to call myself an educator. It is a privilege that I take very seriously. I feel so much joy when surrounded by curious little people. This inspires me to make learning fun, interesting and joyous. As school is a very new experience for your children, it is important that in the beginning weeks we spend time helping them to become familiar with both the class and whole school environment, routines and expectations. We will be spending time getting to know one another while developing and maintaining respectful relationships. There will be a strong focus on celebrating all successes and achievements to build confidence and to ignite a love of learning. As the classroom teacher, I will ensure that the learning environment is one where your child will feel valued, safe and cared for.

I invite you all to come into the classroom to have a look around and see what we have been learning. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please feel free to talk to me, write a note in your child's diary or arrange a time to meet. Please don't forget to share moments we can celebrate!

Cecilia Hector and Learning Community 5 will be a big part of our year. Cecilia and I are incredibly lucky to have an open door between the 2 learning spaces. We plan and work collaboratively and often bring the 2 classes together. We have been working this way for the past few years with great success. We believe that we are able to offer more support to the children and to each other. We draw from each other's individual experiences and feel that we are able to provide more rich and rigorous learning opportunities for the

**THIS TERM ASSEMBLIES  
ARE HELD ON  
THURSDAY OF WEEKS 2, 4, 6,  
8, 11 at 9:00am in the Hall**

**Wednesday 13th February  
Acquaintance Night & AGM  
6:30pm in the Hall**

**Tuesday 26th February  
No Pen Day**

**Monday 11th March  
Adelaide Cup  
Public Holiday**

**Friday 29th March  
Partnership Pupil Free Day**

**Monday 1st to Friday 5th  
April  
Parent Teacher Interviews**

**Wednesday 10th April  
Casual Day with  
Gold Coin Donation**

**Friday 12th April  
Last day of Term 1  
With Early Dismissal at  
2:00pm**



children. The children are able to rely on the support, care and love of both of us.



### Classroom Environment

This year the classroom environment has been designed to aid children in developing independence, trust, cooperation and respect. By creating a calm and inviting learning environment, the transition from home to school each morning is eased. As Early Years educators, we are passionate about play and the benefits it has for our learners. Research has evidenced the importance of play for a child's overall development of intellectual skills, thinking and motivation. Our classrooms are designed to promote opportunities for children to follow their interests and passions as well as the development of social skills and oral language in line with the Australian Curriculum.

Studies have shown:

- Engaging in active play encourages the development of language skills. A child's vocabulary grows and develops as they play together with peers and interact with adults.
- Participating in play supports the development of literacy skills, such as listening skills and sound recognition.
- Play is associated with the development of social and emotional skills and the ability to develop positive relationships. As children play with each other they learn to get along, communicate their needs, cooperate and resolve conflicts.
- Play fosters creativity and imagination - valued traits that are vital in the modern world. Using imagination, children are able to find solutions to a variety of problems they encounter.

The set up of the classroom is designed to provide opportunities to develop these necessary skills. Please come and see me if you have any further questions about the classroom environment. Below are some studies regarding the benefits of a playful learning environment if you'd like to look into this further.

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/ourpublications/every-child-magazine/every-child-index/every-child-vol-16-3-2010/play-based-learning-freearticle/>

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/wpcontent/uploads/2012/11/Environment-makeovercampbell-street-workshop-240312.pdf>

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/>

[wpcontent/uploads/2012/05/EYLFLP\\_ENewsletter\\_No12.pdf http://www.playengland.org.uk/about-us/why-play-is-important/](http://www.playengland.org.uk/about-us/why-play-is-important/)

### Take Home Folders & Home Learning

In your child's Take Home Folder you will find a Sound Book. This folder will be taken home each night and needs to come to school each day. Home Learning is a vital part of your child's learning and is a great chance to connect and engage with your child.

*My Sound Book* - The foundation of our literacy program is *Jolly Phonics*. As part of this program, each child will take home the corresponding sound in their Sound Book. We focus on one sound each day. You will find printouts in your child's book. These have capital and lower case letters and demonstrate the correct letter formation, I ask that your child:

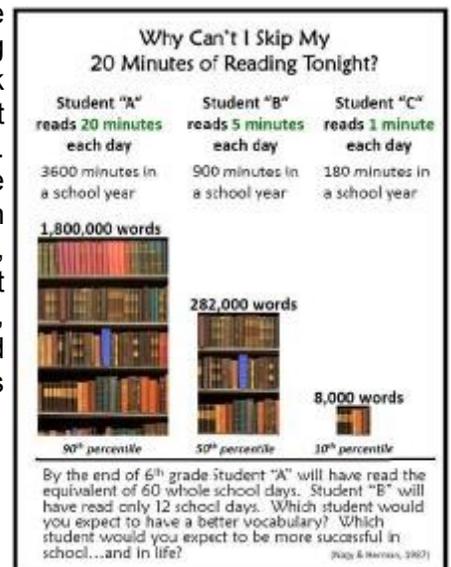
- shares with you the songs taught about the sounds during lessons
- performs the actions that relate to the sounds
- practises writing the letters

### Library Borrowing

We encourage you and your child to read together every day. Just a short amount of time can make a huge difference. The experience of reading ignites curiosity and begins developing vital book and literacy skills. Our library borrowing day is Monday. The school will provide each child with their own library bag. This is to foster a love of reading by taking care of books and providing a place for them to 'live' while not in the library. Students may borrow 2 books for up to 2 weeks. Before borrowing a new book, previously borrowed books must be returned.

### Reading Tips

Before reading with your child, talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about. While reading reflect on the book so far and imagine what will happen next. When you have finished reading talk and ask questions about the books. When you come across an unknown word, pause, prompt (look for clues, read-on, sound out) and always praise.



*'The more that you READ, the more things you will KNOW. The more things that you LEARN, the more places you'll GO.'*

*Dr Seuss*



### **Student Diary**

The PGR-7 Diary is designed to be a link between school and home. You will find valuable information to help you support your child at home as well as a reading log and a place for written communication. Before sending the diary home a parent information session will be held to provide further understanding of it's use and purpose. Keep an eye out in your child's Take Home Folder for a note with details regarding the session.



*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world*  
**-NELSON MANDELA**

### **Our World**

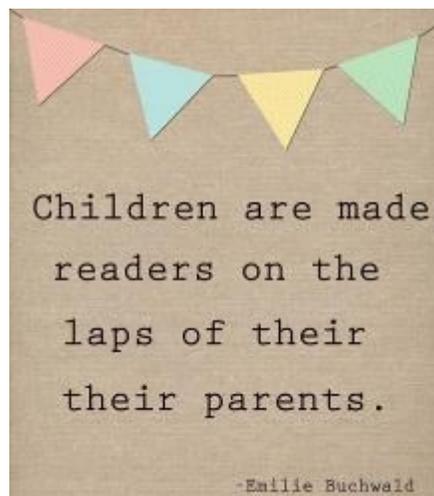
We will be exploring our world through lessons in History and Social Sciences. In the beginning weeks we will be learning all about our school values and being kind to ourselves and others. We will be celebrating families and what makes us all special and unique. During these lessons we will be working alongside the other Reception classes with Miss P, Miss Allira and Mrs Hector. Working together will allow your child to develop new friendships as well as keep in touch with existing ones. These lessons will foster group work and collaborative learning.



### **English**

Throughout this term we will be immersing the children in playful learning experiences that encourage the continuing development of word awareness and vocabulary, rhyme, syllables, speaking and listening along with letter and sound recognition. We will be using story tables and key texts to support this learning.

The key focus for term 1 will be developing phonological awareness through the program *Jolly Phonics*. This program centres around the teaching of sounds in a particular order, which enables children to form and write words using a fun and exciting approach. There are 40+ sounds in the English language. These sounds and the letters that relate to them will be the primary focus this term. The letters are introduced in an interesting and sequential way, involving plenty of actions and stories. We will be exploring rhyme, syllables and word building to compliment and further develop phonological awareness. Guided reading sessions and modelled writing will also be a strong part of our English program. As the children developed their phonological awareness, we will begin applying that knowledge in our writing and reading. During this term, this will be a modelled process allowing students to learn the structure, sequence and spelling as a group. Each day they will also plan or reflect on their experiences during Nature Play through Bookmaking. Our shared reading will allow us to explore text structure and key features. These elements will also be encouraged during Bookmaking.





## **Mathematics**

We will be focusing on developing number knowledge, making groups, sorting and patterning. As part of measurement, we will be looking at day/night, days of the week, months of the year and seasons through our class calendar, songs and games. Learning Community 4 and 5 will be doing lots of Maths exploring and learning together during our Maths rotation activities. The range of games are designed to support the whole school program *Big Ideas in Number*. The activities are play based, interactive and hands on. We will be singing together, sharing our mathematical knowledge and thinking whilst having a great time. Problem solving is an important element of everyday maths. We will be looking to help people in our community who might have a maths problem that needs to be solved.

### **Auslan– Mrs Kylie Neilson each MONDAY**

Australian Sign Language is the recognised visual language of the Deaf community. During First Term the students will be introduced to 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 and use of IT equipment.

### **Music & Drama- Miss Georgia Yates each TUESDAY**

This term in music students will feel, show and move to a strong beat. They will explore the 4 voices, speaking, singing, whispering and shouting, and sing songs with the class. Students will investigate how different sounds are made using percussion instruments.

In drama, students will use facial expression and movement to become characters and show their reaction to different situations. They will also explore character through varying the volume of their voice.

### **Health & PE - Mrs Stephanie Ryan FRIDAY**

The Physical Education program at Parafield R-7 School provides students the opportunity to participate in a wide range of physical activities and learning many sporting skills. Term 1 will involve developing and strengthening Reception – Yr 4 students' fundamental movement skills through taking part in sporting activities and games that look at improving coordination, strengthening fine and gross motor skills, while learning new sporting activities. Many games will allow students to work cooperatively with others and promote both individual growth and positive social skills.

The P.E. program will allow sufficient time in each unit to provide opportunities for students to acquire an understanding of body control and manipulation to be able to demonstrate and show progression of their motor skills. Students will practice individually and work with others to refine their range of movement skills including running, skipping, hopping, jumping and leaping to assist them to confidently participate in various games.

Learning to play team games is essential for students to become aware of the spatial requirements needed for safe play, to learn to self-regulate their emotions and to learn to conduct themselves safely.

Please be aware that your child has Health and PE on Fridays and therefore will need to wear appropriate sports shoes, clothing and a hat to be able to fully participate in lessons.

I am looking forward to working with your child this term!

During Term 1, the Health Education curriculum for Receptions to Year 4 students will cover 'Our Body', 'Emotions/Feelings' and 'Friendship' topics including, learning about our five senses, learning how to look after our body with good hygiene and understanding the importance of being active and taking part in physical activities to keep their body healthy.

### **When your child is away and lateness**

The first bell will ring at 8:35am indicating that it is time to head to classrooms. A second bell will ring at 8:40am, when it is expected that all children are in their classrooms. You will receive a text message if your child is absent from school without a prior notification. When your child is away either ring the office to let us know or write a note in your child's communication book. Reasons for students being away are recorded as well as the number of days absent. If you know in advance please let me know and I will record accordingly. All students who arrive at school after 8.45am, are required to visit the office to receive a late slip which needs to be given to me for my records.

### **Come and Chat**

Please come and see me about anything that you would like to discuss - either about your child's work, behaviour, or any other issues or achievements. I love to celebrate and share special moments. Short chats are great before or after school, longer chats are important too however, we would need to book a time. Just write a note in your diary requesting a time that best suits you or ring the school.

*Kindest regards Dani Tidswell*