



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Room 29 Newsletter

Term 1 2020



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the 2020 school year and Room 29! I hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday and are ready for the new school year. As always it will be an exciting and busy year full of fun, learning and laughter. My name is Tess Phillips and I will be your child's Year 4 teacher for 2020. I look forward to getting to know your child and family throughout the year.

A little bit about me....

This is my second year at Parafield Gardens R-7 School. I have been teaching for the past 7 years and have had experience teaching Year 2, 3 and 4. I love teaching all curriculum areas but I especially enjoy teaching Maths. I love the colour purple, reading and doughnuts (as you may know by the classroom theme). If you have any questions, concerns or information you would like me to know about your child and their learning please don't hesitate to contact me either by phone, email or popping into the classroom before or after school.

ROOM 29 GENERAL INFORMATION

Starting 2020

To begin the 2020 school year we will be working on lots of important activities that help us get to know each other and help us to build effective relationships. We will look at our school PEACE values, discuss learning expectations and work together to establish our classroom rules.



Parent/caregiver communication

I believe that communication between home and school is crucial to maintaining an effective and productive learning environment for students. As mentioned above, please feel free to contact me by phone, email or pop into the classroom. If your child is absent, please contact the school to inform us. You can do this by calling the front office, sending me an email (tess.phillips870@schools.sa.edu.au), writing a note in your child's school diary or replying to the SMS you receive on the morning of their absence.

Classroom organisation

The classroom is always open on the first bell at 8:35am. By 8:40am the students should be in class and ready to begin the day. If your child arrives after 8:45am they will need to go to the office and collect a late slip before continuing to class. If your child is absent we request that you please contact the school (see above).

Diaries

Every student will receive a school diary within the first few weeks of school. It is an expectation that students will use this diary to write any important notes and/or reminders and to record their reading each night at home. Please feel free to use your child's diary to write any messages or notes to me if needed. Diaries will be collected every few weeks along with homework books for checking.



What's on this term Diary dates

This term assemblies are held
on Thursdays at 9am in the Hall
in weeks
2, 4, 6, 8, 11

Tuesday 11th February Week 3

Acquaintance Night, AGM and
Channel 9 weather

Tuesday 25th February Week 5

No Pen Day

Monday 9th March Week 7

Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Tuesday 10th March Week 7

Pupil Free Day

Thursday 21st March Week 8

Harmony Day



Monday 30th March - Friday 3rd April

Week 10

Parent Teacher Interviews

Wednesday 8th April Week 11

Casual Day
with gold con donation

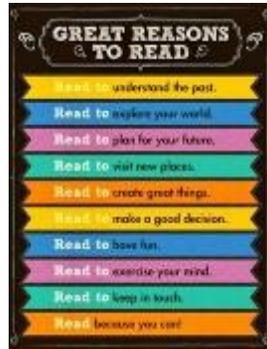
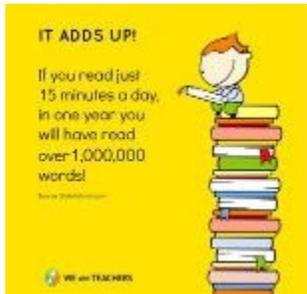
Thursday 9th April Week 11

Last day of Term 1
Early dismissal at 2pm



Reading

Please make reading a priority at home. Students should be reading each night for a minimum of 15 minutes. Students are able to read in a variety of ways including reading to self, reading to an adult and/or reading to a sibling. Students are encouraged to read aloud as much as possible as it helps to develop fluency and increases their vocabulary and comprehension. It is also important for a child to hear other people read aloud as often as possible to help them to develop and understand fluency, rhyme and humour.



Hats

Hats **must be** worn during recess, lunch, PE lessons and any outside activities. Please make sure your child has a hat available at all times. Please make sure your child's hat is **clearly** labelled with their full name. If your child does not currently have a hat, they are available from the front office for \$5.50.

Homework

Students in the Primary Years are expected to complete regular homework. Students will be given a matrix grid where they can select an open-ended activity each week. Please encourage them to take their time, use their imagination and creativity and put in their best effort for all homework tasks. If you would like your child to complete an additional English or Mathematics task, one will be available each week of Term 1. Homework books will be collected every few weeks for marking.

Specialist subjects

This year we will have Music and Drama, Health and PE and Auslan as specialist subjects.

Auslan - Monday - Kylie Neilson

Health and PE - Tuesday - Joshua Parsons

Music and Drama - Thursday - Georgia Yates

SAKGP—Wednesday and Friday

A note about Auslan

Language Other Than English – Australian Sign Language is the recognised visual language of the Deaf community. During First Term students will be reviewing greetings, including recognising and fingerspelling own name, 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 and class interactions using the target language.

A note about Health/PE

During Health lessons students will learn how to positively respond to challenges and failure by using growth mindset strategies. Students will also describe strategies they can use to manage their emotions before making a decision to act. Throughout the term we will investigate how respect, empathy and diversity effects relationships by:

- exploring how success, challenge and failure strengthen identities
- describing how respect, empathy and valuing diversity can positively influence relationships
- describing strategies they can use to identify and manage their emotions before making a decision to act

In PE students will participate in a mini-Olympics athletics event at the culmination of the term having had the opportunity to learn and develop their skills in throwing, jumping and running events. Students will also participate in a 'Striking and Fielding Games' unit (cricket, baseball etc), where they will develop their fundamental movement skills in rewarding, authentic, sport-specific environments by:

- practising and refine fundamental movement skills in a variety of movement sequences and situations
- practising and apply movement concepts and strategies with and without equipment
- participating in physical activities from their own and other cultures
- Adopting inclusive practices when participating in physical activities
- applying basic rules and scoring systems, and demonstrate fair play when participating in physical activities

A note about Music and Drama

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.

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.

This year in music and drama I will be using Class Dojo with students and to communicate to families. You will soon receive an email to join the class. If you have any problems at all, please feel free to come and speak with me in Room 22.

HIVE and Library borrowing

As a class, we will be visiting and borrowing from the library each Wednesday. Please make sure your child is returning their books on time so that they have the opportunity to borrow regularly. All students will be encouraged to borrow from the library.



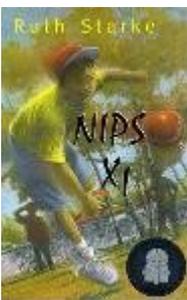
Term One Overview

English

At the beginning of this term we will have particular focus on the narrative genre and later in the term we will begin the procedure genre. Students will write an assessment piece for both narrative and persuasive genres and will be assessed and scored using the Brightpath scale. This is a school-wide assessment that is administered multiple times throughout the year.

In spelling, students will be assessed using the SA spelling test and placed into ability level groups. As part of grammar, we will focus on punctuation such as capital letters, full stops, question and exclamation marks.

This term our class novel is *NIPS XI*, which is a story about growing up, fitting in and being accepted. Lan, a Vietnamese boy, is tired of not belonging. When the students are told about the annual Multicultural Week and celebrating the population's diversity, Lan has an idea. He forms a cricket team. How the team comes together and what they achieve makes for a very funny and enlightening story.



Students will also be given the chance to express their creativity and develop a love of writing through the use of Writers Notebook.

Mathematics

This term in Mathematics we will be focusing on Number and Algebra. We will cover topics such as place value, odd and even numbers, addition and subtraction. These skills are essential to all other elements of Mathematics and it is crucial that students have a solid understanding before moving onto other topics. Big Ideas in Number will also be an important element of our Mathematics program. We will make many cross-curricular links with other curriculum areas such as Science, Design and Technology and HASS.



HASS

This term in HASS we will be exploring the question **How have laws affected the lives of people, past and present?** This question will incorporate aspects of history, geography and civics and citizenship. Students will have the chance to inquire, research, question and analyse to help them answer this question. During the exploration of this questions, students will make curriculum links with numerous other subject areas including English, Mathematics, Technology and Health.

Science

This term in Science we will be using the Primary Connections program to explore Biological Science. We will be focusing on "Friends or Foes" and through the use of hands on experiences and investigations, students will discover the connections between plants and animals. We will make connections between multiple subjects areas including English, Mathematics and with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program

This term we are working with Ms Nina Ostrun in The Hive on Wednesday and Friday as part of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. This program teaches students about creating and maintaining a garden including weeding, planting, watering, creating compost and building and caring for a worm farm. The kitchen element of this program helps students to understand more about safety in the kitchen including knife skills, storing food correctly and hygiene. As well as this, students will have the chance to cook using the fruits and vegetables that are in season and have been grown in the garden throughout the program. The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program will make links with numerous other curriculum areas including Science and our work with Biological Sciences, Mathematics, Technology and English.



Kind regards
Tess Phillips

Please return this section back to Room 29

2 Minute Parent Survey

Child's Name: _____

If you had to describe your child in one word, what would it be? _____

What is one goal you have for your child this year?

Using a rating of 1 - 10, how does your child feel about school? _____

How does your child get to and from school most days:

What is your preferred method of contact? Please circle (if email, please provide your email address)

In person Phone Email

Permission Slip

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

I do OR do not give permission for my child to watch PG rated videos in Room 29 during 2020.

Child's name: _____

Parent/Caregiver's name _____

Parent/Caregiver's signature _____