

# Room 31 Newsletter

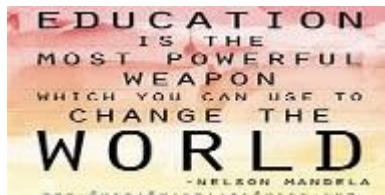
## Term 1 2020



### Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2020 school year and to Room 31. I especially welcome our new families beginning their journey with us at Parafield Gardens R-7 School. I hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday with your family and friends. I will be your child's teacher for 2020. I look forward to getting to know your child and family over the next few weeks.

You are more than welcome to come in and introduce yourself before school and after school. I would love to meet and get to know you all. If you have any questions, worries or information you would like me to know about your child and their learning please don't hesitate to come in. We will also be having an Acquaintance Night on Tuesday 11th February where you will have the chance to visit the classroom and meet with me. More information will be sent home soon.



### A bit about me....

My name is Paige Elliott and I began working at Parafield Gardens R-7 School in 2017. I began working as a relief teacher in many different classrooms in the school and then had year 4s in 2018 and year 7s in 2019. I am very excited to be teaching your child in their final year of primary school.

Over the next two weeks we will be participating in activities that relate to our school PEACE values in order to establish class rules and expectations that will allow all students to feel happy and safe at school. We will be participating in a wide range of 'getting to know you' activities for students to develop relationships with their peers along with developing a sense of belonging.

### Parent communication

Parent and teacher communication is crucial to maintaining an orderly and productive learning environment. If your child is absent please remember to contact the school to inform us as to the reason why. You can do this by writing a note in their diary, calling the school, sending me an email or replying to the text message you receive on the morning of their absence. Students will also need to remember to check the 'Been away?' folders in order to catch up on any missed work. We will also be using Class Dojo this year. I will be sending home parent/caregiver sign up information for you to then be able to contact me via this method which enables you to follow how your child is going throughout the year.

If you have any queries or questions please don't hesitate to make a time to come in and have a chat with me. My door is always open!

### DIARY DATES

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

**Tuesday 11th February**  
Acquaintance Night  
Channel 9 Weather Report

**Friday 14th February**  
SAPOL Road Crossing Training  
(Years 5-7)

**Friday 21st February**  
Big Day In

**Tuesday 25th February**  
No Pen Day

**Friday 6th, Wednesday 11th,  
Thursday 12th March**  
Year 6/7 Aquatics

**Monday 9th March**  
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

**TUESDAY 10TH MARCH**  
PUPIL FREE DAY

**Saturday 21st March**  
Harmony Day

**Monday 23rd March**  
NAPLAN Practice Test

**Monday 30th March - Friday 3rd April**  
Interview Week

**Wednesday 8th April**  
Casual Day with gold coin donation

**Thursday 9th April**  
Last Day of Term 1 with Early Dismissal

**Friday 10th April**  
Good Friday

It is important that your child has an enjoyable experience at school and feels safe. Any issues that may arise, need to be dealt with promptly to avoid any misunderstandings. I encourage students to approach me themselves where possible to promote resilience and develop problem solving strategies. However, I also acknowledge that sometimes they need extra parental support. The leadership team is also available for students and families to discuss any matters further.

### Classroom Organisation

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 8:45am they will need to go to the office and receive a late slip which is then passed on to me. 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 10:00am and you can respond to the text.

### Diaries and Homework

Every student received their diary on the first day of school. They are expected to write their homework in their diary each afternoon before they go home. Any important information regarding school events or classroom newsletters will be placed in their diary so please check your child's diary. Please use your child's diary to write me notes as I will be checking them.

Every second Monday students will receive their Homework contract. It is expected that they will spend a minimum of 10 minutes on it each night to have it completed for submission every second Thursday (each contract should take students approximately 70 minutes - 10 minutes each evening Monday to Wednesday for two weeks). Having these contracts for two weeks means that students and families have flexibility as to when time is spent on Homework. Students may choose to spend 40 minutes working on their Homework contract two evenings each fortnight or 20 minutes for four evenings, allowing for sports or other commitments. The contracts will focus on various elements of the curriculum and we will discuss it in class each Monday. Students are always encouraged to come and see me if they are unsure about any elements of their contract - WELL in advance of the due date, preferably not on the morning that it is due!

From time to time students may also have other work which they need to complete at home. For further information about school expectations on Homework please refer to our Homework Policy.

Students should be reading to you each night for a minimum of 10 minutes. Reading aloud is imperative to developing fluency and increasing ones vocabulary. I believe that reading is the most important homework for children and focus largely on ensuring that it is a priority.

### English

In writing this term we will be covering the following types of text;

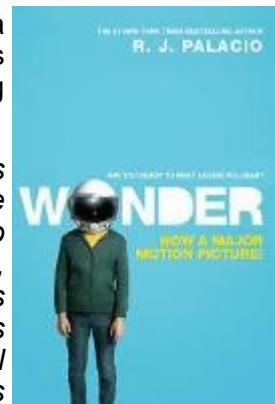
- persuasive writing
- narrative writing

Students will also undertake literature circles. A literature circle is where a group of students (at a similar level of ability) read the same book, aloud to one another, and complete a range of activities to critique what they have read. Using this strategy helps to encourage comprehension, fluency and vocabulary development, all of which are reflected in the student reading goals for this term.

Students will have weekly spelling contracts which will have them practise unfamiliar words using a variety of activities. Spelling contracts will be due every Thursday afternoon. Spelling tests will be every Friday morning.

We will also be reading a class novel together. This term we will be reading 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio.

*Born with facial differences that, up until now, have prevented him from going to a mainstream school, Auggie Pullman becomes the most unlikely of heroes when he enters the local fifth grade. As his family, his new classmates, and the larger community all struggle to discover their compassion and acceptance, Auggie's extraordinary journey will unite them and prove you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.*



### Maths

In Mathematics this term our key skills will cover a range of different content areas from the number strand and statistics and probability, including;



- positive and negative integers.
- decimal multiplication and division.
- decimals with the four operations.
- discrete and continuous Data.
- mean, medium and mode.
- 

On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Maths lessons will focus on key skills. On Tuesday and Friday students will participate in *The Big Ideas in Number* program.

### Design and Technology

This term, we will focus on cyber safety and the progression of technologies over time.

### Science

This term, we will be exploring seasons and eclipses. We will focus on how the relative

positions of the Earth, Sun and Moon affect phenomena on Earth. Students will identify questions that can be investigated scientifically



and we will draw on evidence to support our conclusions. Students will summarise data from different sources, describe trends and refer to the quality of their data when suggesting improvements to their methods. Some lessons will also focus on developing skills to support students to communicate their ideas, methods and findings using scientific language and appropriate representations.

### **Art**

This term in visual arts students will participate in activities that explore Lunar Art (watercolour). Students will analyse and create artwork based on the works of African artists.

### **Humanities and Social Sciences - HASS**

This term in history students will be looking at 'What is Justice'. The Australian curriculum provides a study of the key features of Australia's system of government and explores how this system aims to protect all Australian. Students will further explore the principles of justice which help to protect the individual's rights to justice in Australia's system of law and how Australia's legal system aims to provide justice.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

In Health we will be working through the Bounce Back and Gr8 People programs to recap and further develop ideas around being resilient people with a growth mindset. As new friendships form students will be encouraged through these lessons to develop skills in being a good friend and being tolerant of others. We will revisit our school's site bullying plan and cover expectations around supporting one another.

Kind Regards,  
*Paige Elliott*

### **Music with Drama with Mr Luke**

In the Arts this term students will start by participating in a series of Drama workshops focusing on performance skills including improvisation, mime, tableaus and scripted work. There is a strong emphasis team work, collaboration, resilience and problem solving skills. It's going to be a lot of dramatic fun!



### **Health and PE with Mr Cuconits**

My name is Matthew Cuconits and I am extremely excited to continue working at Parafield Gardens R-7 School this year. I look forward to working with all students during 2020. 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, 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.
- tee ball – The following skills will be practised and developed over a 5 week unit; Catching, throwing, batting and pitching. Students will also learn the rules of the game and how to score.

Term 1 will also consist of a lunchtime sporting competition for year 5-7 students. Basketball has been chosen due to its popularity and teams will play every Wednesday in the Hall.

### **Auslan with Christine Krohn**

Language Other Than English – Australian Sign Language is the recognised visual language of the Deaf community. During First Term the 7 students will be reviewing greetings, including self introductions, cultural norms 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, written and signed presentations and class interactions using the target language.

X .....

### **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 our child to watch these videos.

*I do/ do not give permission for my child to watch PG rated videos in room 31 during 2020.*

*Parent/Caregiver's*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_