



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Room 33 Newsletter

Term 1 2020



Dear Families,

Welcome to Year 6 at Parafield Gardens R-7 School! My name is Mrs Keogh and I will be your child's teacher in Room 33 this year. I am a new addition to the staff here at Parafield Gardens R-7 and I can't wait to meet you all. I am very excited about beginning my journey here at Parafield Gardens R-7 and I am just as excited to be teaching Year 6 in 2020. I was always inspired by my own teachers during my time as a student, and that played a large role in why I became a teacher. I hope to be as encouraging, inspirational and motivating for your children as my past teachers have been for me.

Feel free to get in contact with me if you have any questions, or if you just want to have a chat! Also, keep an eye out for your log-in details to ClassDojo which will be coming soon.

Term 1 this year has a lot of big learning opportunities for our students and we look forward to sharing these with you too. In the beginning weeks of this term there will be an emphasis on classroom routine, student wellbeing, school PEACE values, and behaviour expectations.

Some important notes to remember at the beginning of the year are below, but I would like you to know first and foremost that if you have any questions you are welcome to get in contact with me about anything. We can communicate via ClassDojo, email (which you will find at the bottom of this page), or if you would like to come past after school and have a chat just let me know.

Attendance

The biggest positive impact for your child's learning and wellbeing is going to be made when they are at school on time every day. We want to establish positive patterns and routines with the expectation that members of our school community will make good choices and accept responsibility for their own learning pathways. If your child is late to arrive, they must go to the front office to sign themselves in. If you are going away and your child will not be at school, you will need an exemption which can be gained by contacting the front office prior to your departure. If your child is going to be absent **please phone or SMS the school on the day or send written information to me outlining the reasons for the absence when your child returns.**

Homework & Diary Signing

Daily homework consists of 15 minutes independent reading as well as completing learning tasks from the day's lessons. Diaries must be at school, **signed by a parent** and ready for marking every Friday morning. This ensures completion of homework, as well as keeping communication of behaviour and special notes open between families and myself.

Expectations

We would greatly appreciate if you could spend some time reflecting with your child regarding the Parafield Gardens R-7 School Code of Conduct. These are values which we practice every day, so it is important that you and your children are familiar with them:

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

We encourage the students to approach either their classroom teacher or other school staff themselves where possible, regarding any issues that they might have in order to develop their own set of problem solving strategies. However, we understand that sometimes students need that bit of extra parental support. The leadership team is also available to students and families to discuss any matters further.

Important Term 1 Calendar 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 & AGM**

**Tuesday 25th February
No Pen Day**

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

**Tuesday 10th March
Partnership Pupil Free Day**

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

**Friday 20th March
Sammy D Foundation
Year 6/7 Workshop**

**Monday 30th March
to Friday 3rd April
Parent Teacher Interviews**

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

**Thursday 9th April
Last day of term
with early dismissal at 2:00pm**

**Friday 10th April
Public Holiday Good Friday**

Please remember, Students are required to wear their hats in the yard during recess and lunch throughout the whole year.

TERM 1 LEARNING

Numeracy

Term 1 will focus on Number, Problem Solving and Place Value through the use of *Natural Maths*. By focusing on number and place value we will create a solid base for students to continue to develop their numeracy in 2020. The curriculum will be centred around real-world application and inquiry, giving a deeper understanding through a hands-on approach.

Literacy

The class novel for this term is *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, the first book in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series. The learning around this novel study will focus on building the following comprehension strategies:

- o activating prior knowledge
- o predicting
- o self monitoring
- o questioning
- o making connections
- o visualising
- o summarising and retelling
- o inferring
- o synthesising



As well as our novel study, students will engage in explicit spelling, grammar and punctuation lessons and will refine their narrative writing skills using the *Seven Steps to Writing* program. Below are the seven key skills involved in this program that aims to inspire students to rapidly improve their writing skills, and most importantly, learn to love writing!



History

The students will be investigating the history of migration to Australia, from the first fleet to refugees. Students will look at the journey and the motivation behind different generations of migrants coming to Australia. During this learning students will be conducting interviews with first generation migrants to gain a deeper understanding of this transition.

STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

In Science this term we will be looking at the impacts of weather and natural disasters, and the way that these events can cause rapid change to the Earth's surface. We will have a focus during this unit on drought and bushfires as this is a current event which students can link with their learning.

In Design & Technologies students will use *Lego Mindstorm* to create connections between the Science unit and fire safety.

Civics & Citizenship

During first term students will look at the Democratic system and levels of government. Students will

research the importance and role of people and processes within Australia's democracy and legal system.

Wellbeing

At the commencement of every year we run a wellbeing induction program which covers a range of topics including:

- o Code of Conduct
- o rights and responsibilities
- o protective strategies and abuse
- o trust networks
- o bullying

This year, in conjunction with our induction program, we will be using the department's latest research based, student wellbeing resource, *Voice It*. *Voice It* promotes students as wellbeing ambassadors who work together on activities designed to enhance wellbeing at their school. This will be an exciting process where students and teachers will analyse student surveys and feedback responding with real action to create positive change in our school community.

Music & Drama with Miss Britz on Fridays

This term in Music, the class will focus on music notation and theory. This will enable them to successfully play tuned instruments such as xylophones, glockenspiels, and boomwhackers. They will compose their own musical pieces using these instruments and will perform these to their peers. They will learn to sing various new songs and to revise some old favourites! In drama, the class will be given the opportunity to work collaboratively in groups or pairs, in order to perform basic skits and scripts. When rehearsing and performing they will focus on voice projection, stagecraft skills and confidence. They will evaluate each other's performances.



Health & Physical Education 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, as well as taking an in depth look at the health benefits of physical activity. As well as this Students will learn a variety of track and field events as part of our Athletics focus 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, as well as taking a look into Tee Ball later in the term. Year 6 students are invited to Wednesday lunchtime in the Hall for year 5-7 Basketball, which was very popular last year.

Auslan with Mrs. Krohn on Wednesdays

Australian Sign Language is the recognised visual language of the Deaf community. During Term 1 the 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.

Let's have a great year!
Mrs Keough