



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Room 34 Newsletter

Term 1 2020



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to term one 2020. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new students and their families. We hope you all had an enjoyable break and holiday season! Term 1 holds some very important and exciting learning opportunities for your child, with a large focus being on classroom routine, student wellbeing, school peace values and behaviour expectations. Room 34 a & b runs as one collective class with students being taught by Mrs Sobey and Mr Busto. We look forward to challenging and supporting your children to be the best learners and school leaders that they can be.

Attendance

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we can make our biggest positive impact on your child's learning and wellbeing if they are at school and on time everyday. If your child is late to arrive, they must go to the front office to sign themselves in. If travelling, you will need an exemption which can be gained by contacting the front office prior to your departure. Absentee explanations can be phoned in, given in person or recorded in your child's diary.

Expectations

Starting the new school year can be a challenging time for some students however, as whole staff, we endeavour to make this transition a seamless and supported one. Despite all the changes our school code conduct remains the same. We would greatly appreciate if you could spend some time reflecting with your child regarding the Parafield Gardens R-7 School Code of Conduct:

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

We encourage our 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 value your input and welcome emails, phone calls and drop-ins to discuss resolutions alongside your child.



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 & 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 8th 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**

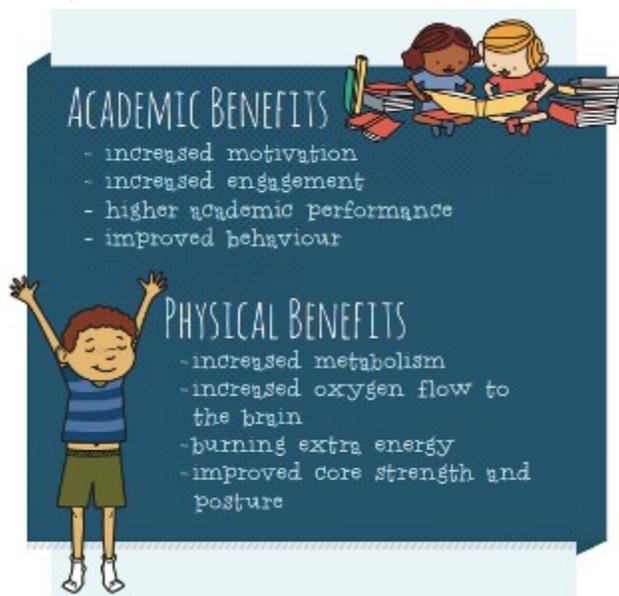
Remember

- Students wear hats all year round!
- Bring a drink bottle
- Borrowing and returns from The Hive will now be from 8:15-8:50am.

Alternative seating

Room 34 is one of the few classes at Parafield Gardens with alternative seating options. Our seating ranges from traditional chairs and desks, to wobble stools, bean bags and lounges. Please come in and check it out for yourself!

We ask that students only bring one small sized pencil case with them to school, as table space and storage space is limited with our seating arrangement.



Voice It – Wellbeing Induction

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

- School Code of Conduct
- rights and responsibilities
- protective strategies and abuse
- trust networks
- responding to, and preventing 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.



Class Dojo

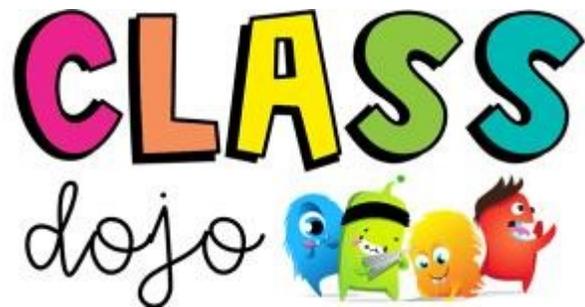
This year Room 34 is using Class Dojo to encourage important skills, like collaboration and active listening. It will also be used to communicate with you: we can instantly share messages, updates and photos from class. It's the easiest way for you to see how your child is doing at school and keep in touch with us.

We will be inviting parents and carers to sign up for Class Dojo via the email you have provided to the school. You can use it on any device: it is a simple, free mobile app for iOS and Android, and can also be used from a computer at: www.classdojo.com.

Each child can have multiple adults connected to their account so feel free to include any other important people (aunties, adult-siblings, step-dads, grandparents, relatives overseas). It is an amazing opportunity to keep everyone connected and talking about the importance of education!

If you are interested in finding out more of the benefits and features of Class Dojo please visit: www.classdojo.com/LearnMore

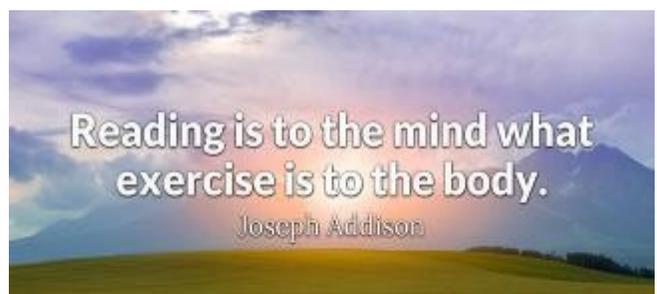
Or contact your class teacher for a chat.



Homework and Reading

Students are to complete nightly homework. This comprises of 15 minutes independent reading and any editing or incomplete work from the day's lessons. Your support reminding and checking homework/diaries is greatly appreciated, however, please remember the onus is on the student to manage their time. We give the incentive of Friday *Bonus Time*, where students who have homework complete and their diaries signed, can participate in outdoor games and activities.

This structure aims to promote greater organisation in preparation for high school. If you feel your child is not meeting this requirement please contact your class teacher and we will discuss this with them.



Literacy

Students will be delving into the world of Hogwarts in this term's literature study, as we read *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. These lessons will focus on developing a strong understanding of the comprehension strategies:

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

Along with our literature study, term one will see room 34 students honing their narrative skills using the *Seven Steps to Writing* program. This fun approach aims to inspire students to rapidly improve their writing skills, and most importantly, learn to love writing!

Explicit spelling, grammar and punctuation lessons are also run weekly to ensure that all children are producing high quality, accurate writing.

Numeracy

Term 1's concepts will be explored through group and individual problem solving, explicit teaching, *Natural Maths* methods and rehearsal.

Our focus will be on:

- * number concepts
- * problem solving
- * place value

Throughout Term 1 we will be focusing on number and place value, this will create a solid base for students to develop their numeracy in 2020. The curriculum will be centred around real world application and inquiry, giving a deeper understanding through application.

Civics and Citizenship

Our class will be unpacking the concept of Democracy in term 1. We will engage in a wide range of learning experiences to help establish a deep understanding of the citizen's voice in Australia's democratic government. They will consider if everyone's voice heard equally.



Science and Digital Technologies

In science we will be exploring the impact of weather and human actions on the earth's surface, consequences, cause and affect. We will be looking at the causes of natural disasters and their effects on the environment and people all around the world.

Students will develop a long term plan of how they will help reduce the damage caused by natural disasters.

Students will improve and apply their coding skills to further help communities respond to natural disasters. Using their critical and creative thinking skills, students will code the Lego Mindstorm robots to help where it is unsafe for emergency services to go.

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. 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.

Term 1 PE components involve the following:

- basketball
- tee ball

Term 1 will also consist of a lunchtime basketball competition for year 5-7 students.

Auslan - Mrs Krohn and Ms Neilson

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

The Arts with Mr Luke and Ms Mentha

This term in music with Ms Mentha students will read, write and compose rhythms using ta, titi, za and tika tika and will learn the technical names for these notes. They will explore meter and how this effects the music. Students will learn about the pentatonic scale and use this to create simple compositions for xylophone. 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.

In the Arts this term with Mr Luke students will start by participating in a series of Drama workshops focusing on performance skills including improvisation, mime, tableaux 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!

If you have any queries or concerns please feel free to get in contact with us.

Regards,

Cody Busto & Annie Sobey
Room 34b & Room 34a