

Room 29 Newsletter

Term 1 2021



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2021 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 2021. I look forward to getting to know your child and family throughout the year.

A little bit about me....

Hello! My name is Tess Phillips and this is my third year at Parafield Gardens R-7 School. I have been teaching for the past 8 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 reading and the colour purple. 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 2021

To begin the 2021 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.

Communication, absences and arriving late

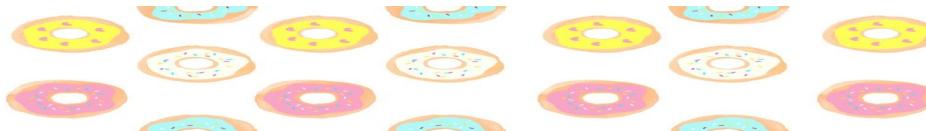
I believe that communication between home and school is crucial to maintaining an effective and productive learning environment for students. As mentioned above, please feel free to contact me by phone, Class Dojo, email or pop into the classroom. If your child is absent, please contact the school to 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. 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.

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.

Class Dojo

This year I will be using Class Dojo to send notes, reminders and updates from our classroom! If we need to resume home learning at any stage, this will be our main method of contact. Please turn on notifications or check the page regularly to keep up to date with what is happening in Room 29.



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

Week 2, 3, 4 and 5

Wednesdays
Cricket Clinic

Monday 8th February
Acquaintance Night & AGM

Week 5

Tuesday 23rd February
No Pen Day

Week 7

Monday 8th March
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Week 9

Three Way Learning Conversations

Week 10

Friday 2nd April
Good Friday Public Holiday

Week 11

Monday 5th April
Easter Monday Public Holiday

Week 11

Wednesday 7th April
Casual Day with gold coin donation

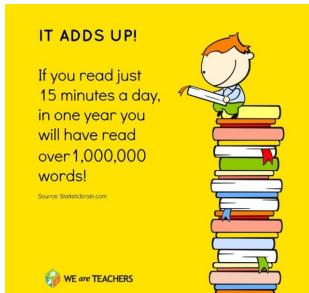
Friday 9th April

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 \$7.00

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.** 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 - Tuesday - Kylie Neilson

Music and Drama - Wednesday - Georgia Yates

Health and PE - Friday - Matthew Cuconits

A note about Auslan from Kylie Neilson

Australian Sign Language (Auslan) is the recognised visual language of the Deaf community. After an interesting year last year, I have decided to make 2021 'The Year of Celebrations' with 'celebrations' as the overarching topic for all content covered. We will be looking at the different cultural celebrations within each classroom, including Deaf celebrations, and comparing the similarities and differences.

During first term, the students will be reviewing greetings, including self-introductions, Finger Spelling their own names and the names of their peers as well as cultural norms within the class and Deaf community. We will be focusing on birthday celebrations this term. The students will learn through sign games, songs, video, the use of ICT equipment, written and signed presentations and class interactions using the target language.

A note about Health/PE from 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 2021. In health lessons; 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.

Fundamental movement skills – Students will be applying fundamental movement skills through the sport of athletics. They 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.

Striking and fielding – Students will apply various striking, fielding and catching skills through the sports of cricket and Tee ball.

A note about Music and Drama from Georgia Thomson

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. Later in the term students will be visited by Jon Madin, a composer who will work with students to create music using his funky instruments.



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

HIVE and Library borrowing

As a class, we will be visiting and borrowing from the library each **Thursday**. 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

In English this term, we will be focusing on the narrative genre using the Seven Steps approach. Students will be asked to write an assessment piece on Narrative by the end of Week 7, this will be assessed and scored using the Brightpath scale. Towards the end of the term and after the narrative Brightpath assessment, we will focus on procedure writing.

At the end of the term, students will be pre-assessed on persuasive writing using the Brightpath scale.

As part of our spelling programme, students will be assessed using the SA spelling test and placed into ability level groups. They will complete weekly activities to help them learn, understand and define the words. Students will be tested weekly on Friday mornings.

In Grammar, we will focus on punctuation such as capital letters, full stops, question and exclamation marks.

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

Our class novel this term will be Billionaire Boy by David Walliams.

Joe has a lot of reasons to be happy. About a billion of them, in fact.

You see, Joe's rich. Really, really rich. He's got his own bowling alley, his own cinema, even his own butler who is also an orang-utan. He's the wealthiest twelve-year-old in the land.

Yes, Joe has absolutely everything he could possibly want. But there's just one thing he really needs: a friend.

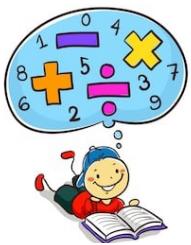
Mathematics

For Maths this term, students learning will focus on Number and Algebra. Students will participate in a variety of learning that will explore number, place value, odd and even numbers, addition and subtraction. We will explore the properties of symmetry. Many of these skills are foundational and an excellent starting point to allow students the best opportunity to continue their learning in Mathematics throughout the year to the best of their ability.

Students will begin to take part in weekly Big Ideas in Numbers lessons and numeracy rotation activities to build fluency and further consolidate both known concepts and new learning.

HASS

In HASS, students this term will explore the difference between rules and laws in Civics and Citizenship. They will learn about local government, what they do for our community and why laws are important. Students will develop questions about the society in which they live and locate and collect information from different sources to answer these questions.



Science

This term in Science we will be using the Primary Connections and Inquisitive programmes 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 relationship between plants and animals and how they depend on each other for survival. We will make connections between multiple curriculum areas including English, Mathematics, HASS and Technology.

Technology

In Technology this term, we will be working with Ms Nina Ostrun to develop our word processing skills including typing, editing documents, saving documents and inserting pictures into documents. We will also learn how to refine our Google searches and navigate a laptop effectively. We will also begin to use programmes such as Typing Tournament, Prodigy and Epic!



Kind regards
Tess Phillips
Room 29 teacher

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 Class Dojo

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 2021.

Child's name: _____

Parent/Caregiver's name _____

Parent/Caregiver's signature _____