



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

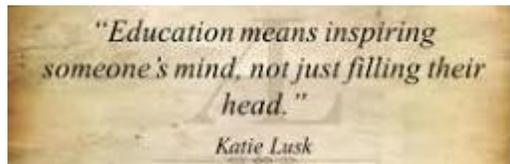
Room 30 Newsletter

Term 1 2021



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2021 school year and to Room 30! I especially welcome our new families beginning their journey with us at Parafield Gardens R-7 School. I trust that you have all had a wonderful break over the holidays and enjoyed the time spent with your children. My holidays were restful and re-energising with lots of extra time for rest and relaxation, coupled with precious time spent with family. Room 30 is a busy and exciting place to be and I am really looking forward to navigating a year full of amazing learning experiences with your children!



A bit about me...

My name is Rob MacIntyre and I began working at Parafield Gardens R-7 School in 2016 at OSHC and shortly thereafter as a temporary relief teacher. I have since taught in a variety of positions across the school ranging from Early Years, Health and PE, and the Middle Years. Over the course of 2018/19 I spent time teaching in the UK gaining a lot of experience and knowledge. I am passionate about teaching and learning in the Middle Years and am very excited to be working with your child in their final year of primary school this year!

I will spend the first two weeks of this term getting to know your children and how they learn best. We will establish our class code of conduct and the expectations we will have in place for the year. I look forward to meeting all of you at the Acquaintance Night on Monday 8th February in Week 3, where I will be able to share in more detail the ins and outs of our classroom.

The Australian Curriculum is rich with exciting concepts waiting for your children to explore. It is my role to plan and present these ideas in engaging and relevant ways. I create a classroom which incorporates many multimodal information and communication technologies (laptops, iPads, video conferencing and a range of programs) to prepare students for their future in high school and beyond. Our classroom does not consist simply of the classroom, as throughout the year we will undertake excursions into the community to provide opportunities for students to learn in authentic contexts.

Students will become confident and resilient learners, who are willing to take risks with their learning to achieve to the best of their abilities. Students will learn the importance of becoming informed citizens through their Media Watch lessons, how to lead a healthy lifestyle through health and wellbeing lessons, how to be leaders and effective communicators through their work with our Reception pal class.

DIARY DATES

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

**Monday 8th February
Acquaintance
Night & AGM**

**Monday 8th March
Adelaide Cup
Public Holiday**

**Monday 29th March to
Thursday 1st April
3 Way Learning Conversations**

**Friday 2nd April
Public Holiday Good Friday**

**Monday 5th April
Easter Monday**

**Wednesday 7th April
Casual Day
with Gold Coin Donation**

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

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.

COVID-19 Reminders

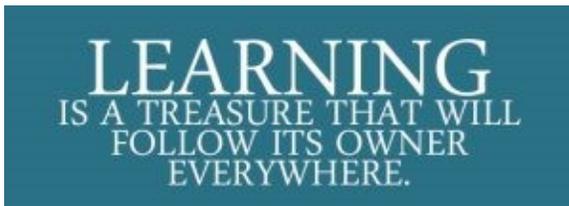
As we are still working to keep our students and community as safe as possible, we are asking that parents **do not** enter the buildings to reduce the number of people entering our learning spaces.

Communication

I believe 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.

As many of PGR-7 families are aware, ClassDojo has become our preferred app to use for student-teacher-parent communication. An invitation for your family to connect to Room 30 via the app will be sent to your email shortly; so please ensure that the phone and email details the school currently has are correct and up to date.

If you have any queries or questions please don't hesitate to make a time to come in to have a chat with me. My door is always open and I strive to work together with families to achieve the best possible outcomes for individual students. My email address is listed at the bottom of this newsletter, and I will be sending an introductory email to all families to open this important line of communication. 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.



Diaries and Homework

Every student received their diary on the first day of school. They are expected to write their home work in their diaries every afternoon before they go home and have them signed by you every Thursday. It is also important that each child spends at least 15 minutes reading per night and records the pages they have read in their diaries. Teaching children the importance of organisation at this level of schooling is crucial in preparing them for further independence as they continue to progress through their years of schooling. I ask that you please encourage the correct use of their diary and check that it is completed each week.

Year 7 Camp

Students in Year 7 are given an opportunity to attend camp in their final year of primary school. This tradition began in 2017 when our students embarked on their first ever camp at Arbury Park,

and continued in 2018 and 2019 at Woodhouse Activity Centre. Camp provides our students with many rich learning opportunities within the natural environment, many of which we simply do not have access to at school.



It also provides students with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and independence, as camp will be a requirement for many in high school. At this stage, we are yet to finalise a venue for camp in 2021. We will be sending a note home with more information later in the term.

We envisage that camp will be held in Term 3, providing plenty of time to make payments and prepare for this exciting event.

Mathematics

Mathematics lessons in Room 30 will be a highly individualised and engaging experience for students this year. On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, Maths lessons will focus on key skills within the number strand. On Friday, students will participate in a program called *Big Ideas in Number*. Initially students will undertake rotational activities building on their ability to 'Trust the Count' - that is, develop a true sense of numbers and understand their properties. We will then continue to build upon students' understanding of Place Value and Multiplicative Thinking. On Wednesdays students will participate in team problem solving tasks using Ann Baker's STAR Model.

In Mathematics this term our key skills lessons will cover a range of different content areas from the number strand including:

- multiplication
- division
- decimals
- fractions
- graphing
- time

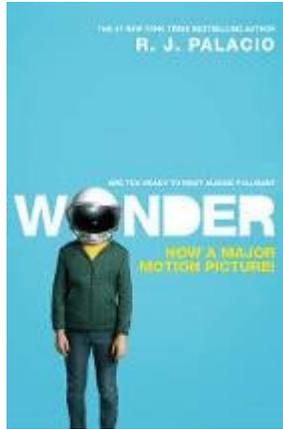
English

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

- recounts
- 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.

Our class novel for this term is 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio. Students will undertake a literature study as we read through it. The focus will be on language features including: similes, metaphors and figurative language. We explore the range of Sheena Cameron's reading comprehension strategies (Sheena is a leading educational researcher in literacy). Students will experience modelled, peer, reciprocal, independent and collaborative reading during these sessions further developing their confidence to read and analyse texts at the expected achievement standard for Year 7.



Humanities and Social Sciences

Humanities and Social Sciences explores concepts around History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business. This term our learning experience is titled *What is Justice?* Students will develop their own understanding about this through investigating the following inquiry questions:



- *How do laws affect the lives of citizens, including experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples?*
- *How are laws developed in Australia?*
- *What principles of justice help to protect the individual's rights to justice in Australia's system of law?*
- *The role of different people in Australia's legal system.*

Science

This term we will focus on how the relative positions of the Earth, sun and moon affect phenomena on Earth. Students identify questions that can be investigated scientifically and we will draw on evidence to support their 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.



Visual Arts This term in visual art students will explore the elements of art: colour, line, shape, texture, value, form and space through the creation of an interactive notebook. Students will experiment with a range of mediums including paint, pencils, pastels, oil pastels and chalk pastels to create original artworks.

Our theme this term will be heavily focused on activism through street art. Students will explore the works of both local and internationally acclaimed street artists including, Peter Drew, Invader and Banksy, before drawing, cutting and painting their own Banksy inspired stencil artwork. Students will also write an artist statement to accompany their work.

Kirsty Dimitropoulos
Specialist Teacher in Visual Arts

Health and Wellbeing

In Health we will be working through the Bounce Back, Gr8 People and Growth Mindset programs to recap and further develop ideas around being resilient people who work hard to achieve their goals. 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 schools site bullying plan and cover expectations around supporting one another.

Health and PE

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 an introductory / getting to know you session aimed at making all students more comfortable with their peers and environment.

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.

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

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.

Matt Cuconits - Specialist Health/PE Teacher



