



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Room 32 Newsletter

Term 1 2021



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2021 school year and to Room 32. 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 2021. I look forward to getting to know your child and family over the next few weeks.

You are more than welcome to make a time to come in and introduce yourself before school and after school. I would love to meet and get to know you all. We will also be having an Acquaintance Night on Monday 8th February where you will have the chance to visit the classroom and meet with me.



A bit about me....

My name is Joshua Parsons and I began working at Parafield Gardens R-7 School in 2019. I began teaching the year 7's in this very room and taught Health & Physical Education the following year. 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, including a Growth Mindset Escape Room, a 'Who Inspires Us' poster and a 'We're All Wonders' self-portrait designed to promote acceptance and inclusion of all people. We will also build on our teamwork and leadership skills through a range of STEM challenges, Action Breaks and working with our PAL class (year 1's in Room 20).



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.

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!

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.

Class Dojo

This year Room 32 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-parents, grandparents and 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 me 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 and diaries is greatly appreciated, however, please remember the onus is on the students to manage their time. I 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 to discuss support options.

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 this time they will need to go to the office and receive a late slip. 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. If they are late they will need to go to the front office to collect a late pass which they give to their class teacher.

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 practice unfamiliar words using a variety of activities. Spelling Contracts will be due every Friday morning. Spelling tests will be every Friday afternoon.

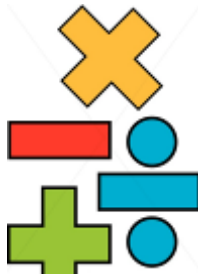
We will also be reading a class novel together. This term we will be reading 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio.

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, we will be focusing on Number and Algebra, with a specific focus on Number & Place Value and Real Numbers.



On Monday, through to Thursday, our Maths lessons will focus on key skills.

On Friday students will participate in *The Big Ideas in Number* program.

On Friday, mathematics will also have a strong focus on Problem Solving, specifically using the STAR model to develop student understanding of the problem solving thought processes.

Design and Technology

This term, we will focus on cyber safety and technologies through time. Students will investigate 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.

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 Australians. Students will further explore what principles of justice help to protect the individual's rights in Australia's system of law and how Australia's legal system aims to provide justice.

Health and Wellbeing

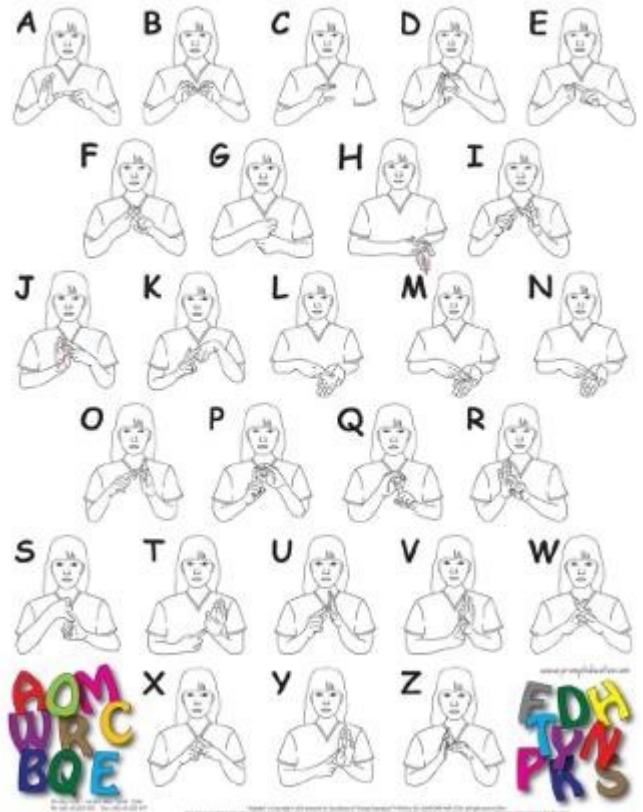
In Health we will be working through the Bounce Back and Gr8 People programs to recap and further develop ideas around being resilient people with a growth mindset. As new friendships form, students will be encouraged through these lessons to develop skills in being a good friend and being tolerant of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

AUSLAN with Mrs 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 term one, we will cover greetings, Finger Spelling their own names and the names of their peers and focus on birthday celebrations. We will also be looking closely at Deaf culture and will have a big challenge later in the term...but that's a surprise for later! 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.

Alphabet



The Arts with Mr Luke

In the Arts this term students will be working in "The Hive"! The students will be practicing a range of drama skills including mime, mimicry, mirroring and creating tableaux. The students will then be filming their skills in our green screen studio. In Music the students will be creating beats and melodies using the Garage Band app on our iPads.

Health and PE with Mr Cuconits

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.

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Term 1 Special Events

Big Day In

Big Day In is a full day incursion providing students with many opportunities to develop their emerging leadership skills. Students will be provided with more information in the coming weeks.

Aquatics

Aquatics will be occurring towards the end of the term, promoting water safety and skills in swimming, snorkelling, kayaking and sailing. Notes will be sent home later this term.

Kind Regards
Joshua Parsons



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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 32 during 2021.

Student's name

Parent/Caregiver's signature:
