



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education

# Room 34 Newsletter

## Term 1 2021



### Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 1 2021. 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 34a & b run as one collective class with students being taught by Mrs Sobey and Miss Bekk. We will also be working closely with our other year 6 class, Room 33, with Mr Busto. 2021 will be the first year that PGR7 will be having both our year 6 and 7 students graduating together. There are going to be many special events and fantastic leadership opportunities for your children this year, as they conclude their primary school experience. 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 or class dojo.

### 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 of 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**

**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.

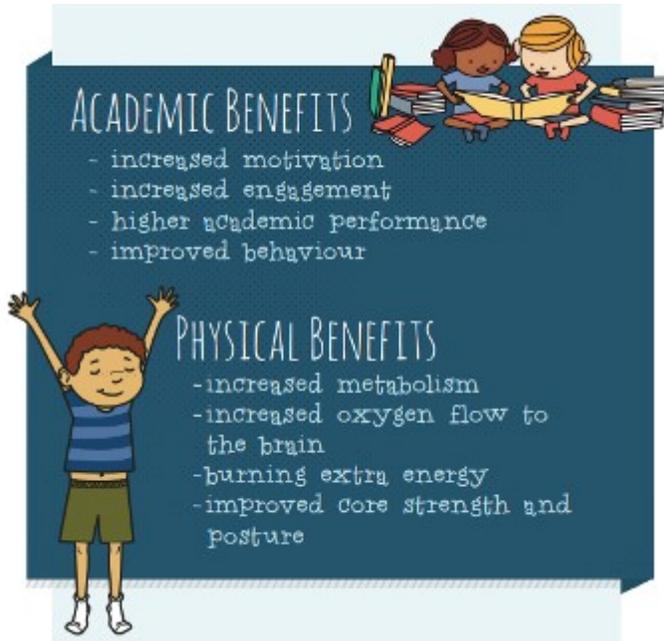
### COVID-19 Reminders

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.

### 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.

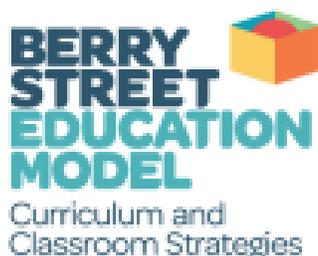


### Berry Street Education Model – Wellbeing Induction

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 an educational model called *The Berry Street Education Model*. *Berry Street* promotes students to be active learners by firstly becoming aware of their individual needs and wellbeing. Students work along side teachers to establish positive relationships and implement effective learning strategies that provide students with the tools to be successful learners. Your child's sense of belonging and wellbeing, along with their academic engagement is of the up most importance to us. **To find out more, scan the QR code below.**



### 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](http://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](http://www.classdojo.com/LearnMore)

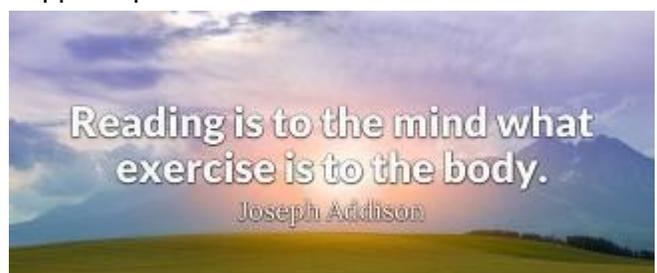
Or contact your class teacher for a chat.



### 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 students 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 to discuss support options.

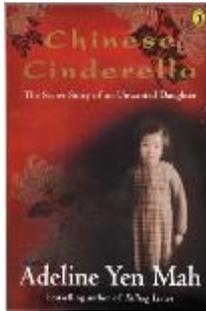


## Literacy

Students will be reflecting on the past and Chinese culture in this term's literature study, as we read *Cinderella Story*. Strong connections will be made to Asian histories and cultures.

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 1 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



### Example of an excellent Sizzling Start:

**Before:** One day I asked my daughter what she wanted for her birthday present. 'Sky diving,' she said .

**After:** Don't forget,' shouted the sky diving instructor above the noise of the wind, 'when you jump out of the plane, head back, arms on your chest.' I nodded. Gulped. Smiled. Then surreptitiously checked the four strong clips that held me to the instructor.

Tandem sky diving is something other people do. So why was I about 10,000 feet up in the air and about to jump? What else do you do for your daughter's 21st?

I looked across at my daughter grinning in delight while trying to persuade her instructor to do a back somersault in the air with her.

# Jolly Phonics & Grammar

Explicit spelling, grammar and punctuation lessons are also run weekly to ensure that all children are producing high quality, accurate writing. We will be using the Jolly Phonics and Grammar program to support these lessons.

## 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 / place value
- \* elements of measurement
- \* statistics & graphing

Throughout Term 1 we will be focusing on number and place value, which will create a solid base for students to develop their numeracy in 2020. To best support your students mathematical needs, the three year 6 classes will join together and split students on a needs basis. This means that your child may possibly be taught by a different teacher during these lessons. The curriculum will be centred around real world application and inquiry, giving a deeper understanding through application.

We will also be running weekly *Big Ideas in Number* sessions. Students will be targeting their individual learning goals, with the purpose of mastering the concepts listed below:

1. Trusting the Count
2. Place Value
3. Multiplicative Thinking
4. Proportional Reasoning
5. Generalising



### The Big Ideas in Number

The Big Ideas in Number are important because they:

- help us to develop general number sense or 'fluidity and flexibility with numbers,' (Gersten & Chard, 2001).
  - are the foundation understandings/skills for many other mathematical concepts.
  - help us to make connections between mathematical ideas.
  - teach us to use our brain in different ways
- History & Geography.

## Science

We will be taking a problem based approach to biological science this term, developing an understanding of how the growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment.

Many farmers and gardeners struggle to find the optimal conditions for plant growth. Students will conduct a range of controlled scientific experiments to determine ideal growing conditions for various edible plants. Strong connections will be made to traditional Aboriginal agriculture practices and their many benefits. They will be challenged to use their experiment results and research to justify a plan of action suitable for a struggling local farm.

## History and Geography

Students will be focusing on the journey and impact that migration has had on Australia. Looking into the stories of groups of people who migrated to Australia, the reasons they migrated and the contribution of individuals and groups to the development of Australian society.

The students will have the opportunity to look at the migration journey of their peers. We will consider why people decide to migrate and the sacrifices they need to make for a better life. Students will investigate differences in the economic, demographic and social characteristics of countries across the world with a particular focus on the Asian continent.

## 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. I look forward to working with all students during 2021. 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 involves the following:

- basketball
- tee ball

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

## Auslan - Ms 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.

## The Arts with Mrs Dimitropoulos (34a) and Mr Luke (34b)

This term Room 34a will be participating in Visual Arts lessons with Mrs. D, while Room 34b will be participating in Music & Drama lessons with Mr Luke. This will swap over later in the year so all students have equal opportunities.

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, textas, 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 Visual Arts Teacher**

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 I pads.

**Chris Luke - Specialist Teacher of The Arts**

## Atlas- PGR7 Learning Support Dog

Atlas is still learning and in training to become a Learning Support Dog. If you see Atlas out in the yard in the mornings, you are more than welcome to approach him and give him a pat, however we all need to keep in mind that he is still a puppy and learning. For Atlas to be a successful Learning Support Dog, it is important to reinforce good behaviour, so please don't let him jump up and lick you or nibble your fingers. We're sure it won't be long until he is ready to visit our classrooms!



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

Kind regards

**Annie Sobey Room 34a & Bekk Resilli Room 34b**