Kindergarten, Term 2 Overview 2016

Welcome back to an exciting and productive term.

The Learning and Teaching Program

English
This term our English program continues to draw its stimulus from quality literature. This will inspire our teaching and learning around sounds, weekly sight words, handwriting, reading and writing. News presentations will be held fortnightly in the even weeks of term (Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10). Please see the homework grid for specific topics. In the odd weeks, classes will participate in oral speaking tasks through Circle Time activities. Our modelled and shared reading will focus on Fairy Tales which complements our Integrated Unit. Guided Reading sessions will continue this term. Thank you to our fantastic parent reading tutors for all your valuable assistance.

Mathematics
This term we continue to deliver the Australian Mathematics Curriculum using a hands-on approach to learning activities. Within the Number and Algebra strand, we will focus on: reading and writing numbers; one to one correspondence; matching equal groups; comparing groups; ordering collections; and ordinal numbers (e.g., 1st, 2nd). Within the Measurement and Geometry strand, we will focus on: sequencing events; naming 3D objects; comparing length; and, duration of time. Weekly differentiated number groups will focus on mental computation strategies such as subitising, forwards and backwards counting, counting on by 1, 2 and 3, and counting by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s.

Integrated Studies – Technology
In line with the Australian Technologies Curriculum, students will participate in a unit called ‘Techno Tales.’ In this unit, students learn about the process of invention. The focus question for this unit is: Is invention necessary for progress? Why, why not?

Students learn about creating designed solutions using sequenced steps and appropriate materials that meet the needs of the environment and the user. We will be identifying and designing a range of structures featured in Fairy Tales. Students will have the opportunity to build their own structures using different materials and reflect on the design process.

To help the children with this process we are asking for donations to help us construct different structures. The following materials are needed: boxes (shoe, cereal, toothpaste etc.), polystyrene meat trays, wool, straws, tubes, small plastic containers etc. No plastic milk/ juice containers please. The materials can be placed in the Kindergarten Art Room.

Science
Kindergarten students will continue to participate in a Primary Connections Chemistry Science Program unit of work called What’s it Made Of? Through investigations, students will increase their knowledge of what things are made of in the school environment and the properties of the materials used to make them. Students will become more aware of the importance of conservation of resources by choosing materials with properties suitable for a particular purpose. By incorporating hands-on activities, students will have opportunities to develop skills of observing, describing, comparing and communicating.

Physical Education
Our focus this term will be vertical jumping, catching, static and dynamic balance, and underarm throwing. Students will participate in daily physical education including weekly fundamental movement skills rotations (Wednesday), games sessions and Gross Motor (Thursday). Please ensure your child has suitable footwear on these days.
Bounce Back
Our whole school wellbeing and resilience program will explore topics related to student resilience including: developing positive and pro-social values; developing strategies for coping and bouncing back; finding courage in everyday life as well as in difficult circumstances; optimistic thinking and looking on the bright side; developing relationship skills; and skills and attitudes for being successful, including honesty and fairness.

Indonesian
Weekly Indonesian lessons with Mrs Fiona Quigley (Ibu Fiona) will continue, as we explore Indonesian culture through oral language, stories, songs and games.

Music
In Kindergarten, the ‘Upbeat’ program by Jeffrey Leask continues to be used as a basis for the teaching of Music. In Term 2 students focus on tempo and dynamics and continue to reaffirm beat, rhythm and pitch. They look at fast and slow, high and low, and louds and softs. Students continue to use the Kodaly method. Songs and melding body movement with words will facilitate memory recall. Simple solfa tunes are used to enable accurate pitch. New dances will be taught in addition to those in the Upbeat program.

Library
Students will continue to have a weekly library session with their class teacher. During this time, students will have an opportunity to borrow books, participate in storytelling activities, and learn about the way a library functions. Students must have a library bag or their Garran Book Bag to borrow. Library days are: KK – Mondays, KN and KB – Tuesdays. Please check in with your child and ask how they are going with the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge!

Homework
The Kindergarten Homework Grid will go home every Thursday of odd weeks, to be signed and returned on the Monday of the following odd week. Homework will include daily home reading, learning sounds and sight words, news preparation and Mathletics concepts. News will be presented to the class in the even week only on the child’s allocated news day. Please read the Homework Grid to help your child prepare the allocated topic.

Important Information

Student Requirements – It is important that students have a broad brimmed or legionnaire style sun-smart hat at school every day for recess, lunch and PE sessions. We encourage students to bring water bottles and a fresh fruit or vegetable snack for fruit break in the morning.

Absence Notes – It is a directorate requirement that a written note be provided following a student’s absence from school. An email to your child’s teacher or the front office is also acceptable, as is a message sent via the Garran Primary School app. Whilst a phone call to the school is appreciated, it does not meet the legal requirements for notification of absence.

To contact your child’s teacher by email - firstname.lastname@ed.act.edu.au

Important Dates

Monday 6 May Mothers’ Day Celebration Assembly, 9am
Tuesday 17 May BYOD Information Session, 6pm Library
Wednesday 18 May Musica Viva
Friday 20 May Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am
Monday 23 May School Photos (MSP), K-6
Tuesday 31 May Lego Technics Incursion
Tuesday 7 June School Athletics Carnival
Monday 13 June Queen’s Birthday Holiday
Tuesday 14 June - Wednesday 15 June Christian Education in Schools
Friday 17 June Aussie and Effort Assembly, 11.30am
Thursday 30 June Nexus Arts, Circular Rhythm Performance
Friday 1 July End of Term 2

Please note that Nude Food Day is every Thursday.

Kind Regards,
2016 P&C Meeting Dates

The P&C holds its meetings on Wednesday evenings in weeks 4 and 8 of each term commencing at 7.00pm in the school’s staff room.

Term 2
- 18 May
- 15 June

Term 3
- 10 August
- 7 September

Term 4
- 2 November
- 30 November

You are cordially invited to attend.