



# VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 5, 2018

6<sup>th</sup> March

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 11

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April

**LAST DAY OF TERM**

**Early Dismissal 2:15pm**

**SPORTS DAY!**

Term 2

Week 1

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April

First Day of Term 2

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May

SAPSASA Cross Country

Week 3

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May

NAPLAN testing Year 3, 5 and 7

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May

Governing Council Meeting 7pm

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May

Pupil Free Day

OSHC available



Entertainment Books and app available at  
Virginia Primary



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Download our school app



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

To those who have already celebrated Easter, we hope you had a fantastic time with family and loved ones. For those in our community celebrating Easter this week, Happy Easter!

It was straight back to learning at Virginia this week. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, one of our major priorities as a school is reading. This week we have begun reassessing children for the end of term, including children involved in our intervention programs which were introduced only this year. I am pleased to say we have seen some very encouraging growth. As we have highlighted previously, you will hear more at the beginning of next term in regards to every child from Year 1 to Year 7 being on a levelled reader, as well as receiving individual reading goals. .

### Governing Council Members 2018

We hosted our Annual General Meeting in Week 4 of this term. I would like to firstly acknowledge and thank, in no particular order the following Governing Council members who are finishing in their roles: Anita Trenwith, Carol Goggins, Jacqui Rowe, Kylie Wilson, Lina Egberts and Michelle Hueppauff. We very much appreciate their time and efforts, all of whom have made a significant contribution to our school as parents and members of Governing Council over a number of years.

### Our newly elected Governing Council is made up from the following parents;

Colleen Sheedy-Palethorpe (Chairperson)

Sam Goggins (Vice Chairperson)

Evan Klose (Secretary)

Rebecca Mickel (Treasurer)

Mary-Anne Emanuele, Matt Egberts, Mark Ciampa, Margaret Pietris, Melissa Dougherty (Council members)

Should you have any ideas for further improvement of our school, please don't hesitate to speak to either Voula or Ilia, or alternatively one of our council members.

### Entertainment Books and app (school fundraising)

Spread the word and support our fundraising by purchasing the Entertainment Book or Digital app through our school. Any memberships ordered between now and April 16th will also receive bonus Early Bird vouchers, subject to availability. Memberships are \$70, 20% of this goes back to our fundraising needs!

Books will be available to purchase from the front office in the coming days (we will send out an alert when they arrive, if you would like one to be placed on hold, please do not hesitate to let us know), alternatively you can order the app online now using the link below!

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/162562>

Further on in our newsletter we have outlined where we will be targeting our Fundraising efforts for the year.



## Harmony Day

Thank you to all the families who were able to attend our Harmony Day celebrations. We would also like to thank everyone in our community who supported our event by donating for the shared fruit and veg platters. The amazing generosity of our community in supporting our school is genuinely appreciated. In particular we would like to thank Woolworths and the Nicol family who made a very kind donation. We would also like to thank everyone who helped put the event together (Zawadi, Danielle, Sarah, Melissa, our Student Voice committee and Harmony Day committee).



## ADVANCED NOTICE - Term 2 Pupil Free Days

Next term we will be having two Pupil Free days

**Friday Week 3 (18/5/2018)** – Scaling writing

**Friday Week 5 (1/6/2018)** – Guided Reading

We know that having Pupil Free days coincide with public holidays is always advantageous, however, to secure the people whom we wanted to work with us, this wasn't possible. We trust that this will be enough notice for families. As with all Pupil Free Days, OSHC will be available, booking information will come out early next term.

## School Fundraising 2018

All fundraising in 2018 will support our Kitchen Garden initiative (\$5000 fundraising contribution to maintain the program) and the purchasing of a very new, comprehensive classroom reading resource which is currently only partly released, the 'Fountas & Pinnell Classroom' kits. We have been fortunate enough to receive one of only three 'kits' in South Australia to assess the suitability of the resources prior to making any commitments to buying. We have been thoroughly impressed by the quality of the resource which is made up of different types of reading material that directly support our reading priority as a school. There is a classroom kit for each year level from Reception to Year 6. The kit includes some of the following resources:

**Guided Readers** – for small group instruction at students instructional reading levels (x6 copies of 100 titles per year level)

**Independent Readers** – for students to read for pleasure and automaticity at their independent reading levels (150 titles with conferring cards per year level)

**Interactive Read-Aloud & Shared Reading** – for use with the whole class to emphasise reading strategies and skills (120 interactive read alouds per year level and 200 Shared texts from R-3 including big books with independent lesson support materials with each title)

**Reading Mini lessons** – a collection of intensive, short lessons (150 lessons per year level)

**Book clubs** – books to be used with students in small groups to extend thinking with facilitator cards (between 32 – 48 titles depending on year level)

We have a 3-year budgeting plan in place for the reading resources which begins in 2019 as this was only released in-part and production of the resources will continue throughout 2018. Each year level resource is worth \$10 000. In discussion with our Governing Council, we are hoping with our fundraising efforts in 2018 to purchase at least one year level kit prior to 2019. If you know of any businesses that would like to sponsor a year level kit, please feel free to contact the school.



## Sports Day

Next Friday is Sports Day and also the last day of term. We are hoping to have as many families and caregivers as possible attend the day to support our children. We think it is great timing with the Commonwealth Games currently taking place on the Gold Coast. "Though competitive by nature, the Games were meant to foster camaraderie and sportsmanship." Our Sports Day is no different, we expect people to cheer loud for not only their team, but the other teams too!

You will be able to pre order one of three lunch combo options through the canteen (Combo 1 – small rice and drink \$4.50, Combo 2 – fish burger and drink \$6.00 or Combo 3 – sausage sizzle \$2.00) The drink options when pre-ordering are water, orange, apple or blackcurrant juice.

We will also have sausage sizzle BBQ and drinks for sale on the day. Sausages and drinks will be \$2.00 each. All money raised will directly support our fundraising efforts for 2018.



### Pre-School Team

This year we welcomed 47 new children and many new families to preschool. All of the children have settled in well and are establishing many positive relationships with their peers and educators. We have been very busy learning about healthy food, recycling, how to stay safe and have just begun looking at the lifecycle of a chicken. The children have been enjoying engaging in a range of different socio-dramatic play settings. Role-playing hairdressers, fire fighters, construction workers, vets and shop keepers. We have also been vegetable tasting, gardening, learning to cross the road safely, and have brain stormed a list of safe play practices and friendship skills. This week we have the 'Henny Penny Incubation Program' at preschool and you can literally feel the excitement as soon as you walk through the door due to the hatching of 6 baby chicks. Now we have many eyes glued to the incubator waiting for the next 7 to hatch.

### Reception – (Rooms 1 & 2)

This term we have been very busy settling into school routines and engaging in a variety of learning tasks. We have really enjoyed working in different groups and making new friendships with our peers.

In Literacy we have been using the SSP program to learn about sounds and letters, using monster characters and actions. We have had a huge focus on letter formation, which will continue throughout the year and we have also started learning how to read and write our Green Level High Frequency words. In Target Time, we have been focussing on a range of Phonological Awareness skills such as Syllables, Rhyme, First sounds, Blending & Segmenting. In Guided Reading groups we have been looking at the Reading Comprehension strategies of Predicting and Sequencing.

Our Maths focus has been on beginning each lesson with a Mental Routine, followed by rotations of hands-on activities on the concepts of number formation, sequencing numbers, subitising, patterning and matching numerals to quantities.

In HASS, we have been learning about our families and the communities which we belong to. In Health we have been learning about healthy eating, our body and ways that we can stay healthy. We have also been doing mindfulness each day after lunch and learning with our friend 'Archie' in the 'What's the Buzz?' program. We had a great start to the year and are excited about celebrating Harmony Week and Diversity.



### Year 1 – (Room 4)

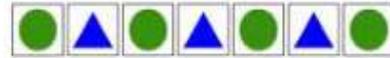


This term we have worked together as a class to establish our class agreements as well as discussing our school values. We have spent time getting to know each other, making new friendships and working together. This has occurred through our school's getting to know you activities, including "What's the Buzz" and class games.

We have focused on our class routines, expectations, Learning Intentions and Success Criteria. Due to this, we have had a great start to 2018.

In English, we have revisited writing recounts and are learning how to write descriptions and procedures as well as focusing on sentence structure and handwriting. Reading is ongoing throughout each day as well as learning to recognize and spell Oxford sight words. In Grammar, we have been looking at nouns and adjectives. Spelling is with 3 letter word families. In Numeracy, we have been focusing on number by counting (at least to 100 and by 2's, 5's and 10's), grouping and addition sums. We have also been looking at measurement and 2D and 3 D shapes.

### Year 1/2 – Katrina K & Mary S/Gayle C (Rooms 5 & 6)



What a great start to 2018! All children in room 5 and 6 have settled in well and are coming into the class beaming and ready to learn. Our main Learning Intention this term has been 'to be able to work in groups/teams'. We have co-constructed the success criteria. Working in groups and teams looks like everyone being nice to each other, helping each other, taking turns and respecting every ones learning. In writing we have been focusing on writing a sentence. The Success Criteria we use when writing a sentence is, using a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence and using a full stop at the end. In reading we are focusing on answering and asking questions about the texts we read. In spelling we have been learning about different consonant phonemes.

Maths has been very hands on, we investigated patterns. We looked at colour patterns, size patterns, shape patters, number patterns, increasing patterns and decreasing patters and are now focusing on developing a deeper understanding of number. Both classes have been working with Mrs Watts on developing computer skills and have enjoyed experimenting and designing information and images using Word.

A huge thank you to all volunteers who support in the classroom each morning with reading, we really appreciate your help.

### Year 3/4 (Rooms 9 & 10)

Rooms 9 and 10 have had a fantastic start to the school year! We have developed a positive learning environment together by remembering to uphold our school values and through establishing our own classroom values. We have continued developing our understanding of Learning Intentions and Success Criteria to make the purpose of our learning clear to ourselves each day and enjoy sharing our learning with our teachers and parents!

In Maths we have focused heavily on number sense and knowing the value and place of numbers to 10,000 and beyond. We have revisited our mental strategies and are using them to help us solve addition and subtraction sums and worded problems. Our next steps are learning about the link between addition and

subtraction, how to solve mixed operation problems and answer multiple choice questions.

In English, we are adapting to our new Literacy Circle routines which involve L.L.I, guided reading, flipped learning, grammar games, spelling activities, Reading for Literacy on the laptops and guided writing. We enjoy having the opportunity to work between the classrooms as well as with Lia and Miss Thuy.

This term we have participated in What's the Buzz lessons and activities have enjoyed looking at the different ways to solve social problems and use these lessons in the yard and when interacting with others. One of the many highlights this has definitely been the Star Dome incursion in Week 7 which helped to consolidate and extend our understandings of Night and Day. The years are excited to undertake their NAPLAN tests early Term 2 and we have been busy preparing them for this. With the focus and persistence both classes demonstrate on a daily basis we have no doubt they will all achieve their best.

#### Year 4/5 – (Rooms 7, 8 & 11)

What a busy first 8 weeks we have had settling in to Virginia Primary School! We are enjoying being a part of the Virginia community and learning more each week about the students in our classrooms and how best to support them. In Rooms 7, 8 & 11 we have established our classroom agreements focusing on learning, treatment, communication and problem solving and established recognition systems for students that are consistently upholding these agreements. These agreements are aligned to our school values and students created these as a group without teacher influence.

DECIMAL PLACE VALUE CHART													
One Millions	Hundred Thousands	Ten Thousands	One Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones	Decimal point	Tenths	Hundredths	One-Thousandths	Ten-Thousandths	Hundred-Thousandths	One-Millionths

In Maths, we began the year by revising place value concepts and working on our number sense. We have explicitly taught effective mental strategies to use when using addition and subtraction and provided rich opportunities for students to use these strategies to solve real life problems in many contexts. We have also explored algorithms to use when solving addition and subtraction of larger numbers and we have explored the language used relating to addition and subtraction when solving written problems. We have also explored data collection and representation with students creating their own tables and column graphs. We will finish the term with the explicit teaching of multiplication strategies and this will kick start individual students to set goals for mastering their multiplication facts.

In Literacy, we have unpacked the writing genre of narratives and honed in on the specific structure and text features of a narrative. We have worked on

developing students' ability to use adverbs and adjectives to describe their settings and characters and encourage them to think about the complication and events that lead to this. Workshops with punctuation and elements of speech have also been a focus. Once students complete their own narratives, we will be rounding off the term with some learning activities exploring persuasive texts. With students we have been explicitly focusing on the Alison Davies' reading comprehension strategies and giving students lots of meaningful experiences with responding to texts using these strategies. Rather than learning a list of words, students are involved in word study lessons where their spelling focus is either a generalisation or a spelling rule that can be applied to and used when spelling a range of words in their writing.

In HASS, we have decided to teach the Year 4s and the Year 5s independently of each other to maximise the opportunity for knowledge, understandings and skills for their relevant year level. The year 4s are exploring why the British settled in Australia through learning about the First Fleet. The year 5s are exploring the establishment and development of the 6 colonies in Australia and understanding the reasons certain decisions were made.

#### Year 6/7 - (Rooms 12, 13 & 14)

The year 6/7s started the year successfully with the ZooSnooze and our Leadership Conference. We also appointed students to leadership roles within the school.

Classrooms have settled into a steady classroom routine. We are continuing to develop our class culture by establishing a positive learning environment. Students have been involved in a number of lessons from the "What the Buzz" program which supports students to identify positive attitudes and how to use these to support their learning and development.

In English, we have started the year by focussing on reading strategies through the work of Alison Davis to equip students to be successful in the reading program throughout the year. We have now started guided reading and literacy circles where students get the opportunity to work in groups to analyse and discuss texts.

In writing, we have been looking at narratives and students are building their repertoire of hooks and writing techniques to engage the audience. They have looked at different variations of figurative language to engage the reader and paint a mind picture. Their use of expanded noun groups has also been impressive. We have just started persuasive texts and students are looking at the strategies and structure that good writers use to persuade their audience; for example rhetorical questions: direct address: confident tone: call to action.

In Mathematics, we completed the Imaths investigation "Happy Hippos", which gave students the opportunity to refresh and reinforce number and measurement skills. This has been coupled with our daily mental math slips that are designed to give

students the opportunity to re-visit and solidify areas that they have studied previously. This allows us to discuss a range of problem solving strategies. We have recently been working on decimal operations and have just begun looking at fractions.

### Junior Primary / Primary Art – Sue Graham



Reception students have experienced using mixed media in their art lessons. They are painting, printing and using oil pastels.

Junior Primary students are looking at the art work of the impressionist painters. There is an exhibition of Impressionist painting at the Art Gallery of South Australia commencing on the 29th of March.

Middle school students are studying the art works of artists Georgia O'Keefe and Raewyn Harris. Students love coming to our lunch time activities in the art room. We have wonderful artists in our drawing club.

Junior Primary / Primary Science – James Yates  
Junior Primary students have been investigating movement, using the Primary Connections unit 'On The Move'. Students have enjoyed exploring the range of different movements people can use and have been able to describe body parts that are in motion during different activities.

Middle Primary (3/4/5) students have been learning about forces (push, pull, friction and gravity). The students have started their investigations really well and have recently been testing a variety of surfaces that have different amounts of friction. This has allowed us to see how friction affects an objects momentum after we'd applied a push force to the object.

6/7 students have been exploring electrical circuits, using the Primary Connections unit called It's Electrifying. The students were extremely interested and engaged when building mini electrical circuits to power small devices, such as, mini light bulbs, fans, buzzers and motors.

### Junior Primary / Primary Language- Thi Hien Danh

This term children are building on more understanding of Vietnamese culture by exploring lots of activities about Vietnamese New Year. Students were given opportunities in a supportive environment to experiment with oral language through games, role play, reading, writing, singing and dancing. The major focus for this term is allowing students to work together in small groups so they can build on their confidence to produce high quality work. At lunch time, students from years 3-7 were given the opportunity to participate in FAN DANCING. There are a large number of students attending this activity.

### PE – M/UP James Yates & JP – Beck Boteju

The Primary students started off the term with a variety of teamwork activities to build classroom culture which they have excelled in. As of week 4, we have started our sports day preparation, the students have been developing skills in hurdles, high jump, sprints, discus, shot put and a variety of relays. They

have really enjoyed the start of the year in PE and are really excited for Sports Day at the end of the term!

In JP PE we have had a strong focus on participation, playing by the rules and team work. This includes playing fairly, taking turns and understanding that sometimes one team or person will win and others won't (and responding appropriately).

In the lead up to Sports Day, we have been practising the events that the children will be involved in on the day, including; hurdles, high jump, egg and spoon race, sack race, tug of war, sprints and parachute.

During these events we focus on being part of a team, doing your best and never giving up.

### EALD / Special Ed – Robyn Lewis and Thuy Tran

From years 4 to 7 in our small groups, we have been focusing on learning to write well-structured and entertaining narratives which include lots of description with thoughtful word choices to interest the audience. Before writing, plenty of discussion takes place in order for the students to think through their ideas. Often when writing, it is the beginning where students stumble because of a lack of ideas on how to start, so the talking first is imperative. It has been pleasing to see that as the weeks have progressed, more students are gaining confidence in writing narratives.



From Reception to year 3 we have been focusing on reading and sight words. We have also been focusing on oral language and using the SCUPMS (size, colour, use, parts, materials and shapes) as a structure for our talk. As well as this, we have focused on Guided Reading where the students are put into small groups with a learning intention focused at their reading level. It has been great to see

that our students are transitioning well from group to group and are settling well into their learning routine.

Our early morning Literacy Intervention groups (LLI) and those throughout the day are proving that the intensive word study and the multiple reading of texts in a small group of four, as well as the comprehension questions are making a difference to these students. Over 70 students are now involved which is very exciting. Both confidence and reading skills have improved for all those attending regularly and who do their follow-up homework. Our SSOs are also working hard in classrooms throughout the day to provide important support, particularly in literacy and maths, for students who need differentiation to achieve their learning goals.