



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 7, 2018

17th May

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 3

Friday 18th May
Pupil Free Day
OSHC available

Week 4

Friday 25th May
Walk Safely to School Day
8:25am meet at Woolworths

Whole School Assembly
9:15am
(NATIONAL SORRY DAY)

Week 5

Friday 1st June
Pupil Free Day
OSHC available

Week 6

Friday 8th June
CUA Fun RUN
Casual Clothes Day & Assembly

Week 7

Monday 11th June
PUBLIC HOLIDAY
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY
NO OSHC

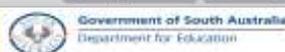


Entertainment Books and app available at
Virginia Primary



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WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY – FRIDAY 25th May



Now in its 19th year, National Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual event when all Primary School children will be encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment. Whilst nationally this will be held on the 18th of May, as we have a Pupil Free day on this date we will be holding it the week after on the 25th of May.

The objectives of WSTSD are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- To promote the use of Public Transport.
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.
- To reduce the level of traffic congestion.

Our school will be participating by meeting at Woolworths at 8:25am and will be walking together to school at 8:30am.

2018 Public Education Awards



Nominate, celebrate and recognise an outstanding educator in the 2018 Public Education Awards.

Get involved and say thank you to a principal, teacher or support staff member making a significant difference to the lives of their students and their communities.

An educator's influence continues beyond the classroom and supports children and young people to reach their full potential in life. We all remember a teacher who inspired and motivated us to enjoy learning, and the awards honour the dedication and passion of individuals who deliver the best possible outcomes for young people and their families.

The Public Education Awards are entering their 8th year and we're excited to share excellence in South Australian public education and invite you to celebrate and recognise an educator who makes a positive impact every day.

The Public Education Awards recognise excellence in South Australian public education, and nominations are open 1 to 31 May. Visit www.education.sa.gov.au/awards to nominate and find out more about the awards.



Term 2 Pupil Free Days

This term we will be having two Pupil Free days.

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

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

As with all Pupil Free Days, OSHC will be available.

Learning is challenging– but so it should be...

In previous newsletters we have unpacked Habits of Mind as a set of dispositions to support children in developing a growth mindset. Supporting learners in developing a core group of dispositions (or habits) to enable them to be problem solvers and communicators, and to have the skills to work successfully with others is a key indicator in later success in life. Most recently Carol Dweck has released some research on the effects of failure. In this research she unpacks the idea of a failure mindset and distinguishes people as either those who see failure as;

Failure debilitating = those who have a **performance orientation**

- Failure inhibits learning and productivity
- Anxiety and concern about poor performance are apparent in conversations and reactions with children
- Parents feel anxious when they see signs of their children failing

OR

Failure facilitating = those who have a **learning orientation**

- Failure facilitates learning and growth
- Children's learning is approached with a focus on how to learn and improve
- Parents feel less worry about setbacks and what they may mean about their children

The research demonstrated that people with a Growth Mindset and a Failure facilitating mindset have far stronger learning Habits. Even though habits can be taught and learnt, as you would all know changing old habits is hard work. The key to changing them is to be mindful, have strategies in place to support and be persistent. Our structures and culture as a school is built around continuous improvement and a learning orientation, what we do know is we can always get better. We are and will continue to strengthen and improve the ways we support children with their learning and life habits, and how we use evidence based strategies and techniques to provide feedback that moves learners forward, rather than feedback that focuses purely on performance.

“Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm”

Winston Churchill

Major School Fundraiser

We're excited to be participating in the CUA School Fun-Run this year! Our Fun-Run date will be held in week 6, **Friday the 8th of June.**



Information for this event should have already come home with your children. We hope you'll support our school and students in fundraising for our Kitchen Garden Program and Fountas and Pinnell Classroom reading kits. If you have any further questions about the event, please come to the front office.

Entertainment Books and app (school fundraising)



Spread the word and support our fundraising by purchasing the Entertainment Book or Digital app through our school. 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>

SAPSASA News

On Friday May 4th (week 1), 6 students participated in the Playford District SAPSASA Cross Country Carnival at Harry Bowey Reserve. Callob Gordon, Chloe Rowe, Dexter Connolly and Charlie Son all competed in the 3km run and Serelyna Desales and Leehi Connolly competed in the 2km run. This was the first time we have competed at the Cross Country Carnival and the students achieved some fantastic individual results, but more importantly, every student competed to the best of their ability and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



In other SAPSASA news, many students in year 6/7 have been trying out for the schools SAPSASA Knockout teams. This term we will be competing in three competitions for both boys and girls in football, soccer and netball. Keep an eye out for match dates/times over the coming weeks.

I would also like to congratulate Kimly Hao who has been selected to represent the Playford District Soccer team that will participate in the State Championships from the 25th of June – 29th of June.

Pre-School Team

The preschool children have had a very busy yet enjoyable start to the term. We have been continuing to learn about healthy lifestyles and the human body. The children are currently learning the names of different body parts and organs. To further this learning we have set up a 'Doctors Surgery' in the home corner and have borrowed a skeleton and models of internal organs

from the school library. We are also focussing on group/community participation. To support children's understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for group/community participation children will be involved in a variety of activities and discussions related to developing a sense of fairness. The children will actively participate in caring for the preschool environment, focussing on 'Many hands make light work'. This week we have had a visit from MFS. The fire-fighters spoke to the children about fire safety, including the number to ring in the event of a fire (000), the importance of families having a 'home fire escape plan' and smoke alarms in their homes. The children were also lucky enough to have a turn sitting in the fire engine and squirting the fire hose. We have also just began to look at the theory of colour, discovering how to make a range of new colours by mixing different combinations of primary colours to form secondary colours and by adding varying amounts of white paint to coloured paint to create different shades of colour.

Reception – (Rooms 1 & 2)

Rooms 1 and 2 have had a fantastic start to the term. We are looking forward to the many quality learning experiences ahead of us. In Mathematics we are continuing to work interdependently. We are persisting with our learning on matching numerals, quantities and number names, counting forwards and backwards from any given point and sequencing numerals. We have enjoyed learning about naming, sorting and describing two-dimensional shapes and hunting for three-dimensional shapes in our environment.

In Literacy we have been learning a new sound each day and brainstorming words that begin with or have that sound within the word. We are using the iPads as part of our SSP Literacy block to further develop our blending, segmenting and writing skills. We have started learning how to write a simple sentence using a full stop, capital letter and finger spaces and are applying this to recount writing.

This term we are participating in a Child Protection Curriculum Program called "Being Safe with Emmy and Friends". We have had two lessons so far which have been very beneficial, learning about our feelings and Early Warning Signs. In HASS we have been discussing special places, with the focus being 'What makes a place special?' and 'How do we care for these special places?'

Year 1 – (Room 4)

This term started with us all welcoming a new student to our class – Orelia. The children all supported Orelia settling into Room 4, being her friends outside in the play areas and understanding our class routines. This term in Room 4 we have changed our morning routines so that children will be working in special groups and have assigned tables to work at each morning. These groups focus on specific literacy areas where the students will either be focusing on writing sentences, reading and writing their sight words that have been individualised for each student, completing a

'sound of the week' worksheet and reading to the teacher.

We have just about completed on meeting with the children individually to discuss their learning goals in reading. Once they have been finalised, the children will share these with their families and also have them displayed in our classroom.

In room 4 we continue on our writing recounts, reports and extending the length of sentences we write as well as learning blends and digraphs (e.g. sh, ch, th, ng words). Our guided reading sessions happen with Rooms 5 and 6 three times a week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

In Maths we have just completed our investigations in odd and even numbers and our next investigation will be on birthdays. We continue to work on our knowledge and understandings of 2D and 3D shapes, addition, subtraction and using number lines.

Year 1/2 – (Rooms 5 & 6)

What a wonderful start of the term in Room 5 and 6. We are very lucky to have Miss Rhiannen working with us for the first six weeks this term. We are certain she will make a fantastic teacher. We have been enjoying reading a range of books for the Premiers Reading Challenge. When reading we are focusing on understanding what we read (comprehension) and using fluency by paying close attention to punctuation and using expression. In genre writing we have been focusing on writing information reports. Our learning intentions have been to know the structure of an information report and to know the difference between fact and fiction. We have been investigating and researching many different animals. We have continued to be 'Authors at work' and have been writing for many different purposes.

In maths, we have been sorting, counting and grouping large collections and have been exploring place value and big number past 100. Our next step is to focus on the value of digits in a number using the language of hundreds, tens and ones. We have been representing numbers using 10's frames, MAB blocks, white boards and pop sticks. Working in a team we have been exploring and using efficient ways to count large collections. The most popular has been bundling collections of 10's and 20's.

As part of the Child Protection health curriculum we have been learning how to be safe with Emmy and friends. So far Emmy has helped us to recognise feelings, early warning signs and public and private parts. We will continue learning with Emmy until the middle of this term.

We are super excited for our upcoming excursion to Parliament House and the War Memorial in the city. A huge thank you to Karen for helping us organise this fantastic excursion.

Year 3/4 (Rooms 9 & 10)

We would like to congratulate Rooms 9 and 10 on a successful start to the term, what a busy couple of weeks we have had! The students have worked with

focus to prepare for their NAPLAN tests this week and we have no doubt that they will display the Habits of Mind of Persistence and Striving for Accuracy and try their absolute best. The Year 4s have been excellent mentors to the Year 3s during this time and were given the opportunity to revise and develop the skills related to NAPLAN based activities.

Literacy will look a little different this term with the introduction of the 'Words Their Way' program in Week 4. As was mentioned in our initial newsletter we will not be sending home weekly spelling lists based on a whole class spelling sound for practise as a part of their homework routine. Rather, students will be working on an individualised group of words during Literacy Circles. As part of their Homework Contract students will now only have a list of sight words or commonly misspelt words from their writing to practise each week. We strongly encourage students to complete all 4 of their homework tasks each week and to be prepared for their weekly Oral Language activity as these are extremely important learning opportunities.

In Maths, we have been developing our strategies for solving subtraction problems and are developing fluency in solving worded problems. We have also briefly revised concepts relating to Data, Fractions, Time and Position and Location. Students are looking forward to their next topics which will be Fractions, Multiplication as well as in depth learning about Time. From Week 4 we will be diving into our HASS unit 'Australia and it's History and Early World Exploration.' In this unit, History and Geography topics will be combined to teach the students about Australia's first inhabitants and about the 'age of exploration.'

Year 4/5 – (Rooms 7, 8 & 11)

We have started off the term running, with a very busy first couple of weeks! We have not wasted a minute of learning with our new literacy block routine being trialled. In maths, students will be solving problems involving the four operations using a range of strategies. They will continue to develop their understanding of multiplication, division, perimeter, area, data collection and graphing. Our number fact focus this term is with multiplication facts. With daily and targeted practice of these number facts, students will improve their automaticity and accuracy.

In Literacy, students will be focusing on Persuasive texts this term. Students will plan, draft and publish persuasive texts containing key information and supporting details for a widening range of audiences. Students will use language features to show how ideas can be extended. They will develop and explain point of view about a text, selecting information, ideas and images from a range of resources. Students will edit for meaning by adding, deleting or moving word groups to improve content and structure.

We are doing some interesting learning in History this term, focusing on the changes that occurred for the Indigenous peoples after the First Fleet's arrival and the European people as well. Students will be looking into

the changes that occurred in Australia as a result of the Gold Rush, The Rum Rebellion and the introduction of Rabbits. This will give students an introduction into how Australia was shaped as the nation we know today. We are excited to be over the NAPLAN hurdle and continue on with our fantastic learning plans!

Year 6/7 - (Room 12)

Students have started the term well. With NAPLAN approaching we fine-tuned some of our writing skills with both Narrative and Persuasive genre. We were particularly pleased with the persuasive devices some children were using in their writing to engage the readers.

In HASS we have been focussing on Ancient Egypt. This has been really interesting and we are researching like historians to find out more about what life was like during this period of time. We are incorporating Information Report writing into this unit of work.

In maths we have been focussing on comprehending worded questions and deciphering exactly what the question is asking us to do. We have learnt that many questions are multi-step and require deeper thought.

Year 6/7 - (Room 13)

Term 2 is well underway and students have shown a lot of persistence while revising topics for their NAPLAN in the coming days.

In English we have been looking at hooks and highly descriptive language for narratives. And high modality words and speaking to the reader with persuasive texts.

We are now moving into writing information reports, and biographies about Pharaohs, to support our work in HASS on Ancient Egypt. Work on this has already begun and I am excited by how engaged students are with this topic and the questioning skills they are developing to enhance their learning.

In Mathematics the year 6 students have begun to look at problems involving money as well as using the four number processes to calculate these. The year 7s have been revising topics in order to sit the NAPLAN test tomorrow. The majority of these have been around number processes, fractions, decimals and various measurement tasks.

Year 6/7 - (Room 14)

Term 2 has started well. In English, we concluded our book study on Mr Stink by composing a book response essay. Students discussed the main themes in the story and supported their ideas with evidence from the text. We are now moving into writing information reports, and biographies about Pharaohs, to support our work in HASS on Ancient Egypt.

In Maths, year 7s have been revising topics in order to sit the NAPLAN test tomorrow. Year 6s have been working on multiplication by double digit numbers. They have used a range of strategies: doubling and halving, lattice and split and multiply. They have also been looking at the metric system and have been converting between units to complete calculations and solve problems.

Junior Primary / Primary Art – Sue Graham

At Virginia Primary School students undertake Visual Arts, Drama and Dance studies.

In Term two we are focusing on Drama Studies. Drama, for our Reception to Year two students is play based. Each week we have a different theme and activities set up in the Performing Arts room connected to this theme. A drama lesson based on the four seasons in the kitchen garden for example would involve children at different stations, pretending to harvest vegetables or dance in the autumn leaves etc. Music is also a prominent feature of our lessons and students will learn to sing various songs as well as be exposed to different genres of music that connect to our weekly themes. These lessons are a great deal of fun as children this age are usually very uninhibited and really love to express their creativity in a safe environment.

This term the Arts and Language programs will also combine to present bilingual drama lesson on Thursday with the Junior classes. This will be a series of language enriched lessons presented in English and Vietnamese.

Middle primary students work in groups on improvisation activities. They may for example, be presented with a set of props and have to create a simple narrative to present to their peers. In this way they are gently encouraged to perform in front of others. Our students are generally very supportive of the efforts of their peers and offer kind and constructive feedback. We are commencing these lessons with a new set of bush dances both as a way of warming up before physical activity and as a team building exercise.

Senior students will also start the term with Drama games involving team work and improvisation. They will be working towards scripted group performances as the term progresses.

Rooms 5 and 14 will also have Visual Art lessons this term. They are studying the work of American naturalist and artist Charlie Harper.

Lunchtime Activities

During lunchtimes on Wednesday and Friday students can attend Drawing club. This has proved to be very popular. Students can sit with their friends and add to their drawing portfolio in a relaxed atmosphere. As the weather gets colder we will have knitting activities run by some of our older students.

Choir

On Friday afternoon students have the opportunity to attend choir.

Year 6/7 students attend a Festival of Music rehearsal with choir trainer David Jackson. They are working toward a concert presentation at The Festival Centre in September.

Middle primary students meet Friday afternoons to sing a selection of songs for performances at assemblies and end of year concert.

Our Junior primary students have a singing component built into their Drama lessons.

It is a privilege to work with Virginia Primary School students. They are highly motivated and enjoy creative expression.

PE –James Yates & Science – James Yates

Primary PE

The Primary students have recently started a dodgeball unit, in which they are focusing on a variety of different dodgeball activities/games. During this unit students have been given the opportunity to develop a variety of skills such as, catching, throwing, jumping, dodging and teamwork. Students have really enjoyed the unit so far and are also excited to start the next unit of work on Basketball.

Science

Junior Primary students have continued investigating movement, using the Primary Connections unit 'On the Move'. Students have enjoyed exploring the range of different movements people and animals can use.

Middle Primary (3/4/5) students have been learning about forces (push, pull, friction and gravity). The students have recently finished their investigations about friction and are looking forward to exploring gravity.

6/7 students have been exploring electrical circuits, using the Primary Connections unit called It's Electrifying. The students have recently finished the procedures on 'How to build an Electrical Circuit'.

EALD / Special Ed – Robyn Lewis and Thuy Tran

Staff are having 3 PD sessions on EALD levelling in order to complete the assessment of EALD students' samples of work. Our Pupil Free Day on Friday of this week will help us get the bulk of the work samples marked. This data is collected by the Department of Education and then is used to work out the funding needed to support our EALD students at Virginia.

At the beginning of this term our new Literacy Intervention groups began. We are pleased with the progress made of many students. Some children have moved to a different group to match their new reading level. We appreciate parents supporting the LLI program by bringing children to school by 8:30am if they are in the early session and listening to their child read at home. This extra practise is essential for making reading progress.

A big thank you to all those parents who have signed and returned their child's Individual Learning Plan or Negotiated Education Plan . If not, can you please return one signed copy to the school as soon as possible. Thank you