



# VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

**CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY**

Issue 10, 2018

29<sup>th</sup> June

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Week 9

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

Whole School Assembly  
Community Centre 9:15am

### Week 10

#### NAIDOC WEEK

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

Port Power Visit

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

Mid-Year Reports sent home

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**LAST DAY OF TERM 3**

**Early Dismissal  
2:15pm**

### Term 3, Week 1

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

First Day Term 3

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

Girls SAPSASA soccer

### Week 2

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

'Boy' Book Week performance

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**

Whole School Assembly  
Community Centre 9:15am



Entertainment Books and app available at  
Virginia Primary

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### Thank you

As this is our last newsletter for term 2 (yes, school holidays are fast approaching), we would sincerely like to thank our school community for the continual support we receive, both with supporting children at home with their learning, and also in allowing us to focus on teaching and learning. In some places, events can become distractions, our school prides itself on ensuring we remain focused on improving student learning outcomes, particularly in our priority areas of English and Maths. We hope you enjoy reading our class reports in this newsletter.

If we don't see you prior to the break, we wish you all a very safe school holidays and look forward with great anticipation to Term 3.

### Advanced notice: Pupil Free/ School closure in Term 3

We have attached our most current term 3 planner to the back of this newsletter. As you will see, in week 7 we will be having a Pupil Free day on the Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of September and School closure day on the Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of September. We hope that with advanced notice families will be able to make plans. OSHC is available on the Thursday but not the Friday.



### Imagination Playground is a real hit

It has been a long time coming, however this week we finally took delivery of imagination playground. It has certainly lived up to its name with students of all ages (Preschool to Year 7) enjoying using it. The variety of objects being created has been inspiring to watch (with even some adults being known to join in). Imagination playground will be at playgroup for families to access on a Friday.



### **Term 3 staffing**

We would like to wish Ms Jess in Room 9 a fantastic extended holiday as she will be on leave in week 1 and 2 of next term. Pauline will be replacing Ms Jess.

### **Reception – Ms Krystal & Ms Anita (Room 1 & 2)**

Rooms 1 and 2 have enjoyed consolidating and building upon their learning in all areas of the curriculum. In literacy we have continued to learn a new sound each day following the SSP Programme. Students have enjoyed learning the different spelling patterns for each sound and transferring their understanding to their reading and writing. We have continued to stretch our learning when writing sentences by ensuring we use a full stop, capital letter and finger spaces between words. It has been pleasing to see our students 'Take Responsible Risks' in writing by attempting to write more detailed sentences and using the correct grammar and punctuation. Our next step is to re-read over our sentences to ensure that they make sense. We have started Guided Reading with a focus on Concepts of Print and beginning reading skills such as finger pointing, using visual prompts and decoding. In Mathematics we are continuing to work interdependently. We are persisting with our learning on counting backwards from 20, identifying and describing two-dimensional shapes, and skip counting by 2, 5 and 10. It has been pleasing to see the children apply a variety of mental computation strategies such as 'count on', 'count back', 'subitise' and 'turn-arounds' to different mathematical tasks.

### **Year 1 – Mrs Jenny & Ms Christina (Room 4)**

This term in Room 4 we have completed our investigation of odd and even numbers and we are now investigating birthdays, calendars and months of the year. We have also been working on number lines in Maths with addition and subtraction problems.

In Literacy, we have been learning about recounts, information reports and procedures. We are working on extending our sentences and making them more interesting by using nouns and adjectives. Our learning intention is to consistently use capital letters and full stops when writing sentences. Our reading focus has been to develop our fluency by being able to use punctuation and read like we are talking, and also developing comprehension by being able to retell what we have read. In HASS we are discussing what work members of our families do inside and outside our homes and how we celebrate special activities.

We have completed our 'Being safe with Emmy and Friends' program, which is part of our child protection/health curriculum. In this program, Emmy helped us to understand together our early warning signs and our feelings better, as well as recognising parts of our body which are private.

### **Year 1/2 – Ms Katrina, Mrs Mary & Mrs Crompton (Room 5 & 6)**

It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of term 2! What a wonderful term of learning in Room 5 and 6. 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 phrasing and fluency by paying close attention to

punctuation, using expression, reading to the end of a full stop and chunking words together with a smooth voice.

In genre writing we have been continuing our work on writing information reports. We have been investigating and researching many different animals and are even creating our own character to write an information report about. We have continued to be 'Authors at work' and have been writing for many different purposes.

In maths we have continued to investigate the value of digits in a number. We have been reading, writing, making and partitioning numbers to 1000. We have worked independently and in small groups on various place value activities. We have been using our number strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems.

Our excursion to parliament house was a highlight of our year so far. We got to see a beautiful heritage building and were able to debate about our new bike track. Our debates were in the Green House and Red House. One side was the government and the other side was the opposition, we even got to cross the floor. Our debates were facilitated by The Hon John Dawkins and Natalie. A big thank you to Karen McColl for helping to organise our wonderful excursion.

### **Year 3/4 Ms Jess & Ms Sabrina (Room 10)**

Time has flown in Rooms 9 and 10 this term! We cannot believe it is Week 8 already with the highlight of last week being our participation in the Fun Run. Some students made it around the long track an astonishing 10 times! In English students have been developing their informative text writing skills. This work has also been linked to shared and guided reading activities. Students have been using the Stephen Graham graphic organisers to identify the macrogroup, microgroups and key vocabulary in the texts they have read. They are looking forward to finishing off the term with work on procedural writing and some excellent hands on experiences that will accompany this. The students have been enjoying our re-designed Literacy Circles and have been working studiously on their individual 'Words Their Way' words sorts. We are looking forward to continuing this in Term 3. In Maths students have been engaged in hands on multiplication, fractions and division lessons and demonstrated persistence when working through difficult problems. They were particularly proud of their achievements when identifying fractions of a collection and counting by fractions. Students have been highly engaged in our HASS unit 'Australia and it's History and Early World Exploration' learning about Australia's first inhabitants and about the 'age of exploration.' We are looking forward to a well deserved break and coming back refreshed for new learning.

### **Year 4/5 – Mrs Haley, Mrs De Fazio & Mrs Elliana Valente (Room 7, 8 & 11)**

Wow, Week 8 already! In rooms 7, 8 and 11 we have been very busy practising our fluency and phrasing in our reading time. After our Stephen Graham sessions, we have implemented these strategies into our morning reading time. Students seem to have picked it up very quickly and when we talk about fluency and phrasing now, they know what we mean and can make the adjustments very quickly and successfully. We have had a big focus on multiplication in Maths and students are working on their individual multiplication targets. They are working with a partner to

understand the number patterns resulting from multiplication. We have also introduced the multiplication grid to students to help them work out 2 by 2 and 2 by 3 digit multiplication, and nearly all of the students are using it comfortably and accurately. We have wrapped up our HASS unit on Australian History, with an interview style assessment task that has allowed students to showcase their understanding in a different and more interactive way. This is allowing students to share their understanding and knowledge orally, as for some students this is an easier way for them to share compared to writing. Students are finishing the term with writing their very own persuasive texts after lots of practice and explicit teaching of introductions, paragraph structure and conclusions. We are very impressed with the improvements we have seen so far!

#### **Year 6/7 – Ms Alchin, Mr Coleman & Mrs Lock (Room 12, 13 & 14)**

In rooms 12, 13 and 14 a great deal of new learning has taken place this term. We were all considerably impressed with the level of persistence and striving for accuracy demonstrated by the year 7 students who sat the NAPLAN testing. They all put in their best efforts and we were very proud of them.

In our numeracy lessons we have been focussed on a range of measurement tasks including; nets of pyramids and prisms, skeletal models, area, perimeter and angles. These topics have set the students up nicely to engage with our mathematical investigation titled ‘pyramids and pharaohs.’ They will be required to create a scale diorama representing the pyramids of Giza.

Our literacy has been focussed on informative text types, we wrote some well-researched biographies on famous pharaohs and we have just begun creating, editing and publishing information reports on Ancient Egypt. To be successful at this task, students need to utilise quality research skills as well as understanding the explicit structure of information reports.

In HASS we are continuing our work around Ancient Egypt and our focus in Science is currently food webs and food chains.

#### **Junior Primary / Primary Art – Sue Graham**

Reception to Year Two students have had a series of Drama lessons based on colour theory. As reinforcement these have been followed up by Visual Art lessons where students have experimented with blending watercolours. Middle Primary students have looked at monologues in Drama. Using Martin Luther King’s “I have a dream speech” as an example, students have written their own speeches and delivered them in the style of an American presidential candidate.

Year 6/7 students have studied the work of Austrian artist Gustav Klimt. They are creating artworks based on his Tree of Life series of paintings and are incorporating life and death symbolism.

#### **Junior Primary / Primary Science – James Yates**

Junior Primary students have recently completed investigating movement, using the Primary Connections unit ‘On the Move’. Students really enjoyed experiencing and finding different movements they could do on the playground.

Middle Primary (3/4/5) students have been learning about forces (push, pull, friction and gravity). The students have recently finished their investigations on friction and gravity, they have also written some amazing narratives which have highlighted their understanding on gravity. 6/7 students have been exploring electricity, using the Primary Connections unit called It’s Electrifying. The students have recently finished their procedures on ‘How to build an Electrical Circuit’ and have just started their final assessment piece ‘Famous Energy Inventors’ in which they are researching about famous scientists that have had major roles in the development of electrical energy.

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

Students are having fun learning about fruit and vegetables. The highlight of this topic was going to our school kitchen garden to see the variety of fruit and vegetables grown in the garden. Some classes are almost ready to use some fruit and vegetables for their cooking lesson. This topic will be continued next term, so children can develop a deeper understanding of the language structure.

#### **Primary PE – James Yates**

The Primary students have recently started a basketball unit. During this unit students have been given the opportunity to develop a variety of skills such as; catching, passing, shooting, dribbling, gameplay and teamwork. Students have really enjoyed the unit so far and are looking forward to using the practised skills in gameplay situations in the coming weeks.

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

EALD levelling has been a success across the school and results will be entered shortly to determine the level of funding our school will receive in 2019. Thank you to all staff who supported one another to complete this huge task. This process allows teachers to focus on students’ strengths and areas for improvement in writing. The JP students have had a major focus on Guided Reading ensuring that students’ are reading with fluency, expression and correct phrasing. The reception focus during Guided Reading has been concepts of reading, for example orientation of the book, directionality, finger pointing and tracking.

MP students have been learning about sentence structure and the three types of sentences needed to write proficiently. First one being simple sentences, then compound sentences and finally complex sentences. They are beginning to independently write with a variety of sentences to strengthen their writing.

The UP students have had a focus on writing Information Reports on the topic of Ancient Egypt. Through research, they have learnt to summarise information into their own words and identify plagiarism. This continues to be a challenge, however they are working hard towards knowing the importance of summarising without copying. Literacy Levelled Intervention Tutors are currently re-testing their students for end of term data collection. This process can be time consuming as it involves each student reading a variety of levelled texts to find an instructional level and an independent level ready for term 3. It is great to see students making steady improvements from week to week.

# VPS Term Planner (Term 3, 2018)

**\*\*Please note, times are subject to change, any changes will be communicated ASAP**

Week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Dates	23/7/2018	24/7/2018	25/7/2018	26/7/2018	27/7/2018
1					Girls Soccer SAPSASA Soccer
	30/7/2018	31/7/2018	1/8/2018	2/8/2018	3/8/2018
2			Book Week Performance 2:15 – 3:15pm  Staff meeting 8/8/2018		ASSEMBLY 9:15am Community Centre
	6/8/2018	7/8/2018	8/8/2018	9/8/2018	10/8/2018
3			Governing Council Meeting 7:00pm BOOK FAIR		
	13/8/2018	14/8/2018	15/8/2018	16/8/2018	17/8/2018
4	NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK		Staff meeting		
	20/8/2018	21/8/2018	22/8/2018	23/8/2018	24/8/2018
5	BOOK WEEK – Find Your Treasure	SENIOR CHOIR EXCURSION 9:00 – 12:00			Book Week Parade Theme – Find Your Treasure SAPSASA Athletics Carnival
	27/8/2018	28/8/2018	29/8/2018	30/8/2018	31/8/2018
6	Literacy & Numeracy Week	WORLD OF MATHS BOOKED	WORLD OF MATHS BOOKED	WORLD OF MATHS BOOKED	***R.A SHOW  ASSEMBLY 9:15am Community Centre
	3/9/2018	4/9/2018	5/9/2018	6/9/2018	7/9/2018
7	***R.A SHOW  National Child Protection Week	***R.A SHOW	***R.A SHOW	***R.A SHOW Pupil Free Day  OSHC AVAILABLE	***R.A SHOW  SCHOOL CLOSURE NO OSHC
	10/9/2018	11/9/2018	12/9/2018	13/9/2018	14/9/2018
8		SENIOR CHOIR EXCURSION 9:35 – 1:30pm 6:40 – 9:40pm	Governing Council Meeting 7:00pm	R U Ok Day	R-3 Cricket Clinic
	17/9/2018	18/9/2018	19/9/2018	20/9/2018	21/9/2018
9			LATE NIGHT 3-Way PARENT/ STUDENT/ TEACHER INTERVIEWS		International Day of Peace  ASSEMBLY 9:15am Community Centre
	24/9/2018	25/9/2018	26/9/2018	27/9/2018	28/9/2018
10					