



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 14, 2018

14th September

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 9

Tuesday 18th September

Senior Choir

Festival theatre performance

Wednesday 19th September

Late night 3-way/ parent teacher interviews

Friday 21st September

Whole School Assembly

9:15am

Year 6/7 students visiting Salisbury High to watch Arts performance

Week 10

Fri 28th September

Last Day of Term

EARLY DISMISSAL

2:15PM

Term 4

Week 1

Monday 15th October

First day back for Term 4

Footsteps for Year 6/7 Students

Week 2

Monday 22nd October

Footsteps for Year 6/7 Students

Fri 26th October

Day for Daniel

ADVANCED NOTICE

Swimming will take place in Week 4 of Term 4 for Rec- Year 5 students

Principal: Ilia Tsoutouras

Deputy Principal: Voula Pounendis

Gov. Council Chairperson: Colleen Sheedy

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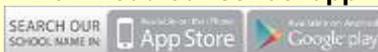
Email

dl.0455.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Visit our web site

www.virginiaps.sa.edu.au

Download our school app



3-Way Interviews

We hope families have been enjoying seeing students' work presented at the 3-way interviews. Our late night is next Wednesday. We are hoping for 100% attendance to these interviews, if there is any reason you can't make them, please do not hesitate to let your child's teacher or a member of leadership know so we can support you to make this happen. The progress of students' learning and "where to next" will form the basis of discussions.

Swimming

Swimming will take place in Week 4 of next term. We are finalising organisation for swimming and anticipate notes be sent home in the last week of school to give families time to get the forms back. Swimming is a required part of the curriculum. If you have any questions in regards to swimming, please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher or the front office. We will also send home a Term 4 calendar with important dates (concert etc.) with our next newsletter.

2019 Enrolments

We are beginning to look at numbers of children for 2019 so that we can begin looking at our class structures. **As we are zoned and there has been a significant increase in parents wishing to enrol their children here, it would help our planning if you know of any changes for next year (if you are moving etc.) could you let the front office know as soon as you can.**

Also, if you know of any families considering enrolling at Virginia for next year, could you please let them know to contact us as soon as possible.

We have had several enquiries in regards to Year 7's and whether or not we will be continuing to have Year 7 students at our school. Some parents are choosing secondary schools with a Year 7 option and are being encouraged to enrol their children. As a DfE school, we will absolutely be having Year 7 students. We are confident in the program we offer our Year 7's in terms of setting them up for senior secondary school both academically and with leadership development. If you do want to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to see either Voula or Ilia.

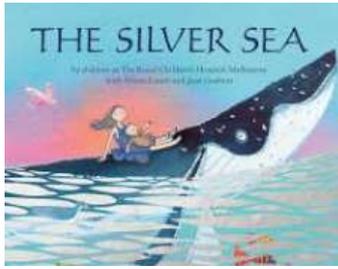
Thank you for your help.

Uniform

Our Governing Council last night reviewed our Uniform Policy. We have attached it to the rear of this newsletter. A reminder that students need to be in school uniform. Jeans and black tights/track pants are not a part of uniform, nor are branded track pants (Nike, Puma etc.). Our colours are navy blue and yellow. Could you please also make sure all hair bows/ribbons are our school colours of navy blue and yellow. We have had several children consistently come in other colours and we are now asking them to change into spare uniform if it is a habitual issue. If you need any support with uniform, once again, please do not hesitate to contact the front office.



Pre-School Team



The preschool children had a wonderful time celebrating Book Week. The book that we chose for our theme was 'The Silver Sea' written by Alison Lester and Jane Godwin and illustrated

by children who were patients of The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. The children dressed as sea creatures, mermaids and scuba divers for the parade and we transformed the preschool into a 'sea school'. Children enjoyed participating in many fun sea theme activities, such as fishing, searching for treasure, collecting and sorting shells, whilst also learning about different sea creatures, their habitats, following directions and many positional concepts. With children's favourite books symbolising our treasure, we filled a treasure chest in the reading room with books and have been focussing on learning about text conventions, characteristics of a narrative and also stretching children's ability to articulate why certain books are their favourites. With next year approaching very quickly and in preparation for the children starting school we are focussing on writing our names, becoming more independent and have started introducing SSP (the phonics program used in reception) to the children.

Reception – Ms Krystal & Ms Anita



Rooms 1 and 2 have been busy stretching and consolidating our learning this term in literacy and numeracy. In English we are learning to write information reports and have been looking at

animals around the world, particularly animals that we have not seen or heard of before. Students have continued to develop and work towards their individualised reading goal to ensure that they are balanced readers at their current reading level.

In Maths we have continued our learning in addition and subtraction as well as measuring length, mass and capacity using informal units. We are very excited to be preparing and presenting our first ever Assembly next Friday to share some of our learning experiences. We look forward to seeing the growth that each student makes this term.

Year 1 – Ms Jenny & Ms Christina

Well this term has definitely flown, we cannot believe term 3 is coming to an end! This term in Maths, we have been looking at place value of numbers (tens and ones) as well as measurement, using informal units to measure the length of objects around the school and our classroom. In the next few weeks we will be exploring money and adding up coins and

notes. We have recently introduced mapping, where we have been practicing the language of location which we will continue to develop as the term progresses, where students will then apply that language when creating map of our classroom, school yard and plan of our homes.

Throughout Literacy, we have continued with our recounts each week, doing timed writing, hand writing, expositions and descriptions. We continue to work on extending our sentences and our learning intention is to consistently use capital letters and full stops when writing. Our reading focus is using fluency and we remind students to read like they are talking and not like robots. Children continue to practise reading and spelling their Oxford Sight Word during morning routine rotations each week. We have just about completed our latest running records with the children and will share this information and other assessments with you at our three way interviews over the next few weeks.

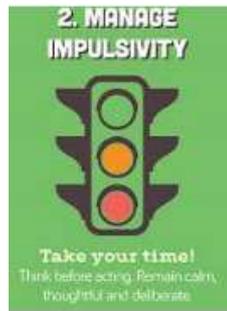
In HASS we are looking at place and spaces (which is also incorporated into our Maths work on mapping). In Science we are investigating 'On the Move' which will entail looking closely at movements humans do and also use construction equipment to make parts move. We have two more weeks in the Premiers Be Active Challenge and each day we continue to record as a group what we have done in P.E. fitness and recess and lunch play times.

Year 1/2 - Ms Katrina & Mrs Mary and Mrs Crompton

It's hard to believe that we are already near the end of term 3! What a wonderful term of learning Room 5 and 6 have had. We have been enjoying reading a range of books and focusing on reading with fluency and phrasing. When we read with fluency we read at the right pace (not too fast and not too slow), we use expression (change our voice for different characters) and read emphasising the punctuation (stopping at a full stop, using more expression when we come across a word that is bold). When we read using phrasing, we read like we speak and not like a robot. We have put all these skills into practice during our daily reading. In writing this term has been continuing to focus on writing narratives. We have explored characters, setting, descriptive language, problems in stories and solutions to problems. The students have been writing as authors with various purposes – to entertain, to inform and to persuade.

In maths we have continued developing our fluency and automaticity with number strategies for addition and subtraction. We have been applying our knowledge to solve problems and have been working on explaining how we solved a problem.

We are continuing to focus on the Habits of Mind Taking Responsible Risks, Managing our Impulsivity and developing our skills in Persistence and where we use these habits in our everyday lives. We look forward to celebrating our learning with you all during our 3-Way Interviews.



Year 3/4 – Ms Jessica & Ms Sabrina De Silva



The time is just flying by and we can't believe we are almost at the end of Term 3! We have had a busy time this term and are proud of our achievements. Some of the highlights have included completing the

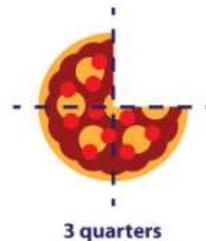
Premier's Reading Challenge, Book Week and World of Maths just to name a few. In English we have been working hard to refine our persuasive texts through focussing on constructing interesting 'hooks' including topic sentences and finishing with a call to action. We have enjoyed looking at exemplars to develop our own success criteria to follow when independently constructing expositions and can be observed carefully checking and editing our work before presenting it. In spelling we have quickly adapted to the routines and expectations of our new Words Their Way program and recently enjoyed taking part in a timed sort to test our knowledge of the spelling pattern we have been working on. We have continued to actively participate in a range of Literacy Group activities and have enjoyed exploring persuasive texts in our guided reading sessions. In Maths we have continued to enjoy hands on activities based on measurement. Most recently we completed our work on area and perimeter and we look forward to revisiting and extending our work on time which we touched on earlier in the year. We are showing a great deal of persistence and improvement in solving worded problems across topics in Mathematics and have found our addition and subtraction skills particularly useful during our measurement work. We are looking forward to sharing our learning journeys so far in 3-Way interviews so if you haven't had the chance already please jump online and make an interview time.

Year 4/5 – Ms Haley, Ms DeFazio & Ms Valente

Students in rooms 7, 8 and 11 have been investigating fractions by learning how we partition shapes, bars, number lines and collections. Students have had many opportunities to show their understanding of the numerator and denominator, and about making sure the partitions are equal in

size. We have just started investigating equivalent fractions and will conclude the term by investigating mixed numbers and improper fractions. Students have almost completed their final information report about a chosen country. They will then use their understanding of the structure and features to write an information report about their biome in HASS. As well as an information report, students are really

enjoying creating their 'shoebox' diorama of a biome. They are using critical and creative thinking to design their diorama and are choosing the most appropriate materials to make it, and being mindful about using all materials sustainably.



Year 6/7 – Ms Alchin, Mr Coleman & Ms Lock

Term 3 is flying by! In rooms 12, 13 and 14 we have been working hard in the morning during our explicit guided reading sessions. We have been primarily unpacking procedure text types as this goes hand in hand with our current writing focus. Students have been able to accurately recognise the major features in a procedure and are transferring these skills when creating their own texts. Classes have enjoyed the opportunity to have some hands on tasks / experiments before writing down accurate steps to achieve a goal.

In Mathematics we have finished off our work around transformations and co-ordinates. We are currently involved in topics concerned with patterns and general rules, general trends and extrapolation. We are working hard to solidify these concepts and will be beginning next term looking at averages, coupled with an exciting investigation.

In Science we have just completed much of our work on sustainability and sustainable practices. Learners were interested in the concept and had many questions.

During Health lessons we have done some work on healthy eating and the negative effects of smoking, we will be finishing off the term with growth and development.

Junior Primary / Primary Art – Sue Graham



Junior Primary classes are busy mixing primary and secondary colours. They can confidently work with just three colours to produce a fuller colour range. Lower Primary students have created samplers depicting our kitchen garden. Many children have not sewn before and have demonstrated persistence and a willingness

to develop new skills. Middle Primary students have created artworks based on the book *The Potato People*. They are now creating 3D people using real potatoes. Year 6/7 students are putting the finishing touches on their African Masks.

On Tuesday of next week our Senior choir will perform at the Festival Theatre. We wish them the best and congratulate them for their hard work this year.

Junior Primary / Primary Science – James Yates

Junior Primary students have been investigating natural and man-made objects/materials. Students have recently started describing the different properties in materials and enjoy finding different properties on the playground area.

Middle Primary (3/4/5) students are currently exploring states of matter (solids, liquids, gases). Students have recently finished their Mystery Materials investigation, in which they needed to use their senses to describe the properties of materials in order to determine what the material is and the state of matter of the material.

STATES OF MATTER



6/7 students have started a new unit of work investigating mixing and separating techniques and how these techniques are used in the real world. Students have begun investigating the difference between heterogeneous mixtures, homogeneous mixtures and pure substances at the particle level using online animations.

Primary PE – James Yates

In Primary PE the students are continuing their work on European Handball. The students have adjusted to the different rules and skills involved in the sport really well and have recently started playing small sided games. We are moving into round robin tournaments for the rest of the term.

Junior Primary PE – Beck Boteju



In Junior Primary PE we have been continuing with soccer. We have progressed to playing small games with 5/6 players per team. The children have really enjoyed using the skills they have learnt in a game setting. In each lesson we have two games. The first is for the more confident and/or

experienced soccer players. The second is for those who are new to soccer and are needing a slower paced game. This has been working extremely well as there is a game available in each lesson to suit all abilities and confidence levels.

EALD / Special Ed – Robyn Lewis and Thuy Tran MP/UP Writing Support

The term is flying by and we have covered a variety of genres in writing including information reports, procedures, narratives, responses and reviews. Each genre has a different structure to master as well as different language features. Before writing independently, I model how I write the particular text type, followed by sharing the writing with the students. This gradual release of responsibility in writing supports students to be successful writers and so they enjoy sharing their writing with others in the group followed by feedback.

JP Writing Support and Guided Reading

Our planning using the Stephen Graham template in our Guided Reading sessions have been very successful. Their learning has become even more intentional as we focus only on a few teaching points. This allows the students to know exactly what is expected of them during these sessions without any confusion. We have been using post it notes to give instant feedback during the small reading groups. The teacher would give one positive feedback and one teaching point for the student work on next. In small group sessions we have been practising on our fluency, with a strong focus on the strategy, return sweep. Where the students continue to read when they get to the end of the line and only stop at full stops and pause at commas. We have also been working on our blending skills. We work on the backward strategy where we break a word up into its sounds before writing the phonemes, then blending the sounds together.

LLI Support

We currently have over 65 students involved in Fountas and Pinnell reading support groups from year 3 to 7, 3 or 4 times per week. All tutors are now involved in end of term testing to measure reading improvement since the end of last term. For those children in the LLI groups who are reading regularly at home, there is faster growth and we ask children to make the most of their small group reading support by reading daily. We are encouraged by the improvement that many of the students are making during the LLI sessions this term.



UNIFORM POLICY

At Virginia Primary we are very proud of our learning environment and the sense of belonging to a supportive community that we develop and provide for our students. Hence our motto "*Learning together, Learning for our future*".

The sense of identity is also developed in students through the implementation of a school uniform. We have a recognised school uniform and policy which is strongly supported by our community, students and staff. It is an expectation that the uniform is worn by all students. We also believe that the school uniform promotes student safety, and is practical and inexpensive.

Essential elements of the school uniform are:

TOPS

Virginia Primary School striped polo. Both short and long sleeves are acceptable.
Plain navy windcheater with school logo.
Plain navy zip front jacket with school logo

PANTS

Pants are to be plain navy all over. This includes track pants, shorts, skirts or cotton fleece pants.

DRESSES & SKIRTS

Plain navy skirts or skirts (to sit no higher than just above the knee)
Navy / white checked uniform dress.

HATS & HEADWEAR

In accordance with our sun smart policy it is expected that all students wear a navy broad brimmed Virginia Primary School hat while in the yard. Baseball hats are not appropriate. Hair accessories must be plain blue or yellow in colour.

FOOTWEAR

Footwear needs to be within health and safety guidelines, sports shoes, secure and sturdy school sandals e.g. no thongs, high heels etc.

JEWELLERY/ MAKE-UP

Again in the interests of student safety jewellery must be kept to a minimum, e.g. small sleepers, studs. Necklaces/ bracelets should not be worn (medical or religious/ cultural necklaces are exempt but must be kept tucked under tops where appropriate) Coloured nail polish and make-up of any sort is also not appropriate.

Please note that jeans are not part of the uniform, clothing must be plain navy blue only no stripes, patterns, no royal or light blues etc.

NO LOGOS OTHER THAN SCHOOL LOGOS

Students who are not in uniform will be asked to change into uniform or play in a designated area of the yard.

We understand that there are occasions when there are exceptional circumstances. If this is the case, please write a note to the class teacher.

We thank you for your ongoing support in this area.

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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
	17/9/2018	18/9/2018	19/9/2018	20/9/2018	21/9/2018
9		SENIOR CHOIR EXCURSION – Festival theatre 9:35 – 1:30pm 6:40 – 9:40pm	3 Way Interviews LATE NIGHT	Year 6/7's visiting Salisbury High to watch Arts performance	International Day of Peace ASSEMBLY
	24/9/2018	25/9/2018	26/9/2018	27/9/2018	28/9/2018
10			Aquatics 6/7		Premier's Be Active Challenge finish Staff V Students soccer Early Dismissal 2:15pm