



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 17, 2018

12th November

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 5

Monday 12th November
Footsteps for Year 6/7 Students

Wednesday 14th November
Governing Council Meeting 6:30pm

Friday 16th November
Casual Clothes Day
Donation toward Daniel Moracombe foundation

Week 6

Monday 19th November
Footsteps for Year 6/7 Students

Friday 23rd November
Staff Vs Students Netball
Whole School Assembly (9:15am)

Week 7

Friday 30th November
FINAL PUPIL FREE DAY
OSHC AVAILABLE

Week 8

Wednesday 5th December
Governing Council Meeting 6:30pm

Fri 7th December

Please come along and celebrate our end of year concert.

BBQ starts 4:30pm
Concert begins 6:00pm

Week 9

Tues 11th December
Yr 7 Farewell assembly 9:15am
Parents of Graduating students welcome

Thurs 13th December
Year 6/7 Graduation

Friday 14th of December
Last Day of School, Early Dismissal 2:15pm

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Download our school app



2019 Enrolments

We have begun looking at classes for 2019. 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.

Thank you for your help.

Premier's Be Active Challenge

Our school has once again participated in the Premier's Be Active Challenge and has met all set criteria to be one of the fifty 'High Achieving Schools' selected in 2018. We would like to congratulate all the students and like to thank Mr Yates for organising and submitting all the students' results.

Car park

Please help us by supporting us with the following;



- **NOT** parking in a disabled car park unless you have a permit!
- Making sure you aren't stopping in the traffic zone to drop a child off, you need to park your car in an allocated space. **THANK YOU!**

Concert 'Virginia under the stars' (Friday the 8th of December)



Our concert date is locked in, we are hoping you have blocked out your calendars! Classes have started preparing for it and the items I have seen all look amazing so far.

We are always taking on feedback and trying to improve every aspect of school operations (bit by bit). One of the bits of feedback we have received is trialling the concert on the asphalt to help with acoustics. Once upon a time the concert did take place in the courtyard (well before my time), and we will be trialling it this year. We also hope to add other food items to the menu, as well as sausages, egg and bacon sandwiches and waffles we will be trialling spring rolls and souvlakia (shaslicks). We will once again have our BBQ prior to the concert however this year some classes run stalls where you will be able to purchase a range of different items. Some examples include Christmas decorations & cards, star cookies and reindeer food/ jelly cups.

STAY TUNED – MORE INFORMATION TO COME IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER!

Preschool Transition

Over the next few weeks our precoolers will be transitioning to Reception. As part of their transition process our Reception teachers will visit the preschool and the students will also visit the Reception classes. We will also host two 'Reception Ready' parent evenings where we will share the usual 'nuts and bolts' of school life as well as how parents can support with Literacy and Numeracy learning at home in a targeted way.



Reception – Ms Krystal & Ms Anita

We have had a great start to the final term of the year. Students enjoyed swimming last week and they keep a journal to share their experience with their parents at home. This term in English we have been learning about imaginative narratives, in particular fairy tales. Students have enjoyed using puppets for retells, comparing characters and looking at the elements of a narrative such as When? Where? Who? and What?

In Mathematics we have been consolidating our learning in all areas. We will be collecting and representing data about swimming week. In science we have planted broad beans and will document their growth in our plant diaries. We look forward to starting our concert item and the end of year celebrations.

Year 1 – Mrs Gordon and Ms Christina

We cannot believe we are already in term 4! In Maths, we have been exploring money; adding and subtracting and gaining a deeper understanding of the values of the coins and their different features. We are also investigating the length of different objects by using formal and informal units of measurement. We will investigate further time; both digital and analogue (o'clock and half past).

In Literacy, we have continued with our recounts each week, through timed writing, hand writing, explanations and narratives. We are looking closely at the structure of a narrative and we will shortly begin to compose some narratives of our own. With swimming last week, the children kept a swimming journal that they will be able to share with you at home. Our reading focus continues on developing fluency, phrasing and using expression. Children are encouraged to practise reading and spelling their sight words at home as part of their homework. Guided Reading continues three times a week working with Miss G and Miss Thuy. We are also working on our assessments for the end of year reports with the children.

We look forward to seeing you at our assembly which we will be hosting on Friday week 6.

Year 1/2 – Ms Katrina and Mrs Mary Mrs Crompton

What an amazing start to term 4! Everyone has welcomed the last term of 2018 with excitement and an eagerness to learn. We couldn't wait for swimming and were pleased to see everyone taking responsible risks and learning new skills in the pool. On our return to school each day we reflected on our lesson in our swimming journal. We were able to use our understanding of the features and structure of a recount to help us. Each day we will be focusing on a different aspect of our swimming lessons to write about.

In spelling this term we have continued to investigate and explore words that contain our sound of the week using our phonological, visual and morphemic spelling knowledge. We have been great word detectives coming up with lots of different words.

In maths we are continuing our understanding and fluency with number strategies and applying our

knowledge when learning about money. We have also been investigating the length of objects using formal and informal measures.

In writing we have been writing exposition texts. We have been exploring and author and writer's point of view and arguments for and against.

During guided reading our focus has been reading with fluency and phrasing, using expression and using our sound knowledge to read words we don't know.

We are looking forward to our end of year concert. If you could help out with our costumes could you please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Year 3/4 Ms Jess & Ms Sabrina

Room 9 and 10 have launched into a busy final term of learning! We can't believe it is Term 4! We have welcomed two pre-service teachers Sophie and Claudia from UniSA to our classrooms. Both completed their second year teaching placements. We have been blown away by their amazing skills as teachers so early in their training and were sad to see them leave mid-week four. Both PST's have delivered the Science unit 'Plants in Action' Students this term, teaching children the process of germination while watching bean seeds grow!

We looked forward to travelling together this year by bus to the Aquadome for our swimming lessons. Students were excited to learn many important skills to keep them safe in the water. This complimented our health lessons where we are learning strategies for keeping ourselves safe. In Maths we have revising number concepts, place value and operations. The students have developed and learnt a range of strategies to help them solve problems using these operations and are developing automaticity across addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. In literacy we will be working to consolidate our comprehension skills within our novel studies of The Twits and The Magic Finger. We are practising verbalising the strategies we use when decoding our texts.

We are excited to begin preparation for Room 9 and 10's combined end of year concert item but will keep the theme a secret for now!

Year 4/5 – Mrs Hayley, Mrs Bexis & Ms Valente

How we have reached the last term of the year, we are not sure!! In maths this term, we are finishing off our learning about fractions. We are completing some investigations on identifying, using and representing fractions and their equivalents. We have also started investigating measuring time. Students are really engaged in the different kinds of timekeeping devices that have been used instead of or as well as the clock. We are looking forward to refining our skills with telling the time and also investigating 12 and 24 hour time and different time zones and timetables. Later in the term, we will be looking into shape and measurement using hands on tasks and investigations.

In writing this term, we are learning to write procedures. We are concentrating on identifying and

using action verbs and subject specific language to write commands. We are reading some different types of procedures to see some good examples of this type of writing, so that we will be able to use this information to construct our own procedural texts at the end of the term. We will be continuing our work on sentence structure and developing our accuracy with punctuation and spelling in our writing. We are looking to see students using their knowledge and understanding from our Word Study and Word Work sessions to enhance their spelling in their writing.

In reading, students will be focusing on individual goals and also specific focuses identified through their particular level in Guided reading groups. We are focusing on as always, achieving the balanced reader.

This term students will be completing two planned presentations in front of an audience. In design technology, students are creating their own cookie company. They will be designing a company name and logo and then creating a new cookie flavour.

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

The year is quickly coming to a close. The year 6/7s are making lots of preparations for the end of year celebrations. They are currently involved in the footsteps program to assist our performance at the end of year concert. We have split the year 6 and 7s up due to numbers many that we have 2 performances to share.

Year 7s have begun writing their graduation speeches. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to reflect on their achievements and share memories with those close to them.

In our writing lessons we have been looking at discussion texts. We have also used guided reading lessons to allow students to break down the structure of these texts and see a range of examples.

Our Maths focus has been on data and average. They will be focussed on understanding mean, median and mode to allow them to be successful for our final investigation of the year. This is titled 'How Mean Are You?' where students will collect data about themselves, compare with classmates and calculate the mean, median and mode from a range of statistics.

Junior Primary / Primary Art – Mrs Graham

Junior Primary students are exploring dance through play based themes. Using a variety of musical styles students move through different stations in the Performing Arts room using props and costumes to help them improvise creative dance.

Middle Primary students are looking at the history of dance. Students perform a learned choreography in a particular dance style, as well as having the opportunity to choreograph their own dance moves. Classes involved in the kitchen garden are looking at soil profiles and conducting experiments to gauge areas in the kitchen garden where the soil needs improving. They will then plant legumes to fix nitrogen in these

deficient areas. Students are also harvesting fresh produce from our garden and cooking a delicious kale pasta dish with Jacqui.

Classroom based kitchen garden work involves making and decorating a "potato head" and growing mung beans.

EALD / Special Ed/ LLI – Mrs Lewis & Ms Tran

At the start of term 4 we regrouped our LLI students due to the fact that as students progress, they need to be in groups with other students who match their reading levels. Once students have reached their equivalent year level in reading, they graduate from the program and other students take their place. Several students have graduated so far and we anticipate more will follow this term. It is exciting to see students who have struggled with reading, make improvements and grow in confidence. We have a strong group of tutors who work hard to instil an enjoyment of reading and build skills so that students can be successful.

MP/UP Writing Support

The middle and upper writing groups have been improving their writing of procedure texts or discussion texts, where two opposing points of view are discussed. Some of the procedures have included "How to make cold rolls" and "How to pet sit a small dog". One of the discoveries they have made is that they can't assume people will know how to do something if they leave out details.

The discussion topics have been varied. Our first piece of shared writing was about whether kids should be involved in making family rules. They were quite mature in their thinking and came to realise that it would be good for their own decision making in the future if they were involved and that they needed to consider the consequences of making particular rules.

JP Writing Support and Guided Reading

We have been exploring Narratives this term with focus on the structure (orientation, events, problem, solution and ending). We've explored fairy tales and some groups have participated in creating a story map, which will support them during their writing process.

We have also had a focus on using the correct tense when it comes to writing. Fine tuning our verb tenses and figuring out which verb to use during narrative writing. It is pleasing to report that student have continued to come to guided reading sessions with the intent to really focus on their reading strategies.

Over the last few weeks and moving toward Christmas there will be more grounds and facilities work taking place. The OSHC room will be re-floored, we will be installing fake turf outside the library as despite our best efforts, grass just wont grow and our imagination playground is a high traffic area. We are also installing new bike/ scooter racks as well as preparing for an extra classroom.

