



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 5, 2019

April 2nd

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 10

Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd of April

R-7 students involved in First Aid in house training

Friday 5th of April

Athletics Carnival

Week 11

Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th of April

External School Review

Friday 12th of April

Sports Day

Last Day of Term

Early Dismissal 2:15pm

Term 2

Week 1

Monday 29th April

First day back for Term 2

'World Book Day'

Thursday 2nd of May

Junior Primary

'Be Safe with Emmy' incursion

Friday 5th of April

Bike Ed/ Cross Country/ RAA Road Safety



Principal: Iliia Tsoutouras

Deputy Principal: Voula Pounendis

Gov. Council Chairperson: Colleen Sheedy-
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Download our school app



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Grow Wellbeing Update

Our school has been involved in a trial period partnership since September 2018 with Grow Wellbeing, an early intervention Mental Wellbeing service committed to supporting School children in the development of positive Mental Health and academic skills.

As a school we had recognised the need for parents to be able to access such services and have worked with Grow Wellbeing to be able to offer them here.

Christine Kaye is currently the psychologist employed by Grow Wellbeing to work every Tuesday at Virginia. She has been working with children of all ages and with different needs. Some areas that she has supported students in are; social skills, emotion regulation, anger management, anxiety, grief and separation, general wellbeing, behavioural issues and many more. Christine will be moving on from our school and will be supporting with transitioning her replacement over the coming weeks. Families are currently being notified of the transition process. We would like to sincerely thank Christine for her work over the past few months at Virginia and would like to welcome Vesna who comes to us with a wealth of knowledge.

If you want to know more or feel that your child would benefit from the service, please don't hesitate to organise a time to speak to our Deputy Principal, Voula Pounendis or one of the Grow Wellbeing team. There is a process as a school we need to follow prior to any support being provided.

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. "Though competitive by nature, Sports Day is supposed to foster camaraderie and sportsmanship." We expect people to cheer loud for not only their team, but the other teams too!

You should already have received a Sausage Sizzle note to pre-order sausages for your child. The BBQ and drinks will also be available for sale on the day. Sausages and drinks will be \$2.50 each. **PLEASE NOTE, THERE WILL BE NO OTHER LUNCHES AVAILABLE AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS.**

Fundraising Expenditure

There are several fundraising initiatives throughout the school year including; *Sports Day BBQ, Mother's and Father's day stalls, entertainment books and End of Year Concert.* Each year we allocate the raised funds to a particular project. In the past we have supported our wireless internet initiative, Kitchen Garden program and reading resources. This year our Governing Council is potentially looking at two different projects.

1/ further increasing our reading resources to support our site improvement initiatives within reading

2/ to re-surface the coloured surfacing on the basketball court

If you have any other ideas, or would like to give us feedback on the suggestions above, please feel free to email us dl.0455.info@schools.sa.edu.au



Harmony Day Celebrations

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 for their very kind donation of fresh fruit and Sarah Jones for her skills and expertise in supporting students in icing Harmony cookies for every child.

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>

Thank you to those families who have already bought the electronic version.

External School Review

Every school in the state undergoes external review. Our last review was in 2015, we are now again being reviewed next week.

The purpose of the Review is;

- to track our school's capacity to continue to improve
- track our school's improvement
- see where our school has been since the last review in 2015

Having been a Review Principal for the past 5 years as well as having had our own school reviewed, I am very familiar with the process. The idea of reviews is that ALL SCHOOLS can improve, a motto and concept that we welcome and are very comfortable with at Virginia. Greg Graham will be our Review Officer. He has a great deal of experience having been a Principal before his current role for many years. He will be joined by the Principal from Westbourne Park Primary as the Review Principal and will also have a peer Review Officer observing how he undertakes the review. Although week 11 isn't an ideal week, I'm very much looking forward to the process.

Kitchen Garden

Last newsletter we shared and thanked those who supported us with produce to plant in our kitchen garden. As you will see with some of the photos in this newsletter, these are now planted and students are ensuring the garden beds are being watered, and also free of weeds. As always, our Kitchen Garden program is as popular as ever amongst our Year 4/5 cohort of students who look after it. Whole class sessions take place on a Friday, with Garden Club (open to all students) taking place throughout the week during lunchtimes.



Preschool Team

In the second half of this term the children have continued to develop their concept knowledge through small group games and their numerical knowledge through stories, songs, games and hands-on tasks. They have also begun learning how to identify collections in regular subitised patterns through games that involve the use of a dice. The children are continuing to progress through the hierarchy of phonological awareness skills, we have many children that have moved on from breaking words into syllables and have begun learning about rhyming word pairs. Soon they will develop the ability to produce their own rhyming words. We have recently been learning about caring for Planet Earth and the environment. This learning has ignited many in depth conversations about cleaning up our environment, recycling and reducing waste. Several children have enthusiastically taken responsibility for cleaning up the Preschool yard by picking up rubbish found in the garden. These conversations have also encouraged children to put their rubbish into the correct bins, for instance, food scraps go into our small green bins that then get tipped into our compost bins and paper and cardboard goes into our yellow bin. While children have learnt about caring for the environment, they have explored how we care for plants. This exploration extended into learning about the life cycle of a plant. The children have been discussing the stages involved in a plant life cycle and have participated in a cutting activity that requires them to place the stages of the plant life cycle into the correct sequence. Additionally, the children have been exposed to these stages first-hand within our Preschool garden - they have planted vegetable seeds into our garden beds and watched them grow into seedlings, they have participated in planting their own bean seed in cotton wool, they have planted some herb seeds and they have been watching the apples grow on our fruit trees. Next we will commence learning about community helpers and hopefully will be fortunate enough to have a visit from the local CFS.

Reception – Ms Krystal and Ms Anita (Rooms 1& 2)

In Rooms 1 and 2, we have had a very busy start to the year. In English we have been working hard to learn our phonics (sounds) using the Speech Sound Pics (SSP) program. We have been working within each student's individualised SSP code, to ensure their level of learning is intentional and addresses their phonics needs. We have been persisting with our Oral language, particularly during our modelled reading lessons, to describe objects and characters using number and colour sentences. Students have been supported to then write simple sentences in their books with the success criteria being to write on the line, to write from left to right, and to use fingers spaces, full stops and capital letters. During our Guided Reading sessions, we have been using

level 1 texts to cover the Concepts of Print, as well as applying our phonics and High Frequency Word knowledge to attempt to decode and comprehend texts.

In maths we have been working in groups to learn different skills and strategies. The main areas we have focussing on within the number and algebra strand are:

- subitising
- counting, recognising and sequencing numerals
- matching numerals, quantities and number names
- correct numeral formation

We have also covered patterns this term with the Learning Intention: To be able to copy, continue and create a pattern.

We look forward to continuing our learning journey in English and Maths this term.

Reception / Year 1 – Ms Katrina and Ms Christina (Rooms 3 & 4)

Rooms 3 and 4 have had a great start to the 2019 school year, learning new routines, persisting with their learning and enjoying getting to know and working with the children in both classes.

In phonics, we have been continuing learning our sounds through the SSP program. We have explored many different variations to make one sound and have been continuing our SSP learning through our morning routine. When we are writing a new word we: say the word, listen for the speech sounds and work out how many there are, draw the lines to represent the speech sounds and work out the letters using the sound clouds. It is great to see the students persisting with this spelling strategy. We have been writing and making oral descriptions about various objects. When writing a description we write sentences about number, size, colour, shape, texture, doing and position.

This term in guided and modelled reading we have been focusing on being a balanced reader, we have been reading with fluency and expression, paying attention to the punctuation and reading smoothly. We have been using our sound knowledge to decode words we are unsure of. We have also been creating mind maps to help us better understand the text we are reading.

In maths, we have been focusing on gaining a deeper understanding and automaticity of number. We have made number patterns, sequenced numbers, written numbers, located numbers on a number line and represented numbers using concrete materials. We have been focusing on the number strategies subitising, counting on and rainbow facts (make 10).

Year 2 – Ms Jess and Mrs Mary (Rooms 5 & 6)

What a great start to 2019! All children in room 5 and 6 have settled in well and are coming into the

class beaming and ready to learn. One of our main learning intentions this term has been 'to be able to work in groups/teams'. 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 recounts, descriptions and information reports.

In reading we are focusing on the three areas of a balanced reader which is developing our decoding, fluency and phrasing and comprehension skills.

Every child has been involved in setting their own goals to achieve. In spelling we have started the Words their Way program.

In Math we investigated number patterns and counting strategies. We looked at colour, size, shape and number patterns, increasing patterns and decreasing patterns and are now focusing on developing a deeper understanding of number. We have also covered counting by 2, 3, 5 and 10, odd and even number, greater than and less than, numeral and writing numbers in words. On Wednesday mornings we have fine motor morning where the children do a variety of tasks like sewing, dot painting, puppet making and threading beads. During Art we have created some Van Gough Sunflowers and Picasso Portraits.

Year 3/4 Ms Jenna and Ms Sabrina (Rooms 9 & 10)

Rooms 9 and 10 have dived straight into learning in our first term of 2019! We hope that you had a restful break and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. This year Miss Jenna is teaching in room 9 and Miss Sabrina will remain in room 10. We are also excited to welcome Miss Nichole, a teaching student from the University of South Australia, who is completing her fourth and final year practicum via an internship. She will be visiting every Tuesday and will commence her five week placement during term 3.

Both classes have enjoyed developing positive learning environments together by remembering to uphold our school values and by establishing our own classroom values. We have continued to develop 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 English we are continuing on with the schools focus of creating balanced readers. Decoding, fluency & phrasing and comprehension being at the forefront of our reading program. We are forming new routines and working hard during our Literacy Circles, which involve LLI, SSP, guided reading, flipped learning, grammar games and word sort activities. We enjoy having the opportunity to work between the classrooms as well as with Amanda, Bec, Lia and Miss Thuy, who are in to support our learning during this time.

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.

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.

The year three students 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. This year our classrooms will continue to work collaboratively, beginning with our upcoming shared Harmony Day/Anti-Bullying assembly on Friday of week 9. We hope to see many families attend and join in on the festivities! We are excited connect and continue to build positive relationships with students and their families throughout the year!

Year 4/5 – Mrs Haley, Mrs Bexis and Ms Valente (Rooms 7, 8 and 9)

The year 4/5s started the year with our fantastic Incursion where we spent a fun day completing activities focussed on community building, team work skills, resilience and communication. The day was highly successful as a lot of us were stretched out of our comfort zones and challenged to work in new ways! Since our incursion, we have been focussing on team challenges in our classrooms. These challenges are utilising the skills that we learnt on our incursion and in the first few weeks of school to encourage our team work. Some of the challenges we have completed so far are the paper holding challenge, the marshmallow tower challenge and the cup stacking challenge. Lots of fun had by all!

In Literacy this term, we have jumped into our reading learning! We are really encouraging our students to understand the role of the balanced reader by making it more explicit to them what is involved. We are focusing heavily on comprehension in our reading groups and independent activities to build upon the skills needed to be a strong balanced reader. In writing, we started the term by working on Narrative in which we focussed on the Sci-Fi Genre. This was new learning for a lot of students but something they became highly engaged with. We got to read some great narratives that were based in space, crazy science labs and alternate universe! We have just started introducing our new text type which is Expositions from the Persuasive

text genre. We have started investigating our students' starting points using our learning from Stephen Graham and are able to really hone in on what elements of persuasive writing our students are doing well and still developing. Particularly, we are focussing on our language choices and using language features such as emotive language, high modality and sequencing phrases to strengthen our writing.

In maths, we began our year with a unit called 'getting to know you' which we used a range of number concepts to investigate things such as our birthdates and heights. Next, we completed our unit called 'money, money, money' where students discovered ways to make up different values of money, subtraction and addition with the decimal and budgeting tasks. We have just started our third unit of the term which is called 'A Balancing Act' where students are investigating the job of the equals sign and learning how to balance equations.

Year 6/7 – Mrs Kosteriadis, Mr Coleman and Mrs Lock (Rooms 12, 13 and 14)

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

Classrooms have settled into a steady classroom routine. We have already had some health lessons around building a healthy classroom culture, as well as bullying and how to react and report.

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 looking into the structure of text types. We have been primarily focused with narrative as it coincides with our writing work.

In writing lessons we have been looking at narratives and students are building their understanding of structure and the importance of literary language. We have done a great deal of work on planning the writing process to allow students a clear and explicit structure. We have seen many interesting similes, metaphors and personification in their imaginative texts.

We are just started moving onto 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 Maths investigation "My personal Profile", 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.

In science we are looking at a unit titled "marvellous micro-organisms". Students are thoroughly enjoying the experiments and increased understanding of bacteria.

Junior Primary / Primary Art – Sue Graham

We have had a busy start to the year. Reception students are learning about basic colour theory. They have had fun mixing primary colours to create secondary hues. Middle primary students who were in rooms 9 and 10 last year have created art pieces based on the Russian fairy tale Baba Yaga. These students have attended a performance of Baba Yaga by Windmill Theatre. Along with students from South Downs Primary, they worked with a visual artist, an animator and a sound designer to create an installation in the foyer of Queen's Theatre. We were very excited to be part of the 2019 Adelaide Festival of Arts.

Senior students are refining their watercolour techniques and will create a final artwork that incorporates some of their new learning.

Junior Primary / Primary Science – James Yates

All year levels are continuing our work in the learning area of Physical Sciences.

Junior Primary students have been exploring sound and how sound is produced through vibrations and travels to our ears via sound waves. They have really enjoyed identifying different sounds and learning about soft and loud sounds.

Middle Primary students have been focussing on the concept of light and how we are able to see objects. Students really enjoyed creating a light obstacle course using torches and mirrors in order to track and map how light always travels in a straight line. We are starting to investigate transparent, translucent and opaque materials.

Upper Primary students have been engaged in an Essential Energy unit, which has been focussing on the types of energy that can be found throughout their homes, school and the community. Students have recently started in essential energy investigation in which they need to describe energy sources, types of energy and the advantages/disadvantages of non-renewable and renewable energy sources.

Junior Primary / Primary Language- Thi Hien Danh

This term has been an exciting start to the year. The children have been busy learning about Vietnamese New Year. To celebrate this special occasion, students had an opportunity to taste two different flavours of the traditional rice cakes that were made

from pork and banana. Students had been exposed to the folk tale about how “The rice cake was created for New Year Day”.

From the story “Bánh Chưng và Bánh Dày” a descriptive writing was created. Children were able to use Vietnamese to construct basic sentences to describe the rice cake.

Primary PE – James Yates and JP- Marie Lionello

It has been a great start to the new school year. During PE we have been focusing on building positive team work and team culture. Students have been participating in a variety of activities in preparation for Sports Day which will be held at the end of this term. Some of the activities students have been practicing include: High Jump, Long Jump, Ball relays, Sprints, Hurdles and many more.

EALD / Special Ed – Robyn Lewis and Thuy Tran Literacy Levelled Intervention (LLI support)

Most children have settled well into the LLI sessions. Unfortunately, we have had some interruptions that could not be avoided and students have been absent at some sessions. We understand and would not expect a child to attend a session if they are unwell. However, LLI tutors will continue to monitor and make contact with parents when students have been absent for more than 2 sessions consecutively to find out if all is ok. End of term testing in LLI groups will take place soon and parents will be informed of their child’s results soon after.

MP/UP Guided Writing

Since the beginning of the year we have been developing our narrative text writing by being creative. This week we have just begun to learn more about persuasive texts such as expositions and later discussions when both for and against a topic are argued. One of the reasons for beginning the year with these two types of texts is to prepare for the NAPLAN test, early in term 2. The texts are quite different in style, structure, grammar and language features so recognising which text structure is needed is most important.

Part of writing a good quality text is being able to talk about the text before writing it. Careful thinking while planning is also necessary before writing begins.

JP Guided Writing and Guided Reading

Guided Writing:

There has been lots of work around descriptive writing with the learning intention of being able to write colour, number and action sentences. The children have had picture prompts and key words to support them writing independently.

Guided Reading:

Students have responded well to their Guided Reading groups that have been happening in classes. Transitioning is a huge skill that students learn to do when participating in Guided Reading Rotations and activities. Of course all students work at different paces and stages and there are some students that still need a little more time to adapt to the changes that happen during this time.

It is great to see and hear the eagerness and enthusiasm students have towards their learning, when the learning intention is clear and they know exactly what they need to do (success criteria) to be able to be successful with their reading goals.

HAVE YOUR SAY – school photos

Our Governing Council is interested in hearing your thoughts with regards to school photos, particularly with regard to your preference of either a ‘traditional presentation’ or ‘composite presentation’ for class photos.

Individual photo options will remain as they are

Traditional Presentation



This traditional approach captures the entire class, including teachers. Student names appear below the group photograph.

Benefits: the whole class is photographed together

Disadvantage/s: there is no ‘catch-up day opportunity if a child is away and they will be missing from the photo

Composite Presentation



This option features the individual student’s portrait, along with smaller images of each of their classmates.

Benefits: we have a ‘catch-up day opportunity if a child is away, generally meaning all children are photographed. Photographers also have more control over the quality of individual shots.

Disadvantage/s: The whole group isn’t photographed together.

Please feel free to e-mail us with your preference should you have one or tick your preference box and return it to the office.

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- My preference is for a composite presentation
- My preference is for a traditional presentation

Term 1 WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1/04/2019	2/04/2019	3/04/2019	4/04/2019	5/04/2019
10					Athletics Carnival
	8/04/2019	9/04/2019	10/04/2019	11/04/2019	12/04/2019
11	External School Review	External School Review			SPORTS DAY World Book Day (23/4)

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	29/04/2019	30/04/2019	1/05/2019	2/05/2019	3/05/2019
1	World Book Day (23/4)			JP Safe w/ Emmy	Bike Ed Cross Country RAA Road Safety R-3
	6/05/2019	7/05/2019	8/05/2019	9/05/2019	10/05/2019
2				JP Safe w/ Emmy	Bike Ed STEPHEN GRAHAM @ VPS
	13/05/2019	14/05/2019	15/05/2019	16/05/2019	17/05/2019
3		NAPLAN ONLINE TESTING	NAPLAN ONLINE TESTING GC meeting 7pm	NAPLAN ONLINE TESTING JP Safe w/ Emmy	Bike Ed NAPLAN ONLINE TESTING WALK TO SCHOOL SAFELY
	20/05/2019	21/05/2019	22/05/2019	23/05/2019	24/05/2019
4	NAPLAN ONLINE TESTING YARD SURVEY	NAPLAN ONLINE TESTING YARD SURVEY	NAPLAN ONLINE TESTING YARD SURVEY	JP Safe w/ Emmy NAPLAN ONLINE TESTING YARD SURVEY	RAA Road Safety R-3 Bike Ed YARD SURVEY
	27/05/2019	28/05/2019	29/05/2019	30/05/2019	31/05/2019
5	PUPIL FREE DAY NO SCHOOL OSHC AVAILABLE	Reconciliation week		JP Safe w/ Emmy	Bike Ed
	3/06/2019	4/06/2019	5/06/2019	6/06/2019	7/06/2019
6			World Environment Day		Bike Ed Casual Clothes Day Kids Helping Our School ASSEMBLY
	10/06/2019	11/06/2019	12/06/2019	13/06/2019	14/06/2019
7	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday			Dental for schools	Dental for schools Bike Ed
	17/06/2019	18/06/2019	19/06/2019	20/06/2019	21/06/2019
8	Refugee week		Governing Council Meeting		
	24/06/2019	25/06/2019	26/06/2019	27/06/2019	28/06/2019
9			3-way discussions/ Report discussions LATE NIGHT	Bullying audit	ASSEMBLY
	1/07/2019	2/07/2019	3/07/2019	4/07/2019	5/07/2019
10	(NAIDOC WEEK 7-14 th)		3-way discussions/ Report discussions		Whole School Assembly