



EARLY YEARS U4M, U4T & U3 NEWSLETTER Term 1

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Introduction

Welcome to 2018! This newsletter contains important information about your child's learning this year. .

Morning Routine

We begin each morning with community reading. We believe this helps the students begin the day in a relaxed and positive way. This runs from 8.40am till approximately 9am each morning. In this time parents can read with their child, students can read together, teachers test students on their sight words and students record their take home book for that night in their reading journal. Students are provided with book boxes that they use to store books appropriate to their reading level. There should be 5 books in their book boxes at each time and these books are replaced once a week during class time.

Home Reading Journal

Each student has been provided with a Home reading journal which will be sent home each day in the blue reader folder. Each morning during community reading students will return books and record the name of the new book they will take home to read that night for homework. Each night after reading, parents and students can then write a comment in the comments box of that day. Students should read at least 5 books per week. These reading journals will be checked by the teacher weekly.

Communication Books

A communication book has been provided in your child's blue reader bag, which will be sent home each day. Teachers will use this book to communicate with you about your child and vice versa. If there is a message from you in the communication book please leave it in the communication book basket in your room so the teacher can read it.

Sight Words and Spelling Words

A sight word and spelling book will be provided for each student. Students who are yet to complete the 404 sight words will continue to practice 5 words each week at home and will be tested on their designated day. A timetable is displayed in the classroom for you to see when this is for your child. Spelling words will be divided into year-level groups and will be tested once a week beginning week 2. The spelling words will be stuck into this book for students to practice at home. Year 1's will receive 5 words per week and year 2's will receive 10 words. Spelling tests will be on Fridays and the following weeks words will also be given out on this day. All spelling tests are recorded in the back of the sight word book.

Star of the Day

Each day a child will be chosen at random to be the Star of the Day. This is a good opportunity to practice role modelling and take on various classroom responsibilities.

Walker Learning

In the early years at KPPS, we implement The Walker Learning Approach (WLA). WLA is a purposeful play based program, which acknowledges that both developmental and environmental influences impact on each individual's ability and timing of learning. In U3 and U4 students will be engaging in these Walker Learning experiences.

What does this look like?

Focus students - Each child will have an opportunity to be a focus student for a whole day once a fortnight, on average. A roster system is organised with all students listed over a fortnight so that parents, children and teachers know who will be a focus each day.

Tuning in - Welcome/administration, reflection and revision of learning intentions of the week and focus children conversations.

Investigation - Active hands-on experiences used as a springboard for formal teaching for the rest of the day. We have different learning areas, which include a Maths area, Writing area, Tinkering area, Sensory table, Reading corner, Science table, etc.

Reflection - This scaffolds focus students to reflect on their learning during investigation and to share with their peers.

More information can be found at:

<http://earlylife.com.au/info/section/walker-learning>

Curriculum

Connected Curriculum

In Term 1 for the Connected Curriculum, we will be focusing on the question: "How can sustainable environments impact the future?"

Year 1 will be exploring man-made and natural environments and investigating ways to be more sustainable, looking at the following big questions:

1. What impact do I have on the environment?
2. How can everything old be new again?
3. How does the weather affect the environment?

Year 2 will be looking at the River Torrens as a site of significance in the local community and will explore why places are important to people using the following big questions:

1. What is a significant place?
2. How do we care for places?
3. What are some significant places in South Australia?
4. What is the Aboriginal connection to significant places in South Australia?

Students will be exploring these questions by observing, asking questions, making predictions, participating in discussions and researching independently.

Literacy

We will be focusing on the structure of narrative writing and exploring narrative features in our Term 1 Author Study on Lauren Child. Term 1 will also focus on developing the structure of a recount. Students will also be provided with opportunities to explore features of writing through daily bookmaking lessons. These lessons will allow students to write to their own interests. In reading, students will consolidate reading comprehension strategies, in particular answering both inferential and literal questions about a text. Literacy groups based on your child's needs

will be developed in week 2 to be held four days a week with students moving between the U3 and U4 classes, as we work collaboratively.

Numeracy

We will be focusing on developing our number skills in Term 1 by exploring simple counting, addition and subtraction strategies. We will continue to increase our knowledge of place value and skip counting by 2s, 3s, 5s, and 10s. We will also be extending number knowledge by introducing the grouping of numbers through multiplication and division.

Homework

The DECD requirement for students in Year 1-2 is 15mins per day. This should consist of practicing sight words (if your child still does them), learning spelling words and reading. Maths homework is available through Mathletics online. Please see your child's communication book for their username and password.

Donations

We are always looking for donations to our Investigation resources. If you have any recyclable materials for making or old appliances for tinkering, please bring them in. Please do not bring in toilet rolls or egg cartons.
We are in need of tissue donations! If each family could please provide one box of tissues to the classroom that would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteers

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If you have a skill or hobby that you would like to share with our students (gardening, music, cooking etc) please come and see your class teacher to arrange a time to come in and work with our class. Volunteers must have the appropriate clearance. Please see the office if you need to arrange this.

Please feel free to email your child's teacher if you have any further questions.

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