



Dear Parents and Carers,

Semester 1 News

Welcome to Semester 1 in the Senior Learning Community (SLC). Below is a summary of topics and events this Semester, but please see us if you would like more information.

Literacy:

- **Reading** – comprehension, accuracy, fluency and expression, and expanding vocabulary. **Voracious reading!**
- Oral Language: speaking and listening activities, vocabulary, expression (to complement and assist reading).
- Writing: Information, narrative, persuasive writing, handwriting, keyboard skills.
- Punctuation/grammar – full stops, capital letters, commas, explanation marks, question marks, paragraphs, parts of speech, sentence structure.
- Nouns, Proper nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives
- Spelling – Words Their Way program.

Reading; Please assist us, and support your child’s reading development by encouraging and maintaining home routines. We expect 4-5 home reading sessions per week.

In addition to your child reading, he/she will also benefit from being read to and listening to audio books. Sharing a novel or any books of interest that can be enjoyed together, supports reading as well as oral language skills.

Classroom reading support is always welcome. If you or someone you know, has some time to spare and is interested we can provide guidance in best ways to support reading. Please see your child’s teacher or Class Rep.

Science, History and ‘Big Question’ Inquiry Learning are additional curriculum areas covered in Semester 1. The ‘Big question’ we will be investigating in Term 1 is “What does your body need to thrive and survive”?

During Term 1 we will be also exploring ‘**IDENTITY**’ and ‘**ATTITUDE**’, with a focus on Emotional and Social learning, (ESL)

Specialist Timetables: Please find attached the fortnightly specialist timetable for the SLC. Whereas we attempt to adhere to these timetables as closely as possible, they are ‘living’ documents and are, out of necessity, flexible in nature.

Numeracy:

- Place value, addition and subtraction strategies, factors and multiples, multiplication times tables, estimation and rounding, units of measurement, length/area/perimeter.
- Continued focus on strategies, thinking processes and reasoning working in maths.

Support in maths group activities is always welcome.

Home activities to support your child’s maths understanding include; telling the time, counting/using money, discussing measurement (fractions, metric measurements) in recipes, and other contexts (eg. driving), practising number facts (doubles, times tables)

HOW CAN YOU HELP??

We would welcome any support you are comfortable with; from reading or maths activities to tidying the library, dusting, sweeping, sharpening pencils.....

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden

If you are able to volunteer your time in the garden and cooking program, we would LOVE to have you.

WE NEED YOU! - Do you have any special skills or interests?? We would LOVE you to come in and share them with the students. Please don’t be shy/nervous- we believe the wider the range of input the greater the learning, and it’s impossible for a classroom teacher to be a specialist in all areas! Not only we would love the diversity your expertise could add but so would the students. Thank you to all who have returned the Parent exchange form- this information is invaluable in helping us to form a connection with our students. We will be in contact with those who have indicated their willingness to share their skills, as the term settles in, to work on mutually convenient times that this could happen.

COMMUNICATION: There are several ways to stay in touch:

- **COMMUNICATION POUCH/READING JOURNAL** – Each student has a communication pouch, each fortnight the students complete a bi weekly calendar, to help keep you informed on timetable and weekly activities and to assist students with organisation. This pouch will also be used for the transportation of notes and permission forms, to and from school. Please remind your child to keep this pouch in their bags as a vital link between school and home.
- Pop in (before or after school) to organise a mutually suitable time to catch up.
- Leave a message at the office
- Send an Email via the school:
wintersflat.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Send an email direct to one of us. Please allow at least 36 hours for a reply. More urgent info/queries are best dealt with via the office
brooks.karen.e@edumail.vic.gov.au
harris.marie.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
lucas.keenan.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
- Via school XUNO App
- Mobile number; 0403012542- (Karen) for quick short things that we may need to know to best understand any issues/ absences for your child. Or to seek a time to catch up. Please be respectful of personal boundaries.

Please remember that you are very welcome to come into the classroom with your child (before or after school), to see your child's work or see what has been

TARGET 60 READING PROGRAM

The Target Reading program is a one on one program to assist students with reading differences to accelerate their achievements. No skills are needed to be a tutor just motivation and enthusiasm to assist. Times are very flexible (outside of specialist programs). To implement a session 30 minutes are required between 1 and 5 times a week. If you are able and interested please see me for more information and to discuss times that you are available.

STUDENT WELLBEING:

School Times: School commences at **8:55 am** and ends at **3:15 pm**. **Please endeavour to be punctual. Lateness affects your child and others in the class.**

Water Bottles/Jumpers: Please make sure your child comes to school with a full water bottle and school jumper and ensure these items are named.

Nude Food and healthy eating: Our School policies emphasise nude food and healthy eating. Packaging needs to be taken home and highly processed foods do not fit with our Healthy eating policy. Also, please check in with your child as they often have growth spurts and require extra healthy food.

Sleep: Recent research indicates that children in this age range require a minimum of 10-11 hours sleep per night. Tiredness affects their concentration and behaviour.

Physical Activity: In addition to a weekly P.E. session, students also take part in additional physical activities to enhance fitness levels and concentration.

Mindfulness and Circle Time: We do our best to ensure students have opportunities to develop mindfulness and personal awareness skills. Restful activities at home will enhance this.

Social Worker: Belle Ganglmair provides our school with wellbeing support.

Please note that a permission form needs to be completed before she can support your child.

Care for Crows – Care for Self, Care for Others and Care for Environment.

- The Care for Crows encapsulates our School Wide Positive Support program.
- In consultation with the students, a 'code of conduct', caring for self, others and the environment, has been drawn up and agreed to, to form the basis of the 'corporate culture' within our Senior Learning Community, both within the classroom and the school grounds. We are working hard to foster and develop these values within all students and teaching and learning staff within our group.
- Students of the Week and behaviour foci draws at Assembly are opportunities for students to receive public acknowledgment of their positive behaviours.
- Weekly foci are discussed each week in class.
- Green Clean Fridays involves classes maintaining an allocated area.

HOMEWORK;

At times additional homework may be set, for example a research task/times table practice sheet. When set these will be sent home, in the communication/reading pouch. Any variations will be noted. Your child is responsible for homework tasks and it is not the intention for it to become a battle ground- a simple reminder is all that should be needed, with the ultimate responsibility for the task remaining with the student. Students will have the opportunity to complete unfinished homework/classroom tasks during 'CATCH UP CLUB' on a Tuesday or Thursday lunchtime.

THE INDEPENDENT LEARNER;

Our goal in the SLC is to foster and develop all of our students to become independent, self-motivated, collaborative learners, and we will work with our students throughout the year on this.

As well as the 'Care Crow' classroom code of conduct agreement (See within our learning areas), we have also developed a system to allow and encourage all students towards 'self-umpiring' within the school day. This includes developing a morning and afternoon routine, as well as a Self-Umpiring/Umpiring behaviour encouragement system.

Morning routine; includes checking in attendance, ensuring water bottles are filled up, checking hats, books for independent reading and meeting 'ready to learn'.

Afternoon routine; includes checking out, 'Pack as you go' and again being ready to learn at the end of the lunch bell.

Self- Umpiring/Umpiring behaviour encouragement system; (ask your child to explain)

Green card- # 'take a raffle ticket' (self- umpiring)

Yellow card- # Pull your socks up, # Pull your head in (self- umpiring)

Red card- # Take a 10 minute break (Umpiring - care needed)

DIARY DATES;

March

5th - Parent/Student/Teachers Meet and Greet (please book via Xuno)

21st - Harmony day

26th- AFL9s/netball

26/27th- **proposed Grade 6 'camping adventure'**

TBA

Welcome to Country

School Cross Country (W9)

Inter School Cross Country (T2)

SLC Bike Hike- Botanical Gardens

PLEASE NOTE; it is our expectation that all students will participate in all extra curricula activities, as they have a focus on participation and inclusion. As a part of developing active independent learners, we encourage all students to be 'risk takers' in situations that may be outside of their comfort zone. Please assist us in encouraging your child to take advantage of ALL learning activities and opportunities open to them.

We recently sent home our computer use agreement. Please chat with your student about safe practice and school expectations around this. If you have any questions or concerns please chat to us. Students will be unable to continue to use the school network until the signed agreement is returned.

QUESTIONS?????????

Ask your child to explain or please don't hesitate to contact one of the teaching/learning team or make a time for a chat.

We look forward to seeing you over the next two weeks at the parent/student/teacher meet and greet.

Thanking you in anticipation for your ongoing support and participation in your child's school year

Warm regards

The Senior Teaching and Learning Team

Karen (Mon-Thurs)

Keenan (Mon-Fri)

Marie (Mon-FRI)

Sam M (FRI)

Morgan and Marg (Support staff- Mon-Fri)

Bron (Support staff- Mon-Wed)

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