

2021 R17 Term 1 Note To Parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back everyone. I look forward to a productive, exciting term and a special year. 2021 will be a unique, sensational year.

Our theme for this term is **“Moving Forward”**. **We will be moving forward in so many ways! Year 7’s AND Year 6’s will be graduating at the end of the year. Wow, that’s special as our school system transitions towards all year 7’s attending secondary school from 2022.**

In order to prepare your child, we will be moving forward/working towards preparation for high school which includes the implementation of a middle years program. There will be a strong emphasis on student agency/voice, leadership, civics and citizenship, focus on dispositions (21st. century learning), values and creativity. With a high level of support and encouragement, your child will be expected to work towards achieving successful outcomes. It will be exciting as we move towards learning content, learning how to learn and how to become involved as active citizens.

During the first 2 weeks of school we will be getting to know each other, we will revise our school values, expectations and I will be undertaken a range of assessments and gather data in order to move forward with individual goals and to assist with programming and planning.

The ETPS Parent Acquaintance Evening will be held TUESDAY 9 February. I encourage all parents/carers to attend as further information will be provided.

In **English** we will be focusing on the exposition and recount genres. Depth, clarity, expression, sentence structure, accurate spelling, range of vocabulary will be developed over time. They will be expected to write, a lot! Students will be reading, reviewing and writing a variety of texts based around a range of issues. The Debating Program will be introduced with students given the opportunity to discuss/debate a variety of topics, work in teams, learn about the 3 M’s of Debating – “Method, Manner and Matter”.



It is anticipated that the DebatingSA Program will begin in term 2. I am planning to coach ETPS teams that will have the chance to debate other schools at Pembroke College in terms 2 and 3. This is an extra-curricula program. If your child likes to argue and would like to join the team, I can help hone their skills! During class time we will all learn about debating and I am planning to run a school debate club once a week during lunch time. I am thinking of rather than naming it “Debating Club” I would name it **“I’m Not Arguing, I’m Just Explaining Why I’m Right”!!**

Creative Poetry and Spelling are part of the English Program. “Words Their Way” and subject-specific vocabulary will be the foci of the spelling program. Learning about and using a variety of poetry styles will also not only develop creativity but also support grammar and punctuation.

In **Mathematics** students will be focussing on number. It is expected that students by the end of primary school ought to know numbers up to a billion. (for some students, beyond!) As we **move forward**, we will work towards what that means, what it looks like, how we calculate and use “big” numbers. Place value, maths moments, using the 4 processes, money amounts, mental routines, problematized situations and extended tasks will be used to support mathematical learning and development.

In **HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences)** we will be focussing on Civics and Citizenship and Parliamentary Debating. We will learn about the levels of government, the importance of understanding how government works, how to be an active citizen. The rule of law/constitution will be looked at, leading to an analysis of the justice system. (natural, social, restorative, punitive, juvenile justice system) We will brainstorm a range of topics and inquiry questions related to the theme that students may be interested in exploring. We will discuss how they will “show they know”. I am also hoping to organise excursions to our Local Council, Government House and Parliament House. I am also hoping that the Parliamentary Debating Program still exists in 2021 as it would be a fantastic opportunity to support the Debating Program and the Civics and Citizenship Program. This curriculum area will also be supported by a range of tasks we will undertake around “Values”, “Expectations”, Daily Class Meetings, Class Constitution, Incentives and Behaviour Flow Charts.

I will also be asking my class what they expect of me!

The Arts – focus on the Expressive Arts and Dance. It is said that *“Creativity is Intelligence Having Fun”*. We will create art works based on silhouettes, form and structure. We will dance the Marcerana, Bus Stop, Zorba, Madison and students will work in small groups to create their own “dance works”.

Homework/Diary/Books – Developing Ownership and Responsibility

Each fortnight you child will receive a homework grid. Your child has a diary and a homework book. Homework entries are completed at home and recorded ready for me to check on the due date. If homework is done, your child will have the opportunity to access “Friday Free Fun Time”.

Books should also be covered. I encourage all students to have their books covered by week 3. If they are not, they tend to get very unsightly and frayed. Students in the middle years need to take responsibility for homework and books. A high level of support and encouragement may be required from both home and school. Parents please set up structures and processes at home to assist your child to meet their obligations.

Hats/Uniform/Mobile Phones (including “smart” watches)

Your child is expected to wear a hat during times when they are outside and our school has a Dress Code. Mobile phones need to be in the office during school hours. There is a plastic sleeve in our classroom and students are asked to place their device in that sleeve at the beginning of the school day.

Behaviour

We are all expected to follow the school’s values, code of conduct and behaviour flow plan. In class, we will discuss our class constitution, consequences (positive/punitive/restorative) and each day your child will have the opportunity to discuss issues. Active student voice includes obligations and abiding by clear processes and structures. We will have a “Fill It UP” Jar where the class will have the chance to work towards a class incentive for appropriate behaviours.

Parent Feedback - Parents/carers please email me (suzi.vladimirova242@schools.sa.edu.au)

OR phone me 83371411 OR write in your child’s diary OR in the homework book OR pop in. (mindful of Covid restrictions). Many ways to keep in touch.

We are all **MOVING FORWARD**. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to supporting your child’s learning journey.

Suzi Vladimirov

