



# SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

An Independent Public School  
Working Together, Achieving More

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May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2 in Area 31. This term we have got so much packed in we thought it would be good to provide you with an update.

## **ECU Practicum Teachers**

Firstly we welcome Miss Jennifer Warhurst and Miss Sarah MacPherson to Area 31 from ECU. Miss Warhurst and Miss MacPherson have joined us for the whole of Term 2 as part of their final teaching practicums in their university degrees. We wish them all the best and they have already made a great start to the term with a number of great initiatives.

## **Class Dojo**

By now we are certain your child would have told you all about “Class Dojo” our new class behaviour/reward system that has been put in place by Miss Warhurst and Miss MacPherson. This program encourages students to earn “Positive Dojo Points” for a number of different reasons including working hard, participating well, choosing/showing respect and many others. Students may also receive “Negative Dojo Points” for not making the right choices during lessons, these may include but not limited to, being rude, not following instructions, making poor choices etc. So far Area 31 has collectively earned over 700 Dojo points as a class with very few negative dojos being issued. Students are working hard to achieve different milestones to receive awards, incentives and privileges along the way. We look forward to seeing how it progresses over the term.

If you would like to follow your child’s progress with their dojo points please visit [www.classdojo.com/C6ZJINUX](http://www.classdojo.com/C6ZJINUX) to link in with our class.

## **Doors Open**

Doors will continue to open between 8.30am and 8.40am to allow students to prepare themselves for the day ahead. Students who are involved with the choir on Tuesday mornings are reminded that Choir starts at 8.30am and as such these students are permitted to enter Mango Block at 8.25am on Tuesdays to unpack their bags prior to Choir.

## **Library**

A reminder that our Library session is on a Tuesday morning between 9.30am and 10.30am. Students are reminded to ensure that they have their Library bag with them on a Tuesday as we have a strict “No Bag, No Borrow” policy in place. This is to ensure that the books borrowed from the library are looked after appropriately. Your subtle assistance to remind students of their responsibilities is appreciated.

## **Lexile/Homework**

The Lexile reading program is continuing this term and students are encouraged to read as many books as possible. A number of students have earned their Blue Certificate by achieving over 25 points through the program with a handful of students securing their Red Certificate for over 50 points. Students earn points by successfully passing Lexile book quizzes. We will be closely monitoring the progress of students who are yet to achieve their Blue Certificate and will be supporting them in working hard to achieve this quickly.

## **Water Bottles and Hats**

A reminder that the school has a “No Hat, No Play” policy in place all year round to promote healthy habits and sun-smart awareness.

## **Tissues**

As the cooler weather begins to approach we would appreciate some donations of Tissues to our classroom. Boxes of Tissues can be purchased for 95 cents from Coles or similar.

## **Connect (Online Portal)**

Students have been utilising *Connect* on a regular basis to access some of the online resources that we use in Area 31. *Connect* also has information about some of our learning experiences and activities. Over the course of the next few weeks more information and activities will be uploaded for students to access both at home and school. We encourage parents to visit the Connect page with their children to see what they have been learning over the year.

To access it, students use the same log on details as they would use at school. The web address is [www.connect.det.wa.edu.au](http://www.connect.det.wa.edu.au)

## **Edu-Dance**

Edu-Dance is back for 2017 and Area 31 have their lessons on a Monday afternoon between 1 and 2pm. (A15 – 1-1.30pm and A16 1.30-2pm) As always the concert extravaganza will be at the end of the term with details about when and costuming to be released closer to the day.

## **Assemblies**

As Area 31 is made up to 2 classes we are presenting not 1 but 2 assemblies this year. We have decided to create a special 2-part assembly to celebrate NAIDOC Week and our Indigenous Studies. Our two assembly dates will be Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (Weeks 9 and 10) and we would love as many parents to join us. We have already started planning and working on the performances in our Performing Arts lessons with Miss Warhurst and Miss MacPherson and for those of you who have seen assemblies performed by our classes in previous years, it's going to be EPIC!

## **Excursions**

We are currently in the early planning stages of organising an excursion to Yanchep National Park to support our Humanities and Social Science (HaSS) studies. Once details are confirmed we will provide further information but as with all excursions we will require some parental assistance on the day.

## **Parent Meetings**

If you would like to meet with us to discuss your child, please feel free to come and see us and we can make an appointment. We are happy to meet with parents most afternoons, subject to other meetings and commitments. We are hoping to meet with as many parents as possible over the coming weeks as we head towards the mid-year reports so please pop in and select a time to meet with us. There will be a list of available times posted outside Area 31.

## **Fidget Spinners**

Recently Fidget Spinners have become the latest craze to hit the market. These devices are designed to assist students with diverse learning needs to better focus and engage in their classes. Unfortunately, over the first two weeks of term a number of students have been too distracted by these devices and have not been appropriately focussed in class. We have also had parents in to discuss with us the "deals" that some students have been making in buying these devices from other students. On top of this, several students have spoken to us about their spinner becoming damaged or lost. Therefore it is with regret that we have come to the decision to ban these devices from Area 31. As teachers we acknowledge the benefit of these kinds of devices for students who have diverse learning needs and require assistance in concentrating more appropriately in class. However we feel that this is currently not the case at the moment in Area 31 and alternative approaches that have been implemented by the teachers within Area 31 are more beneficial for the students.

## **What will we be learning this term?**

Well with all the excitement of NAPLAN, Edu-Dance, Assemblies and a possible excursion we still have the Mid-Year reports coming up so we better do some learning as well. 😊 So here is a quick rundown of what we will cover this term.

### **English**

Our English program continues to improve the student's reading, writing and spelling skills. With the added benefit of four teachers in the classroom this term we will be working hard in this area by having students working in small groups with the teachers on a daily basis for spelling. Each teacher will support a group on their spelling journey by engaging students in exciting activities that are not just about writing down the words like a robot but interacting with the words in fun and exciting ways.

In our reading sessions we will continue to develop the important reading strategies that students need through the use of a number of indigenous dreamtime stories and associated non-fiction content. Each teacher will spend the week with a small group identifying and utilising the reading strategies through a variety of texts.

In Writing, students will continue to be immersed in a number of genres of writing and will continue to develop their writing skills.

### **Maths**

#### *Number and Algebra*

This term we are focusing on the key concepts of number understanding –including vocabulary, use of operations, sequencing and problem solving. We will continue with our Number of the Day activities to promote mathematical understanding and fluency.

#### *Measurement and Geometry*

With Mr Vine, we will be investigating shapes and the area & perimeter of regular and irregular shapes through a variety of interactive hands-on activities whilst with Miss MacPherson we will use scaled instruments to measure and compare lengths, masses, capacities and temperatures. We will also learn to compare objects using familiar metric units.

#### *Statistics and Probability*

Ms Anna has developed a series of lessons for the concepts of chance and probability. Through the use of games students will be able get a greater understanding of these ideas. With Miss Warhurst, we will be investigating data representation and interpretation through a variety of hands on data collection methods. Students will also be developing their own survey questionnaire and choosing the appropriate data displays to record their results. Students will also be evaluating the effectiveness of different displays in various settings.

### **Humanities and Social Sciences**

This term Miss Warhurst will be leading this learning area and our focus will be Indigenous Australia. Students will learn about the diversity of Australia's first peoples and the long and continuous connections that Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people have to country, paying particular attention to the Dreamtime. Students will investigate the meaning of the Dreamtime and the stories that were made around this time. We will be comparing and contrasting the way in which Indigenous people lived compared to how we do now, look at symbols and their way of communicating and also be creating their own Dreamtime story. To finish the unit we will have guest speakers come in to talk to the class about NAIDOC week and its importance within our country.

### **Science**

This term Miss MacPherson will be leading this learning area and our focus will be on the Earth and Space content area. Students will be gaining an understanding of how the Earth's surface changes over time as a result of natural processes and human activity. Soils, rocks and landforms will be under investigation as we develop our understanding of their features and how different things affect them.

## **Digital Technology**

This term we are continuing on our coding journey and have been working hard getting our zombies, bees and artists through the various levels on the computers. We are half way through the course and the students are thoroughly enjoying this new and exciting program.

## **Performing Arts**

In preparation for our upcoming Assemblies, Miss Warhurst and Miss MacPherson will be leading the Performing Arts sessions by developing the elements of drama and dance through various games and activities. Students will develop skills in areas such as leadership, cooperation, spatial awareness and movement. The program will link with Humanities as we explore the Dreamtime story; *How the Birds got their Colours*.

## **Health**

In health we have been using the programs “Friendly kids friendly classrooms and “Games for growing” to help promote a healthy learning environment for all.

We are looking forward to having another great term and hope that the experiences provided are as much fun for the students as it is for the teachers to plan and deliver.

Kind Regards

Mr Matthew Vine, Ms Anna Haydn-Smith, Miss Warhurst and Miss MacPherson

Area 31