

Keppel Sands State School



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From the Principal

3 March 2017

Hello Everyone,

Religion

Religion will recommence next Monday afternoon. Mr and Mrs Donaldson will be delivering our Religious Instructions program to Keppel Sand's students. Religion Instruction will be held from 2:00 – 2:30pm. Students will remain in their class groups. Students not participating in religion will work with Miss Julie on a values program.

Assembly

Assembly is held every Monday afternoon from 2:55 – 3:00 pm. It is a time when the whole school can come together for messages for the week and celebrate great learning that has occurred in the classroom.

School Camp and Swimming

With our additional staffing allocation this year we are able to hold a school camp. Organising, managing and facilitating a school camp requires a significant amount of additional workload on our staff. Keppel Sands State School is fortunate to have staff who are happy to put in this effort for our students. Attached to this newsletter is a feedback form for parents. Please return this to school **by Monday** as we only have a small window to lock this in. There is also a feedback form for swimming with this to gather feedback from parent on the possibility of running an additional swimming program in term one.

Consent Forms

These forms were sent home yesterday. Please return them this week to ensure your child/ren are allowed computer access.

Breakfast

Breakfast is held each Friday from 8.30am to 8.45am. Please note that there will be no cooking after clean up commences at 8.45am.

Keppel Kitchen

Keppel Kitchen will be starting in week 4 – on Wednesday February 15th. An order form will go home in the next couple of weeks.

Hot Weather

Please make sure you send a water bottle with the students to school each day. The students can place it on their desk and have a drink at any time.

P – 2 CLASSROOM

There are some exciting things happening in our room this term.

Communication booklets

The children have a communication booklet that will be sent home every Friday, informing you on how they are going during the week. This covers behaviour, testing, homework and general comments. I encourage you to read these and celebrate the achievements your child/ren are making in the classroom. Please sign and return to the school every Monday.

Sticker books

For the achievements of behaviour in the classroom children are given stickers. They can receive a sticker for: following the rules, working quietly, being kind to each other, neat writing, being on task and having some great ideas. The aim is for the children to get 20 stickers. Once they have received 20 stickers they are allowed to choose out of the prize box a prize for great behaviour in the classroom. When your child/ren come home with a prize please celebrate their achievements.

English

The children are learning how to write narratives. They are exploring how a story is written and structured. They are beginning to understand that a narrative has a beginning that introduces a character, a middle where the character has a problem and an end where the problem is solved. Towards the end of term the children will be writing their own narratives.

Science

Children are exploring the world around them through a unit called “Life and Living”. The children last week explored how we can use our five senses in different ways to understand what we are seeing, hearing, tasting, seeing, smelling and touching. The children had a lot of fun using their senses and trying to figure out what they were doing.

This week the children explored the outside environment, where they had to find animals around in our school. They used magnifying glasses, tweezers and paintbrushes so that they could have a closer look at the animals and be able to draw them in their science journal like real scientists.

Design Technology

Design technology is connected to our reef unit. The children are exploring what pollution does to our animals and plant life in the Great Barrier Reef. They are working towards being able to make their own model of a very polluted reef to help make an impact on the community and send a message that polluting our ocean is detrimental for all of us. Children will need to start to collect items that could be recycled such as, cans, bottles, plastic, lids, etc.

Digital Technology

The children this term will be exploring robotics and learning how to make things that move or have an action using our robotic lego. Towards the end of the term they will be asked to make their own design and have it move in a particular way.

Library

As of next week Library borrowing will be on a Monday, so please remind your children to bring their books back for borrowing every Monday.

The children are very excited by all the things that are happening in our classroom and may come home very excited by the day's experiences.

That's all the news for now from the P-2 classroom.

Mrs Brady, Ms Julie and Ms Kathleen



Communication

This year in our year 3-6 class we are trialling Class Dojo to improve communication between student learning at school and home. Students are able to make a note, or take a photo or video of their learning and add it to their story. If parents have downloaded the app, they will get instant access to their child's story. Parents will also have access to their child's classroom reward system. At this stage we are only giving out positive behaviours. From week three we will begin to use, 'Needs Work' behaviours. These will be used to remind students when they are not working well towards their learning. Please remember we all make mistakes and can be off task at times. These are not big issues, but reminders for our students to assist them develop great learning behaviours. The response from parents has been positive. Please see me if you have any suggestions or issues with Class Dojo.

Curriculum

English

The 3-6 classroom has two English Groups. They are the year 3/4s and 5/6s. Both groups are studying Narratives. In particular in the last two weeks, both groups have been looking at characters and the structure of a Narrative.

Mathematics

The 3-6 classroom has three Mathematics Groups. They are year 3, 3/4/5 and 5/6. Students are grouped according to their mathematical ability and either extended or supported, depending on their mathematical capability. In the last two weeks, students have been developing their understanding of Number and Place Value. In particular, students have investigated how to partition numbers (break numbers into different parts) and add and subtract numbers using a

variety of strategies. The year 5/6 group have been looking at fractions and adding fractions with common and relative denominators. Students are continuing to use the Reflex website to consolidate their recall of basic addition, subtraction and multiplication facts.

Technology/Reef

Throughout the school, students are investigating the Great Barrier Reef. In the 3-6 classroom we are looking at the five threats to our reef and thinking of solutions. Additional to this, students have designed plans for a vehicle/Robot that can assist to solve these problems. This term students will engineer these designs using Lego Mindstorms. They will then Code their creations to perform solutions.

Homework

Homework books are taken home on Mondays and come back to school on Fridays. Students can plan when they complete their homework, but should read for ten minutes each night. Some parents have requested additional maths homework. This will be available from next week, but is not compulsory. Please see me if you would like your child/children to have maths homework.

Consistency

Students are able to reflect on their learning through Class Dojo and our Twitter Wall (a noticeboard in our classroom). The noticeboard takes the concept from online Twitter. *Twitter is an online news and social networking service where users post and interact with messages, "tweet," restricted to 140 characters.* The idea is students can write a quick reflection of their learning which they post to our board. We will look for trends in learning. Please feel welcome to visit our room and have a look at our Twitter Board.

Ms Mackenzie and Mr R

P&C News



The first General Meeting will be held on Wednesday Feb 8 at 1pm in the office. Easter Markets are our first large event and any ideas you have would be most appreciated. **The AGM has been set down for Wednesday March 8 at 1pm.**

More helpers are required for the Wednesday Night Raffles. If you can assist, please see Karen or Moira.

DATE CLAIMERS

Wednesday	08 February	P & C General Meeting - 1pm
Wednesday	15 February	Keppel Kitchen
Wednesday	08 March	P & C AGM – 1pm

Have a great weekend,

Moira Mackenzie

Principal