



School Newsletter

Term 4 Week 3

22 October 2015

Dates to Remember

October

- 27th - 1/2S Speaker of the Term
- 28th - 1/2S Assembly
- 29th - Starting Blocks - Session 1 and Parent information session

November

- 2nd - Play Day Performance Y3-Y6
- 2nd - 13th - Swim Scheme
- 5th - Starting Blocks - Session 2
- 5th - 2044 Training Band Information Session at Tempe PS 6:30pm-7pm
- 11th - Remembrance Day Assembly
- 13th - 3/4T Speaker of the Term
- 16th - Applications for entry to Selective HS close
- 25th - K/1MP Assembly

December

- 1st - K/1MP Speaker of the Term
- 2nd - Play Day Performance Y3-Y6
- 4th - Resports Sent Home
- 5th - P&C Disco
- 7-11 - Parent Teacher Interview Week
- 10th - Presentation Day

Reminders

- All absences need to be explained - preferably by using the parent portal feature or by sending in a note.
- All notes that contain money **MUST** come to the front office.
- Follow our twitter account @SPPSnews at <http://twitter.com> and receive timely news updates.



Pogo Success

What a fantastic two weeks it has been with a flying start to the term. There has been plenty of quality learning happening in all the classrooms as Drishaya and Evette point out in their article written for this newsletter.

Perhaps though the two highlights have been the great start to our Peer Support program and the immense success of the Pogathon Challenge, which is joint venture between many public schools including ourselves Tempe, Petersham and others. On a hot Friday morning, children from 3/4T walked after PSSA to Tempe PS for the Pogathon. At 1pm the challengers started to bounce on their pogo sticks. The aim was to keep as many people in the court as possible and bounce for one hour. The challenge is supporting **beyondblue** which is an organisation tackling issues of depression. The ability to bounce back and be resilient to various difficulties we face in life is a 21st century skill. Last Friday I witnessed a perfect visual example of that as tired bodies, chaffed knees and souring temperatures were overcome to meet the challenge. Miss Thomson who led the students has been a sterling supporter of the challenge and for that we are very grateful.

Peer Support is in full swing and with two sessions now it was very interesting to discuss and reflect with the 5/6LW students leading the groups how the two different sessions differed. All agree it was challenging and interesting. Walking around the groups it is clear that it is a fantastic addition to our personal development and well being programs.

Peer Support



Our Peer Support program has started in earnest this last two weeks and it is clear that it is a big hit with many of the students and all of the staff. The program itself is aimed at developing 21st century skills within children, designed to make themselves resilient to change, collaborators and critical thinkers. The intention of using stage 3 students to lead the program is to give them additional leadership opportunities that perhaps they might never get until they enter the workforce. The leaders have been trained by Miss Sheridan and lead the students at the school in groups. Back in class the leaders reflect on the program after having gained feedback from their supervising teachers.

Mandarin for 2016

A consistent message that emerged from surveys conducted as part of the school planning process and through discussions with the community is that many parents would like to see the introduction of a language program to introduce a language to the students, as well as the cultural aspects that accompany it. Importantly though, the program should be K-6.

In answer to this, the school is proud to announce that starting next year, a Mandarin Language program will be taught at the school for 1 hour every week. This program will be taught by Miss Yi Yang who is currently a Community Language Teacher within the department. The program will be designed to introduce the students to conversational Mandarin and aspects of Asian culture including calligraphy, costume, dance etc.



Band Program for 2016



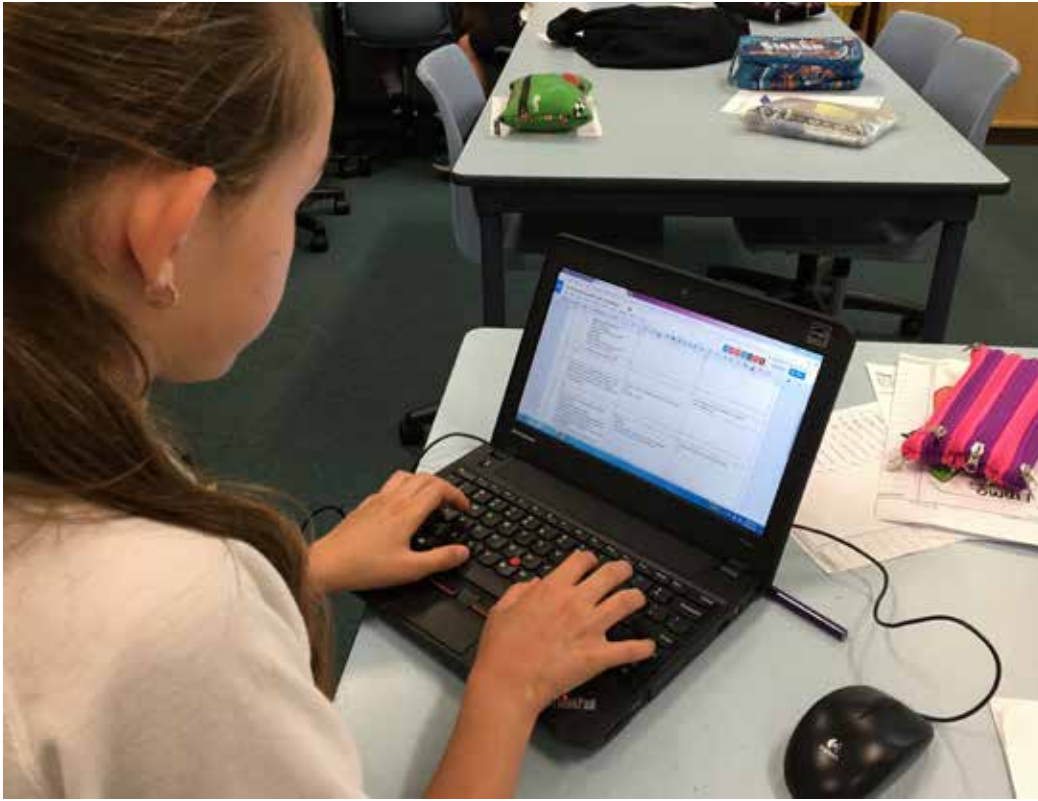
Traditionally St Peters has been too small to host its own band program. A frequent element of the extracurricular activity list at bigger schools, band programs require a number of students to work successfully.

This gave me the idea that perhaps we could work with another school and add students to their band program and subsequently improve their band. Discussion with Tempe PS began early in Term 2 and I am now proud to announce that the Tempe Public School Training Band will be rebranded to the 2044 Training Band consistent with our shared postcode.

On Thursday 5 November in the evening at Tempe PS an information evening will be held, which will be open to all St Peters PS parents who have a child going into year 2, 3 or 5 to attend. At the evening you will receive information as to how the band works and how you can join.

I urge you to take up this fantastic opportunity. We are arranging for the band to come and play to the students before this date to kindle some interest and shortly a flier advertising the evening will be sent out.

Fantastic Learning in Weeks 2 and 3



Welcome to our class focus newsletter article which looks at what has been happening in all of the classes in the school this week. There has certainly been lots of great learning happening so lets get straight down to it.

In the past two weeks 3/4T have been very busy learning. They have been doing volume and capacity in maths, which is how big something is in units such as square cm and metres. They have also been doing capacity, which is like volume but it is the maximum on how much something can contain in millilitres, litres and other measuring units. For English 3/4T learned about fairy tales. They have also enjoyed science because they are feeling dirt with sanitary gloves and feeling where it comes from and because they got to do lots of exciting experiments. Not only did 3/4T have fun in their classroom, they had a blast outside when they were participating in the beyondblue Pogothon. It is an Australian independent non-profit organisation that is for issues such as depression, anxiety disorders and related mental disorders. On Monday this week we wore blue to raise awareness and brought in a gold coin to donate to the beyondblue fundraiser. The most challenging thing for 3/4T was spelling rundayvu, they defeated the challenge by practising it. Everyone in 3/4T had an exciting and busy week but they had some fun along the way.

1/2S had quite a lot of things they have been learning and they must have enjoyed it! They did volume and capacity like the 3/4's and they learnt about the environment when it is wet or dry. They went into groups to research different environments. They enjoyed working on the environment the most because they got to do lots of activities such as making posters about the environment. Persuasive writing is an important skill to have when debating, which is what

1/2S exactly did. They had loads of fun doing debating, listening to their classmates talk about a topic and then doing it themselves. Maths is something some students find hard because there are lots of problems using multiplication and division. To overcome their difficulties they tried and tried their best so that they could finish the problem.

K/1MP tried out so many things these past two weeks that they have enjoyed. In English they tried to say words by sounding them out, they also tried out writing and as the saying goes, 'practice makes perfect'. Maths is quite difficult whether you're in kindy or year 6, you start from counting numbers all the way to dividing. When K/1MP

started counting it must've been difficult for the kindy's but in the end they succeeded by practising. They enjoyed doing fun things in class, some children liked doing peer support because they thought the activities were fun, while others enjoyed Jellybeans because they got to sing, dance and play music. Creative play is also one of the exciting things that they liked to do because they got to use their imagination throughout the lesson. Spelling and writing out words is also tricky for kindy's because it is their first year in primary school. They still have to learn much vocabulary throughout the years in primary school and high school. Using sight words and sounding out phonetic words that have similar sounds helps them with this. K/1MP got through all of this by asking the teacher for help, getting better and better and yes, practicing.

In 5/6LW we have been starting to work on a project that focuses on the difference between a democracies like Australia and other systems of government like dictatorships. The project has seen us watch some video of what it is like to live in North Korea. Using our knowledge of Australian government learnt last term we then compared them. In our groups we are working on developing a storyboard and then a script that we will produce a video from using the iPad's and our iMac's. We have also been exploring states of matter - solid, liquid and gas in science with Mr Park. It's been great because its been very hands on with lots of experimenting.

Thanks for reading our snapshot of classroom happenings at St Peters PS. In week 5 Kiara and Alisi will be taking up the challenge to tell you about the weeks 4 and 5 events.

Evette and Drishya

Pogothon

“Riding a pogo, just like life, has its ups and downs – but if we’re resilient, we can bounce back.”

In week 3 of last term, Mr Barton Williams the founder of Pogo Pulse ran a workshop for the students in 3/4T on how to ride a pogo stick safely. Following on from that workshop the students in 3/4T practised riding pogo sticks twice a week during their PE lessons. At first the students found staying on the pogo stick for more than 5 jumps to be difficult and they were constantly falling off. Through determination and embracing the ‘bounce back’ spirit of pogo pulse the students always got back on and tried again.

After weeks of practising all students saw a progress in their ability to ride a pogo. Some students can now ride for more than 25min, ride with no hands or only one foot, and can jump onto and off raised equipment. All of this training was in preparation for the **WORLD’S FIRST NATIONAL BOUNCE BACK DAY POGO-THON** on **FRIDAY** October 16th 2015. On this day teams of students at registered

schools across NSW and South Australia collectively bounced on pogo sticks for an hour raising funds for beyondblue.

Our team consisted of Ofa Latu, Tahir Martin, Charlotte Murder, Andrew Tsiknis, Theo V and Theo W. The weather was very hot on the day but the students persisted (took breaks when needed) and had a really enjoyable day bouncing with over 50 other students. A big thank you to Mr Williams for running such an enjoyable and worthwhile event. We’re looking forward to hopefully taking a bigger team next year.

For more info about Pogo Pulse or to purchase pogo sticks go to www.pogopulse.com.au.

Miss Thomson

