



Term Two 2023 has Arrived.

Welcome back to Term Two. This term is shaping up to be one full of learning and extra experiences. This is a reporting term and this makes it even more important than ever that your child is at school for as many days of learning as possible. Ill health and some other circumstances are unavoidable- days off are definitely needed, but if your child is healthy and ready to go; please send them.

Your school staff worked together last term on the pre-moderation of our English Units. The big questions that your child will be required to answer in English by the end of the term are:

P_1_2: Have the characters changed for better or for worse?

Year 3_4: Can great mates save the day?

Year 5_6: What do I have to do so you can't say no?

Mrs Summers continues with us for Science and the Arts for this Term.

PE with Mrs Marks changes to Thursdays for Term 2 and 3

We want you back! Thankyou for being present in our school last term. It was wonderful to see so many people at the Easter Bonnet Parade. It would be wonderful if you would consider volunteering in our classrooms. A study that investigated 51 different research projects on the effects of parent involvement concluded that: *When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more.*" The study further concluded that: Parent engagement led to:

- Higher grades and test scores, and enrolment in higher-level programs
- Improved attendance
- Improved behaviour and social skills
- An increase in enrolment in postsecondary education

Those are some compelling reasons for being involved. Furthermore, to put it in Mount Mee SS terms, being involved:

- Is fun
- Helps you to be connected to your child, other children, other adults in our community
- Helps you to know what is happening in your child's classroom in a deeper way than letters such as this can provide.

Please keep an eye out in your class's term letter and the communique for opportunities to be involved. It really is fun.

AIP Focuses for us in 2023

- **Equity-** Enabling improved student achievement through the artful selection and use of best practice pedagogical, differentiation and wellbeing strategies.
- **Excellence-** Deepening the collective knowledge and implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

Simply put, this means that we will be continuing to seek and appraise new ways to teach the Australian Curriculum very well whilst meeting individual needs of students. It is simply put but it is not simply done. I would like to take the opportunity to thank staff for continuing to show up with a positive mindset- one that allows us to continue to aim for our best. Thankyou Mount Mee staff!

Teaching and Learning

*Please see last Term's newsletter, coming home in a communique in Week One to review our teaching and learning aspects for this term as it is the same as last Term.

*Report cards will be coming home at the end of the term.

Extra Curricular

This term is a huge one in terms of the extras. We have: Sports Day, school camp, Dayboro Day participation, ANZAC Day, Mothers' Day lunch performances, Woodford Show participation, Life Education visits, Girls Unlimited- just to mention a few.

Strap yourself in- we have quite the ride ahead!



Term Two Classroom News P/1/2

We continue with our A Team: Pam Carlile, Gwenda McArdle and Gayle Messervy. Michelle Fleming will be working with us for a while on Thursdays for her TA training.

In **maths** we are exploring:

- Time
- Shapes
- Location
- Patterning
- Data (Prep only)
- Number
- Money
- Fractions (Year 1&2)
- Area (Year 2 only)
- Addition and subtraction (Year 1&2)

We are working on these topics through a problems solving lens and offering a concept called: Novel Problems. These are problems that the children will not have seen before. Learning in this way will require them to make links between the novel problem and other times they have solved other problems. 'How can I use what I have done at another time, to help me solve this problem?'

Our **English unit** is all about characters. We will be exploring books that have a big focus on characters, especially those that have develop and change as the story goes on. These ideas will build on from ideas we explored in Term one when we discussed why we likes some stories more than others.

Jolly Phonics- it is anticipated that we will finish our first learning of all of the Jolly Phonics sounds this term. We will be moving into sounds that are made by more than 2 letters soon such as er and ai. These are usually more difficult for students to learn but so far, they are doing a great job!

Heggarty: This is a great Phonemic awareness program. It involves our students listening to words and recognising, removing, adding, manipulating sounds. It helps students to deepen their knowledge of sounds and sound patterns: Year 1 and prep work on this.

Spelling: Year 2 have already started on their formal spelling lists, this will continue. After the Jolly Phonics have been completed, our Preps and Year 1's will also be starting formal spelling lessons. It is anticipated that we will continue to mix our children across the school to ensure that they can work with a group of spellers who are at the same developmental stage. This should start in Week 2.

Handwriting: There are a lot of CRAZY habits that our students have developed with their handwriting. We will be working hard to reverse these. If your child is in Year 1 or 2, it is ok to correct the way that they form their letters. Preps have a little more wriggle room. Watch out for children writing the round letters such as o,a d,g in the wrong direction. Also watch out for students who start letters at the bottom instead of the top: I, h, t .

Reading: All children will participate in formal reading groups this year. The Preps have finished their Read it Again program for now and will right in the thick of it- how exciting!

Speaking: We will continue our Show and Tell this term. New topics will come home with our homework in Week 2 with Show and Tell starting in Week 3). This term a record will be kept of who participates and how they go against a set of criteria. Students do not have to participate every week, a goal of participating at least 5 times across the term is a great goal to have.



HASS

Mrs McArdle continues to teach our HASS unit which is a semester long. The topic is personal Histories; identifying and describing important dates and changes in our own lives. Last newsletter I told you about my best Christmas that was in Helsinki. This time I will tell you that September 2nd is such an important date for me. That is when my granddaughter Stella was born. She has had a huge impact on my life. Fun Fact: On Sunday 16th April Stella had to be rescued as she had her head stuck through some railings on a play ground.... Mrs McArdle will be assessing this unit this term and will report on it in our Semester One report cards.



Science

This Term we are working on a unit of work called Living Adventure. We will be exploring how different places meet the needs of living things.

In addition we will be continuing our non-assessed Science experiments in class. The reason for the inclusion of our Thursday experiments is to develop a positive mindset towards Science, to teach about fair tests, to build knowledge in Science and teach Science based safety (We only broke one glass last term). My proudest moment last term was when a Year 1 student could tell me what a saturated solution was!



Health

Respect

We will be working on the RESPECT Program. The theme of our learning is Friendship, inclusion and belonging. We will cover the concepts of:

1. Respect, care and kindness are qualities of good friendship.
2. Gender inclusive behaviours build respect and inclusion.

The Respect program, previously called the Respectful Relationships Education Program, was developed as part of the Queensland Government's commitment to address domestic and family violence. Consultation ensured the program could continue to empower young people to develop the skills they need to form respectful and ethical relationships, free of violence and gender inequality.

The Arts

Our music unit: Lets sing and Play Together is a semester long unit. Our students will continue to sing songs and play instruments with Mrs Summers. In class we are learning a song to sing and hopefully a dance to perform at the Mothers' Day luncheon at the hall in May. We will also be creating lanterns for ANZAC Day and a yet to be determined visual arts master piece for entry into both Dayboro Day and Woodford Show competitions.

Other Interesting Things:

- Library is changing to Thursdays.
- PE is now on Thursdays.
- Homework to be handed in on Mondays and will go home on Tuesdays. Homework will start in Week 2.
- Report Cards will go home on the last week of term.





Birthdays:

Isla 5th June

Reuben 20th May



We are seriously looking for help in our room. There are many ways to help out. You might be able to consider:

- Reading 1:1 with some children
- Playing Maths games
- Playing some spelling and phonics games
- Helping with our Art projects for the two shows.
- Coming along to TOTs to help out.
- Changing books for homework
- Checking sight words
- Organise my resources shelves- never ending job.
- Taking small groups down to our garden pods and weeding, watering, stirring the compost

You name it, we need it. Please let either Gayle or Pam know if any of these look like possibilities or if you have some other ideas that you might like to try.

