

NEWSLETTER 16 March 2022

Dates for your Diary

MAR	Thu	17	Music/Italian	Fri	18	Swimming
	Tue	22	Cooking	Wed	23	Library
	Thu	24	Music/Italian	Fri	25	Swimming
	Mon	28	Art			
APR	Fri	1	Pupil Free Day	Tue	5	School Council 6:30pm
	Wed	6	Library	Wed	6	Cooking
	Thu	7	Music/Italian	Thu	7	Family BBQ 6:00pm
	Fri	8	End Term 1 (2:30pm)			
	Fri	22	ANZAC Service 10am			
	Tue	26	Term 2 commences	Thu	28	Music/Italian

Dear Parents,

Can you please note the following:

Student of the week

Our congratulations go to the following students who have recently received a Student of the Week award:

Doogal - for improvement and dedication to his handwriting.

Tom L - for his fantastic effort in writing.

Lily R - doing an amazing job with her writing in her Big Write.

Lachie - not giving up on your reading work when it became difficult.

Max - an outstanding effort with his biography of William Petty.

Tyler - an amazing effort with his persuasive writing.



Around the Classes

In F/1/2 we have been very busy with their **English** curriculum. They have completed their first Big Write which was fantastic. They are now looking at persuasive writing – which animal makes the best pet? In **Mathematics** they have been looking at directional language and counting, including some subitising – looking at a group of objects and knowing how many there are without having to count them. Think of a dice.

Meanwhile the Grade 3/4's have been looking at the persuasive genre, in particular looking at the specific language features used in this style of writing. They have been building their reading stamina as well. In **Mathematics** they have been focusing on addition and subtraction. As part of their measurement work they have been creating maps and using appropriate language such as North, South etc.

And finally, our Grade 5/6 class have started looking at persuasive writing. To date this has involved looking at the purpose and structure of a persuasive piece. We then completed a piece within a given time without any supports. (This is called a Cold Write and as teachers we use this for assessment purposes to see what skills students already have and what their next point of learning is). We will be focussing on paragraphing, audience and backing our arguments up with statistics. Our maths focus has continued with place value – into decimal numbers. We have also been learning about transformation (symmetry, rotation and reflection of shapes).

Parent Teacher Interviews

We will be conducting Parent Teacher interviews in the next three weeks. More details are attached including a return slip indicating the times that staff are available.

Please return this slip by **Friday 18 March** so we can compile an interview schedule. Once we have completed this we will inform you of your allocated time.

School Council

We congratulate Janelle Osborne who was recently elected unopposed for a further 2-year term. Thank you Janelle for your willingness to serve. Our Council is made up of Janelle, Jo Lambert, David Cavicchiolo, Scott Flanigan, Geoff Clancy and myself. We elected our 2022 office bearers at our last meeting and I am pleased to announce the following:

President – Jo Lambert

Vice President – Geoff Clancy

Secretary – Janelle Osborne

Our next School Council meeting will be on Tuesday 5 April and will consist of our normal meeting as well as our Annual General Meeting. All parents are invited to these meetings, however only elected members are able to vote on decisions.

Pupil Free Day

School Council has declared Friday 1 April as a Pupil Free Day. As such there will be no school operating this day, however all staff will be here joined by the other Cluster School staff to look at Professional Learning Communities (PLC's).

Words Their Way

As most of you would be aware we are using the Words Their Way program as the basis for our spelling program for Grade 2 to 6. (The Foundation/1 students use *Little Learners Love Literacy*). It is a developmental spelling, phonics, and vocabulary program. An assessment is given to determine where to begin instruction. Based on assessment results students are given words to study in order to discover the common attributes. In this manner students are actively constructing

their own knowledge of spelling patterns. Students learn features by completing activities such as word sorting, word hunts, games and drawing and labelling. Students work individually, with partners, and in small groups to encourage cooperative learning and individual responsibility.

We have seen great results since we introduced the program into our daily practice. Students generally have the same sort for a fortnight – and at the beginning of each fortnight they have a copy of their words that they bring home. We encourage you to discuss with them their sorts as they work on them at home.

Family BBQ

We will be having our annual ‘welcome to the new year and new families’ BBQ on Thursday 7 April.....even if it is somewhat late thanks to restrictions. This will be at the school commencing at 6pm. All meats will be provided, but we ask that you bring either a salad or dessert to share and your own drinks. If anyone is available to help with the BBQ from 5:15pm that would be greatly appreciated. Can you please complete the return slip to assist with catering and return it by Thursday 31 March.

ANZAC Day ceremony

Our Grade 5/6 students will be leading the annual ANZAC Day ceremony at the Greta cemetery once again this year. For the last few weeks each student has been responsible for researching a soldier who is buried there. This in itself has been an extremely worthwhile task as they have

learnt many skills for undertaking research in order to write a biography.

The students will lead the attendees to each of the soldier’s graves and each child will then present their work before laying a poppy and flag on the grave. This will be a fitting way to conclude our work.

We don’t have as many Covid restrictions this year and so everyone is welcome to join us. Can you please RSVP by Thursday 7 April for attendance and catering purposes. The ceremony commences at 10am but we need to be there at 9:45am.

NAPLAN

Our Grade 3 and 5 students will be undertaking the national NAPLAN testing shortly. Given that we are doing it online we are able to choose the dates for the various English and the Mathematics test. These will be carried out between 10 May and 20 May. It is an expectation that all students will participate, but if you wish to discuss any aspect of these with me please feel free to do so.

As we are doing them online, all grade 3 and 5 students will be participating in a trial test shortly so they can become familiar with the program. This test will NOT be scored – it is simply a familiarisation opportunity.

Chaplaincy Program

We are fortunate to once again be a part of the National Chaplaincy program. Each of the King Valley Cluster schools will participate in this program aimed at supporting student’s wellbeing. To that end, last week we welcomed Michelle Bester as our new cluster chaplain and we look forward to working with her over the course of this year.

Thank you
Howard Gibson-Principal

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WELCOME BBQ ATTENDANCE SLIP

Family Name: *Number Attending:*



***ANZAC CEREMONY ATTENDANCE SLIP-5/6s only
 (for morning tea at the Greta Hall)***

Family Name:..... *Number Attending:*

