



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 3 which, like many other terms, is going to be a very busy one. Already, we have had a Scitech incursion and the students have started practicing for the Athletics Carnival, which starts in Week 6 and conveniently, the Olympic Games are also starting soon. We will be following the Olympics and completing some cross curricula activities as we cheer on our Australian Team for Rio 2016. Faction Jumps & Throws is on Thursday 25th August and the Athletics Carnival is Thursday 1st September (Week 7). Parent helpers are always needed for the carnival days so if you could help out at all, that would be fabulous! Also in Week 6 is Book Week. This year's theme is Australia (narratives, authors, illustrators, poetry etc) so there will again be a door decorating competition as well as a 'Dress Up Day' for students to dress up as their favourite book character. Whole School Assemblies are in Week 3, 8, 9.

CURRICULUM

Literacy Blocks:

We will continue to hold Literacy Blocks (uninterrupted 2 hour blocks of literacy instruction). Students are strongly encouraged to continue reading at home for at least 20 minutes a day. Spelling will continue to run in class on a fortnightly basis with practice words going home for homework and a Spelling test every second Friday.

Below is an outline of what topics we will be covering during Term 3.

Writing:

- Greek Myths (Narrative)
- Biography
- Explanations
- Newspaper report

Reading:

- Using comprehension strategies to interpret and analyse content from a text.
- Making connections between students own experiences and those of characters and events represented in texts.
- Investigate how vocabulary choices can express shades of meaning, feeling and opinion.

Viewing:

- Behind The News

Mathematics:

This term we will be covering the following topics;

- Number and Algebra – Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Money
- Measurement and Geometry – Volume and Capacity
- Statistics and Probability – Chance, Data and Graphing
- Working Mathematically – Solving real life word problems.

Society & Environment:

We are following the Geography Curriculum this semester. This term we are focusing on the factors that shape the environmental characteristics of North and South America and comparing them to that of Australia, particularly with the Olympics being in Brazil in South America.

Science:

Mrs Anderson will continue to work with the Primary students in Science, teaching the Science Enquiry Skills strand. Miss Harris will teach the Science Understanding strand to both Year 5/6 classes. This term the focus is on Biological Science. We will be looking at Living Things.

Technology and Enterprise:

Mr Beard will be teaching both year 5/6 classes this term.

The focus is Digital Technologies and specifically 'Programming' (Coding). The students will be creating programs to solve problems and develop interactive games or stories they can share.

Health:

We will be continuing to follow the SEDERA Challenges and Choices program, finishing off the Resilience topic and then moving on to Drug Education, which focuses on alcohol and tobacco.

Physical Education:

This term is Athletics with the carnivals in Week 6 & 7. It is important that your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear on the days they are participating in sport, as well as bringing a hat and water bottle, even in cooler weather. Please note that if your child is unable to participate in sport a **signed note** needs to be provided. Room 7 will continue to have Physical Education on Tuesday and Thursday and Senior Sport on Friday.

Hat Policy:

GDHS has a year round hat policy which means that each student must have a hat in order to participate in Physical Education, Senior Sport, recess and lunch all year round. Please ensure your child has a hat as it is not only a GDHS rule but it can help prevent skin cancer. Hats can be left in the classroom.

Library:

Our library session will continue to be on a Thursday. These sessions are important as this is their opportunity to borrow books for Home Reading. Please make sure your child brings their library bag every Thursday. Library bags can be purchased from the school uniform shop in faction colours.

Homework Requirements:

Homework will commence again end of week 2 and will be given out every Friday, to be returned the following Friday. It will consist of:

- **Weekly homework sheet – Includes fortnightly spelling words, Maths and English activities.** The students are required to practise their spelling every night using the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check (LSCWC) strategy and choose 10 words to write sentences on the paper provided. The other 10 words are to be completed in the next week's homework. Students should be writing complex sentences, using a variety of punctuation.
- **Read for at least 10 mins a night, every night.** Sometimes this should be out loud so students can practise fluency, pronunciation and expression while they can hear themselves reading. Reading to siblings is a great way to practise this. Consistent nightly reading will be rewarded with 'greenies'. Students can write their reading (Title and number of pages read) in their diary and have an adult sign it to say it has been done.
- **Practise times tables** - By Year 5 and 6, students should be able to instantly recall all the times tables and number facts up to the 12 times table. Students should be practising these on a regular basis so that they can rapidly recall them.

Any work not completed in the class time given, will be sent home to be finished and returned the following day. Students who have extra roles in the school such as Faction Captains or Councillors, will be expected to catch up on any missed lessons in their own time.

All assessments or research assignments given to the students throughout the term will be given ample class time to complete and would rarely require extra work at home unless your child has been absent or off task. If the assignment requires extra work at home, no extra homework will be given.

We are encouraging all students to complete their homework each week to support their learning and ensure they do not miss out on any other extra curricula activities, such as 'End of Term Rewards Day' and appreciate your support with this also.

Classroom Management:

Our class is following the school's CRTR ('critter') values of CARE, RESPONSIBILITY, TRY and RESPECT. All students are expected to adhere to these expectations. Positive reinforcement and the use of the whole primary school reward program of greenies and pinkies for positive behaviour choices is being used. Students will be awarded 'greenies' for good behaviour choices, excellent work ethic, completing homework, handing in diaries and reading each night. Merit assemblies are held throughout the term to reward students' success in these areas.

6 x greenies = 1 pinkie.

6 x pinkies = merit certificate at appropriate level.

School Term Vacation:

If you are planning a holiday during the school term you are required to contact the Principal for him to approve it. If it is not approved by the Principal it will appear in the absence system as an 'unapproved holiday.' You can contact the Principal either by phone 9575 5300 or we can pass on a written note for you.

School Diaries

School diaries form an easy mode of communication between parents and teachers. Please ensure your child writes their nightly reading into their diary (Title and pages read), you check and sign it and they bring their diary to school every day.

Teacher Contact Details:

In an effort to ensure I am on the same page regarding your child's learning, I am available for meetings with you. To organise a meeting or for any general concerns or queries please contact me on the school phone number 9575 5300.

Thank you

Mr Beard