Greetings:

Welcome to term 3! We are looking forward to some great events this term, and continuing the great learning that has been happening all ready this year right throughout the school. This term we will be part of a trial of NAPLAN online, in preparation for all of SA participating in NAPLAN online in 2017. This format allows for greater targeting of the test for students, and I believe has the potential for some really useful outcomes for students and teachers. Please see the information at the end of the newsletter.

We will also be undertaking online PAT tests for years 3 upwards, as we did last year. Both of these assessments provide valuable information for both teachers and families about student achievement and areas of growth. Always, when looking at assessments like these, it’s important to remember that they are assessing a moment in time, and can never be the total story of a student’s level of skills. Its important to remember too that some things, while no less important, cannot be easily assessed – our learning toolbox and our values are incredibly important in growing our students into well-rounded, confident children.

As Martin Luther King said:
The purpose of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.

Regards,
Ruth

Diary Dates

Term 3
Fri 29th Jul Athletics Carnival (Lam)
Wed 3rd – Fri 5th Aug Year 6/7 Camp (Lam)
Mon 8th Aug Governing Council
Thu 11th Aug Hot Lunch
Fri 12th Aug Pupil Free Day
Mon 15th Aug SAPSASA Football/Netball
Fri 2nd Sep SAPSASA Athletics Selection Day
Mon 5th Sep School Closure Day
Mon 12th Sep Governing Council
Wed 14th Sep SAPSASA Tennis & Cricket Selection
Thu 15th Sep Hot Lunch
Thu 22nd Sep SAPSASA Basketball Final
Mon 26th Sep Athletics Country Champs

Term 4
Wed 2nd Nov School Photos
Thu 3rd Nov Hot Lunch
Thu 10th Nov School Concert
21st-25th Nov Cricket & Tennis State Carnivals in Adelaide
Thu 1st Dec Hot Lunch
Wed 14th Dec Yr 7 Graduation

TERM DATES 2016
Term 3 25th Jul – 30th Sep 2016
Term 4 17th Oct – 16th Dec 2016

Point to Ponder
All assessment is a perpetual work in progress
Linda Suskie

REMINDER
Athletics Carnival tomorrow.
No staff at school
Welcome back to Term 3!

This week we were very excited to celebrate our ‘100 days at school’ milestone for 2016 in the JP class which you could hear from the cheers and thunder of clapping on Wednesday morning as we lined up to begin our day. We celebrated in style with the theme for each lesson of the day being ‘100’.

We made 100 days of school interview sheets in our writing, all related to the number 100, giving responses to things like: If I had $100..., I wish I could eat 100..., I can do 100... and when I am 100 I will...! We had brainstorm pages put up in our room for us to try and record 100 words we know as a class. In maths we undertook challenges which saw us going on a treasure hunt around the school yard to find 100 signs that were hidden and we challenged ourselves to make the number 100 (10x10=100, 99+1=100 etc.) or try and get as close as we could to solving 100 sums. Some students got more than half way there, solving up to 60 addition and subtraction problems. WOW! Reception students even undertook a big challenge of counting large collections of items which together totalled 100.

The day also saw us decorating some 100 signs as splatter paintings, comparing our first day of school photo to our 100th day of school photo, reading lots of school related stories AND enjoying some developmental play and athletics practise in the afternoon. It was definitely jam-packed of enriched learning and fun which was a great way to celebrate half a year of school. In the next few days we will make a display of our 100 day outside our classroom so please feel free.

Aussies, watch out for mozzies in Rio!

Australia’s Chief Medical Officer has issued an important warning to those travelling to Brazil for the 2016 Rio Olympics – that travellers MUST protect themselves from mosquitoes. Brazil is experiencing a Zika virus outbreak in addition to the presence of yellow fever, dengue and chikungunya. These dangerous viruses are spread by mosquitoes, and Zika can also be sexually transmitted.

Women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant are particularly at risk, especially from Zika, which can lead to severe birth defects such as microcephaly. These women are advised to defer their travel. If you must travel then you should see your doctor for further advice.

Travellers can help protect themselves from yellow fever by getting vaccinated at least 10 days before arriving in Brazil. However, there are no vaccines for Zika, dengue or chikungunya. Your best defence against these viruses is to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites, including protective clothing and heavy duty mosquito repellent.

For more information on mosquito-borne illnesses and travel to the 2016 Olympics, contact <school name> for a brochure and visit www.health.gov.au/rio2016
to pop by and see some photos, paintings and work from the day.

In the coming weeks we are so excited to begin our Olympic Games inquiry unit. If you have any sporting merchandise related to the Olympic Games or sports OR come across any positive newspaper photos or articles about Olympic sports or athletes we would love to use them in our class for our inquiry display.

Please also let me know if you require another copy of the Daily News and Travelling Friends timetables and the Term 3 Welcome back note, if they did not make it home with your child in the past few days. Hopefully, your child has also come home with their new spelling/sight words for the fortnight. For most of this term we are going to be enjoying lots of word play looking at rhyme and letter patterns so you should see this theme in their study words each fortnight.

Until next time,

Miss. Lorelle Barton

Welcome back to GPS for Term 3, it’s very hard to believe that over half our school year has passed already! I hope everybody spent an enjoyable holiday time with their children and that we have all come back with our batteries recharged and ready for a big term. We are very pleased to welcome a new member to our class, year 6 student Montana, and we hope she soon feels right at home.

This term Mr Wurfel will be teaching the class for PE on Friday afternoons and our Arts lessons will be held on Tuesdays, covering the Dramatic Arts area as we prepare for our concert. The planning for this begins in earnest next week, with Miss Barton and the upper primary students spending half a day on getting their ideas together for our whole-school performance.

This Tuesday we enjoyed a Visual Arts lesson where we looked at the style of painting known as Cubism and the students then created their own self-portrait masterpieces in oil pastels.

As the excitement builds towards the commencement of the 2016 Olympic Games we will be incorporating some study of the Olympics and Brazil into several of our learning areas. Our focus this week has been on plenty of athletics practice when the weather has allowed, as we prepare for a day of friendly competition and good sportsmanship at the Athletics Carnival on Friday.

Kind regards,

Kathryn Roberts and the MUP Class.
NAPLAN Online – Getting ready for 2017

The Australian Government is committed to delivering NAPLAN online from 2017, with all schools across the nation transitioning over a 2 to 3 year period. This change will provide each child with a more personalised learning experience and a better assessment. It also means that the results will be returned to you and your child’s teachers within a few weeks, rather than several months.

Our school will be participating in a trial of the new online system in August 2016. This trial is not a ‘test’ of content; it is a test of how the new online system will work in a real-life classroom environment. You may hear this trial referred to as the NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial. As part of the trial, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will undertake 2 online readiness tests. Each test will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

It is important that we participate in this trial before the system is officially in use in 2017 to enable familiarisation with the system in a classroom setting. Participation will allow us to confirm that every school is ready and that our teachers are confident that their students will be able to participate fully.

This trial will help our site to be well prepared to complete NAPLAN online in 2017 and provide feedback into final changes at a statewide level.
NAPLAN Online – answering your questions

What is NAPLAN online?
NAPLAN online is an initiative of the Australian Government and involves the transition of NAPLAN from pen and paper to a computer-based assessment.

Why is NAPLAN going online?
Moving NAPLAN online allows for better and more varied assessment tasks and a personalised test experience. It also means your child’s results will be more precise and available to you within a couple of weeks, rather than several months.

When is it happening and who is doing it?
The Education Council, comprising state, territory and commonwealth education ministers, has agreed that NAPLAN online will be implemented from 2017 over a 2-to 3 year period.
DECD is encouraging as many schools as possible to move to NAPLAN Online from 2017.

Who is managing the move online?
Education Services Australia (ESA) have been commissioned to develop and trial the platform which will deliver NAPLAN online.
The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) will continue to be responsible for all aspects of development of the NAPLAN tests.
In South Australia, DECD is responsible for preparing schools to move online.

What is the NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial?
The NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial is a practice run of the NAPLAN online platform. Schools will complete as many test sessions as they need to develop their understanding of the system and their readiness for the 2017 implementation. It is also an opportunity for schools to provide detailed feedback on their experiences and readiness.

Students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are asked to trial the online system and new question style. As part of this trial all students will log in with an anonymous student code so they cannot be identified.
The trial will involve students completing 2 assessments
- a test for each year level containing sample NAPLAN online questions based on reading, numeracy and convention of languages (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- a separate writing test for each year level.
Across Australia, the test is called the Platform Test Readiness Trial (PTRT).

Why is the NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial important?
The trial will provide information about the school’s internet capabilities and confirm that there are sufficient devices to run the test successfully. It will also allow staff to ‘test drive’ the new processes and trial classroom logistics.

What about schools that do not have the necessary bandwidth to undertake online assessment?
The Australian Government is developing a ‘low bandwidth’ solution for schools that are experiencing issues with internet connectivity. This will ensure that all students are also able to experience the online test.

Can students use their own devices?
Yes, many schools have a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy allowing students to use their own computer at school and in most cases these devices will be able to be used. Students will also be able to use their own headphones for the spelling test.