



# Newsletter

# Week 9 Term 1

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 1 April

End of Term 1

Monday 19 April

Start of Term 2

Wednesday 26 May

Belconnen Regional Cross country -  
Selected Students

## Notes home

Medical Notes - **Please update medical notes and medication with Front Office**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Staffing update

As announced in the last full newsletter, today is the last day for Sylvia. Karen Wilson, however, is unable to join us next term at this stage due to the flow-on effects of staff going to her school. We will be doing an expression of interest to fill Sylvia's position temporarily and then an expression of interest to backfill the Exec teacher role. We will let you know the outcome of those at the start of next term.

Penny Day is joining us as our substantive Executive Teacher to lead the Years One and Two teams. I am delighted to welcome Penny to the team. I've known Penny for many years through her work at Red Hill and Charles Weston (IB schools) and her work on Tournament of Minds. She will be a great asset to the team. Despite trying for the last two months, we have as yet been unable to get a replacement for Emma Bourne on Year Four. Therefore, we have taken the decision to temporarily place Amy Malusa back on to Year Four as she knows the team and curriculum really well until she departs at the end of next term on maternity leave. We will continue next term to get a substantive replacement for Emma/Amy for the rest of the year. Finally, Lisa McGruer (Year Two) needs to take some leave until the end of the year. She will be working part time doing art on Thursdays and Fridays next term whilst she manages some personal matters. At this stage we do not have a teacher to replace Lisa but will let you know as soon as possible.

### Camp

The Years Five and Six children have had a wonderful three days on camp this week. The weather was blissfully dry (although a little cold overnight) and over the last 10 years has steadily evolved although the Giant Swing is still 'giant' thankfully (or not, if you don't like that sort of thing!). Special thanks go to Sylvia, the Year Six teachers (Donna, Eliza, Mette and Jake- practicum teacher), the Year Five teachers (Leah, Louise and Paul) and Steph on first aid.

### Matthew Miller

*The following was in my report to the Board and P&C last week regarding Matthew Miller, our former School Board chair who, now that his two girls are in high school, is stepping down from the Board:*

It's hard to explain the significance of today, Matt's last Board meeting. Matt has been an extremely engaged and proactive member of our school Board since 2014 and has been a part of the great changes and strategic points in our school over that time: becoming an IB school, the last school review, IB review in 2019, Preschool accreditation and support in all infrastructure, policy and program decisions. His guidance and support to the Board, as well as to me both professionally and personally, has been profound and words cannot convey the magnitude of this felt across the school community over the last seven years. Encapsulating this into 'a greatest achievement' is almost impossible. To me, I would say

partnering with Simon Richards, then P&C President, and myself to design and support a model which has seen the P&C grow from strength to strength with the implementation of an operations manager (Selina), balancing out the ups and downs inherent when relying on parent volunteers (you might have many one year, few the next), which is a unique model here in the ACT and one which the Directorate sees as a best practice in ensuring compliance and developing parental engagement in the school. My first, and abiding, memory of Matt though was in 2012 when we planted trees and shrubs around the school for National Tree Day. The family hasn't been here very long and so I hadn't got to know them very well but seemingly everywhere I looked, there was Matt: wheelbarrow pushing, shovel in hand, plants being planted etc. Many of you will know Matt from his support in running the plant stall for the fete and collecting the bulbs after Floriade. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank Matt for his untiring support and wish his family every success and happiness into the future.

## Happy holidays

On behalf of the school community, I would like to wish you all a lovely, happy and enjoyable Easter. I also hope you have the ability to spend some quality time with your children over the next two weeks whilst they are away from school. Please reflect back to 12 months ago and how fortunate we have been as a community to have had minimal impacts from COVID compared to other places in Australia, not to mention globally. Please also be mindful of any restrictions (if there are any in place) for when we return next term.

## Year 5 and 6 Camp

The Year 5 and 6 students spent 3 days this week at Camp Cooba. Here are a few highlights from our time together:

Oscar M - "The best part of camp is hanging out with my friends and playing and I love the activities"



Emily- "The big swing is the best part of camp because we need teamwork and conquer our fears."



Cooper- "Camp is awesome because I get to be with my friends and do challenging activities"

Taylah- "The best part of camp is the big swing because it gets everyone excited!"



Dakota - "The best part of camp is is doing teamwork with my class and friends."

Molly- "The best part of camp is the activities because you get to go outside of your comfort zone and work together as a team."

Justin - "The best part of camp is the team building exercises because because we learn to work together as a class"

Myles- "I love the activities because they encourage me to get outside my comfort zone and help me work as a team."

Jakob - "The best part of camp is the activities because they are fun and good experiences and can help us in our future."

Mahdi - "My favourite part of the camp is mud run but I still smell!!!"

Kendra - "My favourite part of camp is the activities - all of them!!!"

Kara - "My favourite part of camp is the giant swing because of the free fall and the feeling you get!"

Oscar K- "The food is awesome!"

Charlie - "The big swing was thrilling!"



the



## Spelling



*We all know the importance of our children having a voice in their learning, this week they have taken over the newsletter article about Spelling.*

### **What we like about Spelling in Year 4**

#### **About Our Learning:**

Our spelling sessions combine the perfect amount of Chromebook and book work and we get to use the thesaurus to help us find the same and opposite words. We have been learning about synonyms and antonyms, in spelling and using the thesaurus improves our learning about different words. This helped us find out what the word means and how to understand it.

We really enjoy working on our vocabulary work, we have to use dictionaries to find synonyms and we have to challenge ourselves to find the antonyms, this makes us think what the meaning of a word may be. Using the dictionary helps build our vocabulary, which helps us know what words mean, this allows us to communicate with better sounding words and makes us feel more confident in our learning.

We like working on 'double trouble' activities because we had to work together in groups to figure out words that have 'ee, oo, gg, dd, ss or bb', we worked on the Chromebooks on the same document as our group. We had to be careful not to delete other people's words or ideas and we were not allowed to write the same words. we had to work out where to place our words and not mix up the colours we were using.

We love working outside and around the school because we can find lots of words in the environment and in other classrooms to help with our vocabulary. It's really calm outside during our learning sessions. The perfect weather outside helps us learn and concentrate.

#### **What Challenges Us:**

The things that challenge us during spelling is trying to figure out how words are spelt. If we don't know how to truly spell them, we are learning lots of strategies to help us spell out words. Like 'Chunky Monkey, sounding out and skippy frog'.

Our group is once a week and we become more cooperative with everyone. It can be tricky working in groups on chromebooks, because some people might delete your ideas or copy them. You have to cooperate while we are learning. We love having different activities in each group and we love having learning intentions, as it helps us focus on the work we need to do. It's great to work with different people that have our thinking style and level.

What we like about our teacher is that he puts some cheat sheets in the back of the spelling books that help us to learn more words and we write them down as a group, this gets us thinking about our learning for that session.

We love doing the fancy writing in our spelling groups, which helps us with our cursive writing and if you are writing a story, you can use special writing effects to make them expressive.

We love learning about Spelling!

***Our authors are Madison L, Zoe P, Pepper M and Chelsea H***



## Green Team Update

Last Thursday we harvested and shucked the ears of fresh sweet corn from the school garden to prepare for eating. The corn was cooked on the cob and then we got to sample it. It was a fun, healthy and tasty learning experience!



