Calendar Term 1

Uniform Shop:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2:30pm – 3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:45am – 9:30am</td>
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Dates to Remember:

9th April  
Easter Scripture Service (from 12:15pm in the hall)

10th April  
K-2 Easter Hat Parade (12:00pm under the COLA)

11th April  
No PSSA today

SISA (as per usual)

Last Day of Term 1, 2014 (Happy Holidays!)

18th April  
Good Friday

25th April  
ANZAC Day

28th April  
Parklea Students Return to School (Monday)

Online Applications for OC placements open

29th April  
T2 Band Begins

30th April  
Parklea ANZAC Ceremony’

1st May  
Cross Country Carnivals (Infants and Primary)

2nd May  
SISA (as per usual)

Please visit our school website for regular updates and changes


Principal’s Report:

Have a Safe Holiday:

As this is the final newsletter for Term 1, I would like to acknowledge all the hard work of our students, the school staff and those in the community who give up their time to be a part of the school on a day to day basis. It has been a long term and I know we are all looking forward to a bit of a break to reinvigorate and refresh our heads. Please have a safe break and I look forward to seeing you all when you return!

Return to School for Term 2:

This is a reminder that as we have had our staff development day in Term 1 on Monday 24th March, Parklea students will return to school on Monday 28th April. Although other public schools in and around the area may have a pupil free day on Monday 28th April, this is not the case for Parklea students. Please be sure your child returns to school on the correct date next term.

Planning in Week 11:

This week, teachers and their stage teams in the school will be having planning throughout the week with Lane Clark. Lane presented at our most recent Staff Development Day and will continue to be heavily involved in the planning process for our new integrated studies units of work for the next teaching and learning cycle.

Road Safety Around Our School:

Thank you to the vast majority of our parent community who use caution and obey the road rules when dropping off and collecting children in and around the school.

It has once again come to our attention that road safety on Glenwood Park Drive is a real issue between the morning hours from 8:00am – 9:30am and then again in the afternoon from 2:30pm – 3:30pm. Myself and the Deputy Principals were outside the school earlier this week and witnessed parents and carers of our school community acting unsafe on the roads.

This included parents stopping and blocking parts of the road (particularly up the hill at the beginning of the ‘kiss and drop’), calling for their children to run across the road and into the car as they drove past and double parking whilst awaiting their children to arrive. Remember that this behaviour is illegal and dangerous and we ask that the school community models safe driving practice for our students. We have a duty to keep all students safe in and around the school.

If you notice unsafe road behaviour around our school, please report it directly to the Quakers Hill Police on (02) 9678 8999
FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTIES:

CHANGES WITH REPORTING:
As the term draws to a close, teachers are preparing to enter the Semester 1 reporting period. With the implementation of the new English Syllabus, there will be some noticeable changes to the way teachers will be reporting in this area.

We will no longer be reporting on the individual strands within the English syllabus (i.e. Reading, Writing and Talking & Listening). Instead, teachers will be providing an overall grade and application level in English. There will still be a comment box that will unpack areas of strengths and weaknesses related to your child’s learning in English. All DEC schools will be realigning their existing reporting with this new change.

PARKING IN THE STAFF CAR PARK:
Can I also remind all parents and carers that our school car park is designed for our school staff. We ask that parents and carers do not park in the school car park, even if the gate is open. We understand that OOSH parents sometimes come into the car park to drop off or collect their children but this should be well before 8:30am and well after 3:30pm.

We would also like to remind parents and carers to walk through our school pedestrian gates (located between the admin block and the Stage 3 classrooms) when entering or leaving the school. The gates to the school car park are unsafe for pedestrians and we encourage all and not walk through the gate to our car park.

EASTER HAT PARADE (K-2):
As Easter fast approaches, it is once again time for our annual K-2 Easter Hat Parade which will be held on Thursday 10th April. All students in Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 have made an Easter hat with the support of their peer buddy. We invite parents to come and enjoy the event with us. The festivities will begin at 12:00pm under the COLA.

ARIVAL TO SCHOOL EARLY:
Can we remind all parents and carers that there is no active supervision here at school until after the 8:30am bell and as such, students arriving before this time are being put in a situation where their safety is at risk. For students who are arriving significantly early (i.e. before 8:15am), classroom teachers will continue to make phone calls home and documenting the arrival time of your child.

Have a lovely weekend!
Mr Fisk, Mrs Gracie & Mrs Mlinaric
(Deputy Principals)

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN EARLY STAGE 1?

ENGLISH:
Talking and Listening: Students have been participating in News this term, each week they have a topic to talk about and need to include information to describe what, where, when, who and why. Students are encouraged to speak clearly, have an audible voice and to make eye contact with their audience.

Reading: Students have been learning 5 sight words each week and at least 2 alphabet sounds. We have been reading books and working on text directionality, reading from left to right and pointing to each word that is being read. Students are currently exploring the different ways to understand texts using a variety of comprehension strategies such as; predicting, using illustrations, sequencing a story that includes a beginning, middle and end and beginning to understand inferred meanings. We also encourage a love of reading both at home and school. Home readers are changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Writing: This term, Kindergarten have been learning about deconstructing and composing simple retells about familiar stories, events and personal experiences. Students are explicitly taught about the use of capital letters and full stops, nouns, past tense words using who, what, where and when prompts and time connectives. They are involved in writing a sentence everyday.
with the focus on sounding out unknown words whilst including a capital letter, spaces between words and a full stop. Each week students write using a focus topic such as, Yesterday, Last week, On the weekend etc.

**MATHEMATICS:**
This term in Mathematics, we have been learning addition and subtraction, 2D and 3D space, whole number, time and patterns. We encourage students to count forwards and backwards daily from any given number, give the number before and after and identify numerals to 20.

Students are involved in a program called ‘Count Me In Too’ (CMIT). This is an ability based program that groups children in Number. Students play game type activities to strengthen their mathematical skills in a number of aspects.

**INTEGRATED STUDIES:**
The current topic being explored as an inquiry unit is, “This is Me”. This unit provides opportunities to explore students’ lives and special characteristics, highlighting beliefs and moral codes. It provides opportunities for students to compare themselves with others in their class and with people from different places, countries and times. At the end of this unit students will contribute a page about themselves in a whole class iMovie. We will then have opportunities to get to know other students within Kindergarten when we celebrate our learning by sharing the iMovie created by each class.

**SISA:**
This term, Kindergarten has enjoyed participating in SISA (Sports in Schools Australia). This program provides students with opportunities to participate in a number of activities that develop their fundamental movement skills including, catching, throwing, kicking, bouncing and coordination. Each week there is a health talk about important topics including, sun safety, healthy eating and water safety.

Thank you!
The Early Stage 1 (Kindy) Teachers

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL) LUNCHTIME DISCO:**
This week students brought their gold coin and participated in our school’s PBL disco. We ran this over two days; Tuesday for 3-6 students and Wednesday for K-2 students. Both days were a huge success and we raised $217. This money will assist us with planning for our projects throughout the year.

Thank you to all the students who participated. It was great to see you, ‘letting your hair down’ to various fun and hip songs.

Thank you to our Student Government Representatives who assisted on both days with collecting money, playing the music and handing out Parklea Pals to our students who were being safe, respectful learners (dancers). Thank you also to all the teachers who assisted at lunchtime with supervising the disco and encouraging students to, ‘have fun’.

Thank you!
Mrs Cardwell (on behalf of the Student Engagement and Attainment Committee)
We are safe, respectful, learners

Leaders Training Day

2014
SCHOOL HOLIDAY KIDS AND FAMILY CAMPS:
It’s not too late to book your child into a NSW Sport and Rec holiday camp. There are also family camps available year-round, for an active, family-friendly (and pocket-friendly) getaway. Find out more: http://bit.ly/1hWxTraq

MANAGING SCREEN-TIME:
Helping kids find the right balance between activities, homework and screen time is a challenge that only gets harder as they grow older. Commonsense Media has lots of useful resources to help – from movie and game ratings to articles like this one on setting screen time limits that are realistic enough that your children will actually follow them. Read the article here: http://bit.ly/1pBIfmk

BOOKS TO BOOST BRAINS:
Literacy skills often progress suddenly in leaps and bounds. The secret is to keep kids of all ages reading over the weekends and school holidays. Even 20 minutes a night can make a huge difference to their reading, comprehension and general knowledge. It’s also a great way to settle their minds down before sleep (for adults too!). If your child hasn’t found a book that grabs their imagination, why not try them on a series book from the Premier’s Reading Challenge list? Here are top suggestions for all ages, including young adult: http://bit.ly/1dLSGC0

KIK, VINE, INSTAGRAM - ARE THEY SAFE?
It’s no contest – kids discover and understand new social media long before we adults do. If your child is thinking about creating a new social media account – or complains that “everyone else is doing it”, you can get the facts a glance from School A to Z’s technology glossary. You’ll also find information about age restrictions and things to watch out for: http://bit.ly/1880erY

SUSHI TRAIN:
Brown rice sushi rolls are a nutritious change to pack for school lunches. Unlike white rice sushi, they can be made the night before, and the filling can be adapted to suit your child’s preferences. Pack in a chiller bag with an icepack and include some little soy sauce fish.


SCHOOL A TO Z APP:
Do you struggle to understand your child’s homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments? This free homework helper app provides maths and English glossaries, assignment starters and more.

Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z

WILD AUSTRALIA APP:
Your child can use this terrific app as an interactive educational tool at Taronga Zoo in Sydney or at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo. Wild Australia can also be used at home to discover more about the zoos’ amazing animals and interesting keepers.


NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM - LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN):
If your child is currently in Year 3, 5, 7 or 9, they’ll sit NAPLAN tests this May. And despite what you may have heard, there’s no reason to panic or start an intensive study schedule for your child.