Palmer Primary School

B.E.A.R Essential

Celebrating our Learning from Term 3

Being responsible  Excellence  Always trying  Respect
A Message from Lynne...

Thankyou to everyone for another term of help and support. It was great to see so many of you at our Student/Teacher/Parent meetings in the first few weeks of term and as a result, we were able to set up some really specific plans learning plans for students.

We have been particularly busy with our work as a TfEL (Teaching for Effective Learning) Pilot school. This has meant getting lots of information from the students about their learning and the ways they feel best supported as well as lots of Training and Development for staff.

We have been able to connect with local community groups through our vegetable garden and we appreciate their support very much. We hope to be able to share some of our produce in the coming months.

Next term we would like to work with our school community to formalise our school’s Homework Policy. We want to share information about how we value the work students do in their own time. We also want to get information from families about how this works for them and about the challenges homework presents. It will be a team effort and everyone’s opinions and input will be considered.

You can look forward to another great concert at the end of the year! We look forward to a full Term 4.

Have a great holiday!

Regards, Lynne

Kiwanis T.E.R.R.I.F.I.C Kids Awards

At the end of Term 2, 2014, Madi Cook-Palm & Jessica Wilcock were chosen as recipients for the TERRIFIC Kids awards. They had demonstrated all of the qualities needed. (Thoughtfulness, Enthusiasm, Respect, Responsibility, Inclusivity, Friendliness, Inquisitiveness and Capability. Congratulations to these students.

This publication is loaded onto our school website (www.palmerps.sa.edu.au). It is therefore accessible on the World Wide Web. Students who cannot be photographed for these purposes do not appear in this publication.
In week 4 we were offered the opportunity to participate in the Life Education Van at Mount Pleasant School. This was a really interactive opportunity to engage students in vital lifelong health and safety awareness lessons. We learnt where our major organs are and their relative size to other body parts, safety signs, the importance of breathing clean air, early warning signs, as well as needle and rubbish safety. The students loved the way the lessons were aimed at their level. With the use of cheeky Harold the giraffe puppet and his little puppet friends students were required to discuss their ideas. We were also given a follow up teaching pack to further investigate the key concepts covered.
Welcome to Gina Yarrow

This term we welcomed Gina Yarrow to our school. Gina offers support to students in classrooms and has settled in quickly. She comes with a wealth of experience, gained from working in other schools in the district. Gina and her husband Stephen, have also been helping us set up our raised garden beds.

Creative Play

It is so wonderful to see ‘creative play’ and imagination alive and well in our school playground.

Dane is ‘a large bird of prey sitting on his nest’ and Xavier is ‘hiding in a hollow’ that he has created to keep safe from the large bird of prey.
**Pondlife McGurk**

The Upper class visited Birdwood Primary School for a Windmill Theatre production entitled “Pondlife McGurk.” It was an extraordinary play focussing on friendships and the impact of bullying.

Windmill Theatre Company produced an excellent resource full of sensational ideas, activities and tasks directly correlated to the Australian Curriculum. As a class we were able to do several of the suggested activities.

We discussed the many reasons why we enjoyed each other’s company and qualities. We also discussed what draws people to you. We talked about different styles of theatre performance and theatre etiquette.

We met the solo artist Renato after the performance and upon returning to school, students wrote him a letter thanking him for performing for us and explaining what their favourite or most meaningful moments in the play were.

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**Truro Book Week Performance**

The Junior Primary class were invited by Truro Primary school to share the wonderful performance by the Splash Theatre Company as part of this year’s Book Week celebrations. The performance incorporated plots from this year’s short listed books. The performers were very enthusiastic and it was great to see the way they transitioned from scene to scene. The students spent much of the performance laughing reinforcing the joy of books!
Book Week Parade
Scouts Visit Junior Primary

We were lucky to get a taste of the exciting activities and experiences on offer through the Scouts. We participated in team building games and we realised how small our class was when we had to fit into a 2 person tent and only half filled it! Some of our students have now joined the Scouts in Mannum and are relishing the new skills offered.

Scouts Visit Upper Primary

Paul helped the Scout representative set up a tent on our oval when she came to discuss the scouting movement in Australia. They actually made quite light work of the tent set-up.
Junior Primary Maths

This term we have been investigating the Measurement and Geometry strand. We have completed many interactive activities to show accuracy in our techniques. We have used measuring jugs, water, rice, chalk, string, rulers, scales, balance beams, clocks and counters scattered throughout our learning space! Many laughs were had when measuring body lengths, especially when shoes were removed to compare the various aspects of their designs.
This term we have focussed on the genres of Descriptive Writing and Poetry. We based our writing on a class novel we have been reading called ‘Gumbles in Summer’. This book is based on two contrary characters called Gumbles (the sweet-natured, environmentally friendly forest creatures) and the Bottersnikes (the disgusting, rubbish creatures). The powerful language that has been utilised is fantastic and inspiring.
We were blessed with Carole’s presence once again in our classroom for an amazing Natural Maths lesson on ‘Cartesian Planes.’

It consisted of a ‘hands on’ approach to Maths where students were actively involved from the start. There was excellent use of the multi-media board as an interactive tool.

Charlie has been measuring many objects including pythons, emus and elephants during her iMaths program. The focus has been accurate use of measuring tools using the metric system.

Level 5s are looking at perimeter and area of rectangles and appropriate units of measuring each.
Palmer Primary School celebrated Literacy and Numeracy Week with parents in Week 9. Students from the Upper primary class read history facts that they had researched to develop their class timeline of significant events of the 20th Century in Australia. The Junior Primary explained and shared their ‘couplet’, ‘quatrain’ and ‘haiku’ poetry.

Together the students presented, (using multi-media) the literacy pieces they had written in response to the text ‘Sunday Chutney’ by Aaron Blabey, which was the chosen text for the ‘across Australia’ reading in Literacy and Numeracy week.

To celebrate Numeracy, older students discussed the challenges they had undertaken in Measurement and Geometry, with slides of their huge pavement drawings.

Ben, from the Junior Primary class, talked about the Maths investigation they had done using problem-solving and number skills.

The morning finished with a morning tea that had been jointly prepared by Faye, our CPSW and some of the students.
Upper Primary Literacy

Drawing images taken in their minds from their excursion to Cleland National Wildlife Park, the Upper Primary students created some visual art and then wrote a ‘description’ (one of the Literacy genres studied in Term 3) of their work which was scribed onto a laptop to print and display.

Their artwork has adorned our classroom walls for most of this term.

Students used a variety of medium including acrylic paint, ‘skins’ pencils, charcoal and oil pastels.
Dog Safety

This term the Junior Primary class had a guest speaker, Margie, and her dog, Lewis in to discuss Pet Safety. They discussed pet care and then students watched some short video clips with a safety theme. Students were then given an opportunity to practise safe ways of approaching and patting unfamiliar dogs.

This is useful life-long learning and supports our Pet Day being held in Week 10.

Upper Primary Life Education Van
Term 3, Wednesday 13th August 2014 at Mount Pleasant School.

What we did and what we liked......

* Met new kids and worked with them.
* Learnt more about medicines and how much to take.
  * Saw Harold again.
  * Really felt welcomed by Bob.
* We liked it when the purple light made all the whites and bright colours glow.
* We learned which sport drinks are healthy and which are not, especially for kids.

By Kayla Colmer, Year 6, Upper Class
National Numeracy & Literacy Week

We celebrated National Numeracy and Literacy week during week 9 this term.

Our classes combined to collaborate on various poetry compositions to present to the broader community.

We discussed several forms of poetry, introduced “Sunday Chutney” (that was read at roughly the same time in schools across Australia) and discussed the things that make friendships so special. Students then added a puppet or two and using the ‘Photo Booth’ program, videoed their poems to present during a special assembly.

They created suitable and appropriate backdrops for their performance and worked on ‘character voicing.’ They really enjoyed both creating, performing and viewing the results.
Term 2 Ice Skating & Bowling
This term we have been fortunate enough to have the support of Teresa Anderson and Gina and Stephen Yarrow to set up the Palmer Patch and a school garden. These gardens were developed after we attended a workshop by Lolo Houbein about gardening in small spaces. We have vegetables, herbs and fruit trees planted across the road in the Palmer Patch and are using raised garden beds in the school yard.

Students assisted with weeding, planting and now with watering and maintenance. We are experimenting with ‘wicking’ methods of watering that may be used more widely in the community if this is successful.

We have two potato towers growing also. Information about these was sent home in school newsletters. The Palmer Community Association has generously agreed to purchase two more raised garden beds for us. We are most grateful to Teresa, Gina and Stephen for their work and we look forward to using the produce later in the year.

This term our class has been learning about how things in the environment change. We observed changes in our school yard and carefully monitored changes in sunflower seeds that we planted in class. We have been able to transfer these seedlings into our school planter boxes.