Palmer Primary School

B.E.A.R Essential

Celebrating our Learning from Term 1

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

We have had a great start to the new year and it has been wonderful to see so many learning achievements amongst the students. You can see some of these featured in this edition of ‘The Bear Essential’. We welcomed 3 new students at the start of the year and it seems as though they, and their families have all settled in really well. It was great to see everyone returning with big smiles and it was also good to have the same staff back for 2014. The ‘lick’ of paint on the classrooms, and the new fence and shadecover really spruced up the outside of the school, too.

I hope your year has started well, in spite of fires and hot, hot weather. We look forward to working together for the rest of the year.

Regards, Lynne

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

At the end of Term 4, 2013, Matthew Paech & Bailey Rasmus were chosen as recipients for the TERRIFIC Kids awards. In Term 1, 2014 Jackie Hunt & Mark Munro were also chosen. They all 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.
PSC Crazy Hair Day

Crazy Hair Day was the first of this year’s fun events planned by the Palmer Student Council. Students came to school with their hair styled and coloured (or coloured their hair once they arrived here. We have some very creative hair stylists in our school. Thankyou for supporting your child with this event.
Child Protection Curriculum

Each year, we teach aspects of the Child Protection Curriculum to the students.

This term the focus has been on personal safety.

Pictured below is a golden web of safety we made as a result of a whole school discussion about the statement, ‘Safety is…”

Book Fair

Palmer loves reading and this term’s Book Fair was a great way for the students to have access to books for purchasing.

Students were given browsing time during the week, when they were able to put together a wish list to take home to show their families.

On Thursday, parents came in and shopped with students.

A big thankyou to Kellie Klose for organising the event and for setting up the display. It was very much enjoyed.
JP Maths

This term we have focussed on the more dominant maths strand of Number and Algebra. This strand supports the foundation knowledge and skills for other areas to come. We have studied whole number, counting sequences and strategies, place value, the four computations (+, -, /, x), money calculations and number patterns. We have been involved in concrete activities before completing our workbooks to demonstrate our understandings.

JP English

To coincide with our yearly swimming lessons we have been focussing on recount writing as a relevant example of this process. We have learnt the correct structure and language features of this genre and have been focussing on providing information sequentially and with varying degrees of detail. Come and view our published ‘goggles’ and read about our week at the Woodside Pool.
Football Clinic

In week 6 Danijel Herbut from the Sturt Football Club and Keedan Rigney came to our school to run a football skills session. We were involved in learning how to kick, handball and bump safely. We had a great time practising these skills with the help of professional players. Thanks for all their support.
Reading Comprehension

As a whole school, we have been focussing on the skills that assist us to comprehend what we are reading. In this session, we were discussing the skill of prediction and talking about how good readers are continually making adjustments as they read a text.

We practised as we read the text, ‘Crusher is coming’, by Bob Graham.

Upper Literacy

During Term One the literacy genre we have been focussing on has been ‘Recount.’ Initially students walked around the block for fitness with Mrs Edwards and recorded the sights and sounds of their walk with a recount. Students then each completed a recount of their week of swimming lessons at The Adelaide Hills Swimming Centre at Woodside. Some of the older students were able to also complete a recount of a ‘memory.’ Check for them around the room when you’re next in!
Easter Activities!
This term we have focussed on the overarching statement of ‘What stories do people tell about the past?’ We introduced this topic with the story ‘Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge’, which followed a boy through his collection of artefacts to help give an older citizen her memory back. We looked into how artefacts can tell stories about the past. Students then bought their own artefacts in to tell us about their significance to their family, orally recounting these stories. The wide variety of artefacts was very interesting. We then completed an online virtual tour of ‘Mugga Mugga’ House, an old settlement which has been transformed into a museum. This gave us a great insight into the lives of those living in the 1820s, as well making us grateful for the amenities we now have!
Upper Science

We have been discovering desert habitats of the world, criteria for naming an area – desert and researching survival skills, strategies and evolution of the inhabitants of such desolate environments.

We have compared and contrasted desert dwellers from the northern and southern hemispheres. Students have worked exceptionally well in groups taking on roles as Director, Manager and Speaker. Their collaborations have been inspired and inspiring and have led to some fascinating discussion.

We viewed the David Attenborough DVD on ‘Deserts of the World’ and this induced much conversation, questioning and continuing research.

Upper Geography

Tying in nicely with the requirements of the Science ‘Desert’ curriculum, we have revisited atlases and their function along with discovering new features of physical atlases and comparing them to digital and online resources. We have found deserts all over the world, both hot and cold and compared and contrasted them to deserts in different hemispheres.
Upper Mathematics

iMaths program is running beautifully, and perfectly supported by the Mental Maths program. We finally began our investigations this term in the Upper Class and results were varied and I’m looking forward to their continuation next term.

JP Science

This term the JP class has been learning about animal life and the way it is classified. After our initial disaster with Sparkle and Goldie the goldfish, we have been watching tadpoles change into frogs. We have looked at shells, snake skins and other things in the environment.

We have used non-fiction texts to support our learning.
This term we have immersed ourselves in the language of music. With the support of the interactive music programme ‘Musical Mysteries’ we have been taken on a journey to find hidden music notes by completing games and activities associated with beat, rhythm, mood, orchestra instrument groups and basic music facts. The interactive element of this programme was a fun experience and it allowed us to independently practise our skills too. The UP class even joined us for some activities...
JP Health

We have been working through the strand “Health of Individuals and Communities’, where we have broadened our understanding of the qualities which support a healthy lifestyle, as well as specific strategies we can employ in our daily lives to contribute towards this. We then completed a Disability Awareness programme to develop our understanding of a wide spectrum of disabilities, from Autism, physical disabilities to sensory impairments. This programme involved us in completing hands-on activities for a personal understanding of what is like to have these disabilities, including the difficulties and how tasks need to be altered to support success.

Blaze Aid

This term we have been supporting the local BlazeAid efforts with cooking. This has been co-ordinated by Faye, our Christian Pastoral Support Worker. Students have taken turns at baking cakes that are used for the group’s morning teas. Students also made cards to be packed into the lunch boxes. They were very grateful for the involvement of the students.
Mannum Show

Palmer Primary School students entered the Mannum show again this year. We entered exhibits in art, woodwork, crafts, hobbies and dolls. We also displayed examples of student work in our whole school exhibit. Congratulations to Madi Cook-Palm, Zak Bailey, Charlotte and Tamzin Bormann, Dusty Jarman, Bailey Rasmus, Jack Deramore-Denver, Sam Bailey and Jackie Hunt. (Pictured below)
During fitness this term I selected five fitness stations where students were able to see an improvement in their personal fitness levels. In small teams they practised, revised, recorded and hopefully improved - over a two week period, their number of repetitions at each station.

The stations included a step up bench where they recorded the number of steps (up and down equalled ‘one’) in a minute, the number of skips in a minute, the number of successful ball rebound catches and throws off a wall, the number of circuits (up and back around cones five metres apart) run in a minute and the number of circuits completed on a modified section of the playground equipment. Everyone showed an improvement at each station or with each skill and is to be highly commended.

We will hopefully re-do the task at the end of each term to see and record visible improvements in the overall fitness of each student.
We went to Truro Primary School on Tuesday 25th March to attend a performance about waste water management with other local small schools.

It was an early (8.30am) start for us but we were excited and ready to go.

This topic supports the work we do in classes in the Environmental Studies area and teachers were able to use the topic to reinforce classroom learning.