Family Brainteasers

What do the numbers 11, 69, and 88 all have in common?
What invention lets you look right through a wall?

Answers from our last newsletter:

What has to be broken before you can eat it? An egg
What goes up and never comes down? Your age

Contact Details:
C/- Post Office PALMER 5237
Email: dl.0326_info@schools.sa.edu.au
Phone: 08 85694050
Fax: 08 8569 4124
School Mobile: 0439 437 735
Principal: Lauren Poole

Palmer School ‘BEAR’ Values:
Being Responsible
Excellence
Always Trying
Respect

Newsletter Term 1 Issue 4 18/3/2016

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Pupil Free Day — Tuesday 15th March

On Tuesday, March 15, Meagan, Katrina, Kris and I spent the morning of our Partnership pupil free day at the Murray Bridge Regional Office, developing our knowledge of the “Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System”. We were joined by Mypolonga, Jervois and Tailem Bend staff and together we explored the assessment system and made decisions about how we as a site could use this to best assess our students in their reading skills, and use the “Fountas and Pinnell Levelled Literacy Intervention” resources to not only develop a plan for students needing further support to improve their reading skills and confidence, but also challenge and stretch our students who are progressing at or above year level expectations.

After lunch we spent the afternoon back at Palmer, discussing our current Literacy Block and looking at what we can improve to ensure that we are maximising learning time during literacy blocks and creating opportunities to hear our students read every day. We are all very excited about the discussions and plans that we made on Tuesday, and will be implementing a new Literacy Block that will ensure that students are being catered for, regardless of their reading confidence, to reach their full potential. More information will follow in the next few newsletters as we unpack and explore each element of our new Literacy Blocks.

Student Learning Goals

This week Katrina, Meagan and I have been working with students to help them set their five weekly SMART learning goals in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and ELLI (Resilience for Learning). SMART goals are goals that are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-Bound. Please ask your child(ren) what their goals are—they all spent a great deal of time reflecting about SMART goals and would love to share these with you.
Cricket Clinic
Unfortunately we had to postpone our cricket clinic and this will now be held next Tuesday 22nd of March.

Scholastic Book Fair
We had a very successful Scholastic Book Fair this week and students loved looking at all the books and creating their ‘wish lists’ of books to purchase. We would like to thank all of you for supporting the Book Fair and also encouraging your child’s love of reading through the purchase of books. We were able to purchase quite a few resources as a result of the book sales, and we will be sharing these with classes once they have been catalogued. I would also like to particularly thank Katie for the many hours spent setting up the book fair in the Tech Room and transforming it into a welcoming and exciting place to view and purchase items.

Create-A-Playground
We have been very fortunate to have loan of the Mid-Murray Council’s ‘Create-A-Playground’ for two weeks. This is a wonderful trailer that contains hundreds of foam and plastic pieces of equipment that students can transform into any number of things. In just the last week we have seen an enormous bus, several cars, a house, throne and ship just to mention a few. All students from reception to year seven have enjoyed letting their imagination go wild and we all have been so impressed not only with the creations that have unfolded, but the wonderful way in which students have interacted with each other and shared pieces of the playground willingly—clearly displaying our BEAR value of Respect. I would like to thank Damian Gipson (and Thanous!) for driving to Cambrai Area School to pick up the ‘Create-A-Playground’ trailer—it is greatly appreciated.

Premier’s Reading Challenge 2016
All students have been informed about the Premier’s Reading Challenge for this year and have received a recording sheet to keep at home as well as having one at school. We would absolutely love all students to complete the challenge this year, and so are aiming for 100% participation and completion rate in the challenge. All staff are assisting students with recording books that have been read at school, if you could please support your child/ren at home when they finish reading a book that would be greatly appreciated. It is a wonderful initiative to encourage students to read and strongly promotes the absolute joy that reading provides. This year’s Premier’s Reading Challenge Ambassadors include the players of the Adelaide Crows and Port Power Football Clubs, Adelaide United Football Club, Adelaide Thunderbirds, Mark Bickley, Adam Liaw, Mem Fox and Rebecca Morse. We will keep you updated as to how we are progressing with completing the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

As we approach the Easter long weekend next week, I hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing and safe long weekend! The first lot of school holidays will be here before we know it!....

Kind regards,
Lauren

Community Notices

Blue Light Ten Pin Bowling
Sun 10th April 2016, 2-8pm
FREE BOWLING

Free Home and Bowling
Prizes to be won, arcade games to play
Teams of 5 (or make a team on the day)

Police and Police volunteer supervisors

Loco Quiz (Prizes to be left at the
door, essential careers ok)
Alcohol and drug free event

Register now or on the day

Premier’s Reading Challenge 2016

Murray Bridge Basketball Stadium
(at the Showgrounds)
9:00am - 2.30pm
Register your schools attendance on our website
www.murraylandscareercsexpo.org.au