



TERM THREE NEWSLETTER 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

WELCOME BACK TO TORRENS!

What another busy and productive term we have had. Semester 1 is now completed and everyone is ready to move forward with their learning and demonstrate further understandings of their work. It was wonderful to see all students active and making positive contributions towards their own learning. Our team is continuing to work in partnership with you to build a successful and positive year for your child.

THREE-WAY CONFERENCES

The Torrens team would like to congratulate the students on their open and honest reflections given during the end of Term Three Way Conferences. Students were able to share their learning opportunities in a positive way, be involved in self-assessment and take responsibility for their own learning. We received positive feedback about the experience from students and parents.

HATS

A reminder that students are not required to wear their school hats during Recess, Lunch and PE times throughout Terms 2 and 3. However, they may be needed when students go on camps and excursions.

CAMP

The Torrens camp to Douglas Scrub will be occurring from Wednesday to Friday of Week 7 (3-5th September). It will be a wonderful learning experience for all with a number of challenging and exciting activities designed to improve the confidence of our students and to encourage them to take small risks for large personal gain. Camp plays an important role in our learning for the term and is aligned with the Curriculum. The final payment is due by Friday, 22nd August (week 6). If you have any difficulty with payment, please see Micki in the front office or your class teacher.

Regards,

Trent, Kim and Cheryl

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CURRICULUM NEWS

Throughout the curriculum students will be introduced to the lessons via **LEARNING INTENTIONS**. These provide the students with a clear focus of the learning intended. They are introduced to the intention as either: a skill, knowledge or understanding. Students are expected to address **SUCCESS CRITERIA** in order to maximise their learning outcomes.

MATHEMATICS

This term, Torrens classes will be focussing on the Fractions and Decimals/Real Numbers strand of the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics.

Year 6s - Fractions and Decimals

Understanding includes describing properties of different sets of numbers, using fractions and decimals to describe probabilities, representing fractions and decimals in various ways and describing connections between them, and making reasonable estimations.

Fluency includes representing integers on a number line, calculating simple percentages, converting between fractions and decimals, and using operations with fractions, decimals and percentages.

Problem Solving includes formulating and solving authentic problems using fractions, decimals, percentages.

Reasoning includes explaining mental strategies for performing calculations and describing results for continuing number sequences.

Year 7s—Real Numbers

Understanding includes describing patterns in uses of indices with whole numbers and recognising equivalences between fractions, decimals, percentages and ratios.

Fluency includes calculating accurately with integers, representing fractions and decimals in various ways, and investigating best buys.

Problem Solving includes formulating and solving authentic problems using real numbers.

Reasoning includes applying the number laws to calculations and applying an understanding of ratio.

ENGLISH

This will incorporate, Writing, Vocabulary development, Reading and Viewing and, Listening and Speaking. During this time students will learn how to use the English language to effectively communicate for a variety of purposes.

Spelling Workshops and Vocabulary Development

Students have been grouped according to their needs and will continue to have regular workshops with either a Torrens class teacher or Rosie Thurston to improve their understanding of spelling strategies. In addition, within class, students focus on vocabulary development and the four general spelling knowledges: Phonological, Visual, Morphemic and Etymological to build their understanding of how to spell unfamiliar words, to build up their word bank and to make their vocabulary more precise.

Reading comprehension strategies

All Torrens students completed a Comprehension and Reading Strategies (CARS) Assessment last week. The purpose of this assessment was to compare and analyse the progress of comprehension strategies targeted during Term 1 and 2 workshops, to identify areas for improvement and set new individual learning goals. This term students will be applying their knowledge and understanding of the reading comprehension strategies by responding to their own novel through Individual Reading Tasks.

Listening and speaking skills will be developed through class participation, assembly presentations, Year 7 speeches and scheduled planned oral presentations.

CURRICULUM NEWS

CONTINUED

ENGLISH CONT.

Writing

Students have the opportunity to regularly express their ideas and work on specific aspects of their writing through regular Ten Minute Writing tasks and specific genre writing. Proof reading and editing written work will also be a focus with the expectation that students take greater ownership and responsibility with this.

All of the various skills and outcomes covered in the English program have application across all curriculum areas.

HISTORY

We use an inquiry approach to assist the students' learning of skills and attributes necessary to become successful, independent and lifelong learners. The emphasis is no longer on the learning of specific content, but rather **how** to be inquiring and how to access, evaluate and apply information.

This Term the Year 6s will explore change and continuity and describe the causes and effects of change on society through their inquiry question, *How Did Australia Become a Nation?* The focus moves from Colonial Australia to the development of Australia as a nation, particularly after 1900. This study will explore the factors that led to Federation and experiences of democracy and citizenship over time. Students will learn about the way of life of people who migrated to Australia and their contributions to Australia's economic and social development.

Year 7s will explore the Ancient World through their inquiry question, *How Do We See The Past in Our Present?* This will involve a study of history from the time of the earliest human communities to the end of the ancient period. This study of the ancient world includes the discoveries (the remains of the past and what we know) and the mysteries (what we do not know) about this period of history, in a range of societies including Australia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, China and India.

HEALTH

THE CHILD PROTECTION CURRICULUM is a teaching and learning program addressing the right to be safe, positive relationships and protective strategies. Torrens classes will continue to cover the required elements through regular Health lessons this term.

THE ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

This year, Torrens students will be participating in Friday Arts and Technology Time (or F.A.T.T.). Each class will access units of Drama, Music, Visual Arts and Media. Classes will rotate through the topics each term, working with a different Torrens teacher. As well as offering students a range of experiences and expertise, this program also prepares students for high school by providing the opportunity to work with specialist teachers. Ms Martin will be teaching Visual Arts, Mrs Barker will be teaching Music and Mr Clayton will be teaching Media and Digital Technology. During Term 4, all classes will be participating in Drama. During Term Three LA18 will be working with Trent on creative digital movie making, LA19 will be working with Kim researching, designing and sculpting gargoyles and grotesques and LA16 will be working with Cheryl on music and dance through "tinikling".

Please refer to the Specialist Teachers' Section of the newsletter for information regarding

GERMAN, PE and SCIENCE.

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

- 15th Pupil Free Day
- 18th Pupil Free Day
- 22nd Torrens Assembly
- 20-29th Labs on Legs Science Workshops
- 25th Choir rehearsal
- 27th Parent Education Committee Meeting
- 28th Science Show
- 29th Whole School Assembly

September

- 2nd SAPSASA District Athletics
- 3-5th **TORRENS CAMP**
- 13th Choir Festival Theatre - rehearsal and performance
- 19th Torrens Assembly
- 26th Whole School Assembly
Early Dismissal (2:10pm)

YEAR 6 SWIMMING FUN

Last week, the Year 6 students completed their final swimming program in primary school. It was a week packed with fun, learning, games and



THANK YOU

Thank you very much to those families who have already sent in a box of tissues for students' use. The demand for tissues in a class of up to 30 students is constant—particularly during the winter months. If you haven't already sent in a box, it would be greatly appreciated.

PREMIER'S READING Challenge

Students are expected to participate in The Premier's Reading Challenge. The Challenge requires students to read 12 books between the beginning of the school year and 5th September. All information about the Premier's Reading Challenge is available on the Premier's Reading Challenge website. www.prc.sa.edu.au