



Keller Road
Primary School

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Newsletter

Term 1 Week 10 Thursday 1st April 2021

Principal: Narelle Kusabs

Deputy Principal: Toni Webster

From The Leadership Team

It's hard to believe that it's almost the end of our first term. This time last year we were filled with uncertainty as COVID-19 closed schools early. A year on we are much better informed and much better prepared for such extreme events.

Our new Receptions have shown much growth and independence since their first day, confidently entering their classrooms each morning, following routines and learning many new skills.

Our year 6/7 students move closer to their transition to secondary school, a big move for our year 6 students who will be the first group of new Year 7's in the secondary setting. Please see an update from Department for Education on the back page.

Interview Week

Thank you to all parents who made times with teachers to discuss their child's/ren's learning and progress during the first term. Our staff shared conversations and were very positive after meeting with families. Additional appointments after school can be negotiated directly with class teachers through classroom communications methods. If you wish to meet with a member of leadership please ring the front office to make an appointment.

Easter Raffle

Our fundraising committee has again supported this event, collecting prizes, distributing raffle books and coordinating their return.

Last Friday the raffle was drawn in front of our very excited students. Congratulations to the lucky winners, we hope you have enjoyed your prizes.

Term 2 will see some exciting and challenging events and new opportunities for our students. On **Tuesday May 11th** NAPLAN testing will begin for our mainstream students. Students from years 3, 5 & 7 will sit a series of tests. The tests focus on their Literacy and Numeracy skills, parents receive a detailed test review late term 3. Teachers use the results as part of the data to plan ongoing learning for individuals, small group and whole class units of work. The tests will begin with Year 3 students completing the paper based writing test. Students will be given an unseen stimulus and have 45mins to write either a narrative or persuasive text in response to the stimulus. Year 5 & 7 students will complete all parts of the test online. As the testing window is over 2 weeks tests have been scheduled around our camp to Arbury Park. Please contact Toni Webster if you have any queries about NAPLAN.

Wednesday 12th May there will be a very excited group of Year 4-7 students attending Arbury Park Camp. Families will receive a final camp payment invoice next week. Due to fundraising and some generous donations we will be able to reduce the total cost of camp. If you have already paid the full amount Karen will credit the difference towards a future school event. Information regarding packing lists will be sent home next week to give families time over the holidays to start getting organised. If you have any questions please contact Toni Webster or Tracey Constable.

Thursday May 20th our Year 6 students will attend a STEM day at Salisbury East High. There is no cost to families. Salisbury East High generously provide bus transport to and from their site. Students will engage in STEM activities where they will work in groups to solve tricky problems using a variety of electronics including drones and robots. Students in the past have had an engaging day and have returned to school with new skills to transfer to their primary school learning.

Wishing you all a safe and happy school holiday break. See you all back safe and well in Term 2.

Parent Group
Currently Postponed

School Assemblies
Currently for students only

Important Dates

Fri 2nd Apr

Good Friday
Public Holiday



Mon 5th Apr

Easter Monday
Public Holiday

Fri 9th Apr

Last Day of term
2pm dismissal



Mon 26th Apr

ANZAC Day
Public Holiday

Tues 27th Apr

Term 2 Begins

FUTURE KEY DATES

Tues 11th May

NAPLAN testing begins and will continue through to Fri May 21st.

Wed 12th - Fri 14th May

Arbury Park Camp
Year 4-7

Thurs 20th May

Year 6 student visit to
Salisbury East High



HAPPY HAVEN

Out Of School Hours Care
contact details

Web: www.happyhaven.sa.edu.au

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Enhancing and Practising Executive Functioning Skills with your children.

Often parents ask teachers if they can suggest some 'homework' to do with their child/ren over the holidays.

Practising executive functioning skills will help support your child's overall success and growth.

What are these skills and why are they important?

Executive function skills allow us to remember and work with information in our brains, focus our attention, filter distractions, and switch mental gears. There are three basic dimensions of these skills:

- * Working memory — The ability to hold information in your mind and use it.
- * Inhibitory control — The ability to master thoughts and impulses so as to resist temptations, distractions, and habits, and to pause and think before acting.
- * Cognitive flexibility — The capacity to switch gears and adjust to changing demands, priorities, or perspectives.

These skills help us remember the information we need to complete a task, filter and ignore distractions, help us resist inappropriate or unsafe impulses and help us concentrate and focus on a task. Having well developed executive functioning skills help us set goals, plan how to meet goals and manage our frustrations when things get tough or are unfamiliar. We aren't born with these skills which is why it is important to have lots of opportunity to build them.

Games are a great way to build and develop the skills in 5-7 year old children. It is important that the games have enough challenge for the child but not too hard. As the child becomes increasingly skilled try to decrease the adult support. If the child wants to always go first try flipping a coin or rolling a dice. It is important for child to feel disappointment and to build their self regulation.

Below are some suggestions for 5-7 year olds.

Card Games and Board Games

Games where children need to remember where cards are to pair them up. Games like *concentration*, *Go Fish*, *Old Maid* and *matching animals or sight words*. Lots of these games can be purchased quite cheaply at variety shops like Cheap as Chips. Games like *Snaps* that require fast reactions and attention.

Uno is a great game which requires thinking and strategy as well as a knowledge of colours and numbers.

Games that require strategy like *Battleships*, *Chinese checkers*, *Draughts* or *Chess* are great for thinking ahead, having to think strategically and to not act too quickly.

Physical Games and activities

Fun games like *freeze dance*, *duck duck goose*, *what's the time or musical chairs* can be played with younger children. Older children should engage in games like 4 square or dodge ball— both needing quick thinking, rule following and self control. Older children benefit greatly from participating in organised sports that are structured, require cooperation and attention. Aerobics, yoga and martial arts are great for children who like to work individually.

Movement and song games

Fun copying songs and chants that children have to listen to and respond like *Boom Chicka Boom* are fun. Visit a scout or campfire song website www.scoutsongs.com for more ideas.

Singing in rounds e.g. Row Row Row your boat and complicated clapping sounds help develop working memory.

Ideas for 7-12 year olds

Card Games and Board Games

Traditional cards games like *500*, *UNO* and *rummy*. *Chess*, *Checkers*, *Draughts* and *Minecraft* for schools.

Physical Games and activities

Organised team sports— *football*, *soccer*, *tennis*, *netball* and *basketball*— all support the development of impulse control, remembering rules, playing fair and using strategy.

Jump rope games-including *Double Dutch* are great challenges as they require focus and stamina.

Intense games like *laser tag* and *paintball* are also fun for older kids but require stamina and strategy.

Music, Singing and Dancing

Learning a musical instrument, playing as part of a band will challenge and develop the working memory of children. Participating in music classes with a focus on beat and rhythm—like drumming builds coordination and inhibition.

Dancing is a fabulous building block, children need to hold moves and routines in their minds ready to coordinate preform.

Puzzles

Puzzles that require children to hold information in their minds and manipulate are terrific working memory builders. Cross-words, Sudoku and Rubik's cube build cognitive flexibility and exercise working memory and attention.

Random Acts of Kindness Awards - Week 9, Term 1 2021

Congratulations to: Ryan (Miss Gifford), Willow and Charlotte (Mr Angus)
Stella and Amber (Miss A).



For receiving this fortnights Kindness Awards at Assembly.



YEAR 7 TO HIGH SCHOOL



Parent Update Week 10, Term 1 – 2021

Preparing for year 7 in high school in 2022

We know many families of our year 6 and 7 students are busy exploring their local high school options for 2022. Next year will be unique, with a double cohort of students starting high school together as they enter years 7 and 8. The once-only move is necessary as we move year 7 to high school in public schools across the state.

Our primary and high schools are working together at every level to ensure the move is successful for families. Here are some of the key benefits to your child beginning high school in Year 7.

Learning opportunities

All South Australian students learn the Australian Curriculum, which was designed for year 7s to be taught in high school, as it is interstate. High school settings provide more specialist facilities to enhance learning, such as science laboratories, performing arts spaces and kitchens. They also offer teachers who are subject-specific experts, and a wide variety of extra-curricular activities.

A nation-wide move

Moving our year 7 students into high school brings South Australia in line with other states. Queensland and Western Australia most recently made the move in 2015. It also aligns our public school system with the Catholic and independent school sectors, which also teach year 7 in high school. Taking a cohesive approach to the start of high school promotes equity and makes it easier to move between states and school sectors, should you need to do so.

Year 7s are ready for high school

We know from the experiences of schools interstate and from our own pilot schools that year 7s are well and truly ready for high school.

This finding has been reinforced by the pilot program run through the Department for Education, involving three high schools, which welcomed their first cohort of year 7 students last year. We have been tracking the students' progress through interviews and surveys. The vast majority have enjoyed making new friends, trying new sports and activities and learning in a more mature environment.

We are ready for the move

Planning is well underway to ensure the move of year 7 to high school is well-managed and considered. We are drawing on our pilot program insights and what we have learnt from Queensland and Western Australia to ensure the move is as smooth as possible.

Where to find out more

Stay informed through your school and the Department for Education's website: www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS.

Or share your feedback with the project team by emailing: Year7toHS@sa.gov.au.

