

# 3 Eisenkolb

## Check out our Holiday Hints Slideshow on our Class Blog

We had fun writing clues about our holidays. It was hard to not be explicit about where we went and what we did, but to give hints instead.

We each wrote at least five clues to get people guessing and then did some artwork. See how you go deciding.



Welcome back to yet another busy term, we got straight back into it.

Brr...I trust the winter weather of the holidays didn't interfere too much with your holiday plans and that you enjoyed the break with your children if you were able. They all had interesting tales to share.

Time with family is so very important, I know I valued the precious time to spend with my elderly frail mother.

### Save the Date!

#### Swimming

1 – 5 August

Please be on time as we are in the first session, bus leaves after rollcall.

#### Ellen's LSL

5 – 26 August

Mrs Belle Padgett will be the relieving teacher in my 3 week absence.

#### Book Week

22 – 26 August

Book character parade in Quad 9.00 am Start planning now!



## I will be taking a short leave of absence

As you would well and truly be aware, the real world doesn't always fit with school timetables. My husband's schedule does not coincide with mine, it can't be helped, so as a result I will be taking long service leave for three weeks from 5<sup>th</sup> Aug to 26<sup>th</sup>. That means I'll be back for the beginning of week 6. It has been quite some time since my last long service leave.

We will be indulging ourselves in a few of our favourite pursuits – snorkelling the pristine tropical waters of Espiritu Santo and Tanna. These are two islands of Vanuatu. Tanna also has one of the world's most active volcanoes, Mt Yasur. Given my passion for all things geological, I intend to get within 150 m of this fiery spectacle and see the explosions up close and personal. Then of course there are many hikes and The Millenium Caves to explore. See you when I return, hopefully in one piece!

## Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to us, we completed reading our required quota by the end of term two, which was our goal. Just waiting on two individuals to pass up their record sheets and then we can proudly place our star on the chart. How good is our reading getting eh?

## Premier's Be Active Challenge

We are now set to complete another challenge and that is to get one hour of activity in each day for four weeks. Students can keep their times in their diary and I will send the results in. I know that many of our class members do much more than that. If they are spending recess and lunch breaks being active – huffing and puffing activities there's their hour. Given we also do fitness and PE, and lots do after school sport this is not becoming a challenge at all. We have week 2 covered with swimming. However, there maybe some individuals who may need to rethink their break activities!







## Negotiating new learning teams

This term I have placed the organising of new learning teams over to the students. Before embarking on their selections, we discussed suitable candidates. It was pleasing to hear them reflect on how friends can either support learning or become a distraction. In fact most of the criteria they came up with was about choosing people who consistently used appropriate and supportive learning behaviours.

These were their criteria for choosing a team member:-

- Using suggestive language
- Giving eye contact and listening
- Being respectful/using manners
- Need to make good decisions on who to work with
- Being organised and efficient
- Gender balance
- Someone new this team

Last term they worked on a self reflection of their group / social skills. They used this guide to identify areas, which needed more work. They used these areas as a bargaining tool in finding a partner

so that they could do a mutual swap eg. I'll support you with .... if you support me with...

When I set them off to negotiate it was an interesting sight. Many sat down with their record books and were deep in conversation. I was impressed to hear them identify and use the language of negotiation when they offered suggestions in order to create a team. Some found the prospect of having to speak up for themselves or approach others a challenge. A few were determined to wait for whoever was left, but then realised it may not be productive. The process was a real learning curve. Once they had a partner they needed to choose another pair to make a suitable team. They could then choose a table and set about writing their new rules and team foci. It was a delightful first lesson and showed how far they have come in such a short time.

Thanks for your Feed Back it really helps with setting learning goals.



## Our Super Readers are ready to strike again

Speaking of goals we had some huge efforts in reading, particularly towards the end of the term. Their super heroes were really flying through the percentage goals. A new term sees them all start at 0 and already we have a couple of students near their first 100%. All Accelerated Readers are encouraged to actively borrow, read and take their quizzes. We check the scores each week so they can see their progression.

## Term three events

### Book Week 2016

The theme for book week this year is **Australia Story Country**. The library will be having various activities in the lead up to celebrating children's literature. Of course, the one I've already heard the children planning, is dress up as a book character day. Perhaps the theme might give you some inspiration. I've asked Belle to photograph the kids so I don't miss too much.



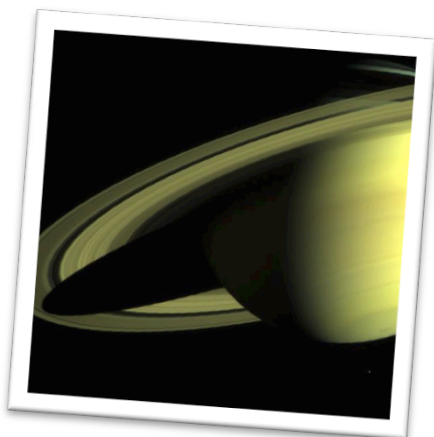
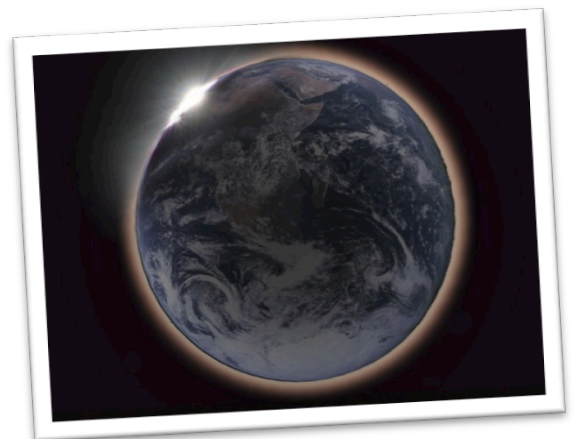
### Maths with Alex

Alex Narcys, our Maths co-ordinator, will be coming in to support us with our understanding of fractions and decimals from week six onwards. Wed mornings. He has been inspiring us in our work with multiplication and learning our number facts. We have been discussing the need to be fluent not only with our reading but in the way we recall number facts for addition/ subtraction and multiplication and division.



### Space, the final frontier..

Our science topic for investigation is a space theme but I will need to begin on my return. While it deals with a basic understanding of how we get day and night, I won't be able to help myself expand our knowledge of the Solar System a little and so the topic might just move through the final term too. In the meantime, look at the night sky. It's the best time during winter as we look into the heart of the Milkyway Galaxy.



On the Blog there is a link to Skymaps, which provides great maps of what to look for. At the moment the planets are visible. Checking out the changing shape of the Moon is also fun. You don't need a telescope eyes are good or a pair of binoculars 7x50. We'll be sharpening our knowledge of directional language too, so why not practice.

## Speaking of Blogs

Our Blog is officially one year old now. I started it last year in the holidays. Thanks to those of you who are encouraging your child to regularly add thoughtful comments. We have been working on our skills in writing comments during computer lessons but there is never enough time. Children have been eager to read their messages and replies, so if you are able, why not schedule some time to share classroom happenings together. You may feel inclined to write a comment or three. It's been great to see so many international visitors coming to checkout our learning.

## We have some, but will they last?

A parting gift to the children from Senija was some boxes of tissues, but with this busy season of number elevens, they may not last. Post swimming usually brings with it a bounty of sniffles and runny noses. So if your family hasn't "coughed" up a box yet perhaps you might want to bring in one and help keep the little green men out in space!



## No hats until...

Children have the option of wearing hats this term until September the 1<sup>st</sup>. Then it will be compulsory for hats to be worn during playtime.



I guess that's a snapshot of what we're up to this term. As my head is busy getting things ready for Belle and swimming I may have forgotten things. Still if you need me you know what to do. I'm looking forward to another great term of new learning. If I can get wifi I'll try to keep the children up to date on the Blog.

Cheers *Ellen*