

3 Eisenkolb Newsletter Term 4 2015

Tick, tick, tick....

Wow, how fast did term three fly by and what's more frightening, we're already in week two! *Einstein's Theory of Relativity* does have a lot to answer! I reckon it picked up warp speed. What is it with time? This year is just gathering speed. I must be enjoying this class too much because time always flies when you have fun.

I was really proud of their efforts last term and I see from your feed back you are too, you can rest now, that will be the last time this year you need to record your feedback. I do thank you all for providing the information your child need to plan achievable goals for future learning.

Never give up, never surrender.

I trust you all enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather during the holidays. My husband, another walking buddy and I decided to complete the *Great Ocean Walk*. This is a delightful and somewhat strenuous challenge which begins in the gorgeous seaside town of Apollo Bay and ends at The Twelve Apostles. This walk is only about 110 km and we aimed to complete it in five days. Victoria too had some of the hottest October days in one hundred years, not the best for bush walking, but as most of the walk was coastal, there was the occasional sea breeze/gale.

It was a spectacular walk, each day the variety of vegetation changed, at times we walked on beaches - keeping an eye out for treacherous waves, then coastal scrub - only saw one snake!, or through old beech rain forests-the tree ferns were stunning. It was absolutely enchanting, I highly recommend it.

Sadly, I picked up a nasty gastric bug from our fellow walker, (grandchildren apparently give more than just hugs!) which stopped both of us from completing two of the days .. I was a tad peeved as you can imagine! But that was something we couldn't plan for. I could have easily rolled over and slept for a week. Thank fully my training had me in good stead and although I struggled on the day after my illness I soon bounced back to full strength. Peter delights in reminding me I haven't truly completed this walk.

But, I persisted in the face of adversity, situations not unlike those I place your children in daily. Often they are faced with many intellectual challenges and their ability to persist, focus and maintain direction in a social setting is constantly exercised. Having stamina for such things is a critical component to being successful in our day to day lives.

So grown up

Opening the doors last Tuesday was wonderful, it felt like my family had just walked in and we all got on with things. You'd never known we'd been away. The kids just smoothly got on with negotiating their teams and it was business as usual. Check out their brainstorm on our blog, it was heartening to see how mature their decision making has become.

To Blog or not to Blogg

Speaking of blogging, I often wonder how many of you have taken the time to connect with our class blog. I am grateful that you have given permission for us to begin one. As I write this newsletter I am getting the feeling that perhaps newsletters will be a thing of the past. You can find information about what we are doing online as I keep it

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updated most weeks. As their record books cover the curriculum overview you are well informed. I wonder do you actually read my newsletters? (they can be a tad long) I know I have to write them! But now there is another way....mm!

I love how the kids are becoming more confident with their commenting of blogposts and we are actively persuing the rules and etiquette of writing comments. It would be great to hear from parents and other family members too. The kids begged me to give them a page to chat and to include homework so you will always find that there. Take another look if you haven't already.

<http://elleneisenkolb15.edublogs.org/>

You can find links to other Grange class blogs as well as one in America that we have been in contact with. We were honoured that Mrs Yollis included us on her blog.

Our blog is a great way for our kids to practice building cyber safety behaviours, being aware of the dangers of online communication is vital. Given our children are surrounded with electronic hardware they have access to internet apps 24/7. As parents and legal guardians it is imperative we monitor usage of such devices. Be mindful of age restrictions on social media sites.

It was surprising to learn that research statistics indicated some parents freely allowed usage of these age restricted sites even though their children were underage. This is alarming as incidents of bullying were typically linked to these social media networks. One point we should always reinforce with students is to never provide

personal information to strangers while chatting and to never write, download, send images or anything that you wouldn't want your family, Grandparents or teachers to see. I reckon that is a wise approach to share with your children. As I have personally found out things can quickly turn nasty and police intervention may be necessary.

Go Yellow

By now your child will be caught up in a frenzy and possibly suffering from **Games Day Fever**, ... *finding a t-shirt to wear - reliving how they went in the run offs and dreaming of their place in the championship events.*

We have 10 of our students in the Blue Ribbon sprints event and of course everyone else should have at least one other event to participate in. See our regular morning fitness sessions pay off.

Our buddy class for Games Day will be Ms Carmen's year three class and we will be working out our tabloid activities soon. Stay tuned for programs and maps so you can find us on the day if and when you are able to join us.

The Book Fair will be on during Games day so you may have an enterprising family member who is able to use emotional blackmail to support his or her reading skills, be warned. I may have primed them a little!

Spelling Contracts

We've been doing these all year, I love the way the students put time and effort into their presentations, but they are time consuming, not to mention ages to mark. This term we will have a sea change, well

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we are close to the beach. We'll have some activities which will challenge knowledge of spelling rules and still provide opportunities for sentence writing. If they finish in class, that will free up homework time but these modified contracts shouldn't be onerous.

Mathletics

It has been a requirement that our students participate in mathletics as Grange pays for the students to participate. Given that spelling won't take priority at home, they should have more time to access mathletics. I have noticed an increase of success in mathematical ideas, as students repeat selected activities. They should aim to get 100% three times. I have shown them their graphs and it is pleasing to see that they are indeed putting in more effort.

As you would have read on our blog the importance of being able to automatically recall number facts randomly for all operations is a requirement of year three. Addition and subtraction to 10 and tables multiplication and division are 2, 3, 5 and 10. However they all have to be known so if time allows and they are ready, why not challenge them.

We have been working on money this term showing amounts and working out change. I find this can be challenging and, like understanding time, requires lots of practice, so if you are able, allow your child to work out money problems with the family. Perhaps get them to work out the change they'll get for their lunch orders or give them a budget and let them sort out what they can purchase. Can they afford things? How many items could they get at a certain price etc.

Read, read, read

I was most pleased by the record number of awards given out for accelerated reading last term, poor Grant's hand must be so sore from signing all those certificates. This term the students have already made a significant beginning to meeting their targets for this term. I am so impressed with this class' attitude to reading it is heartwarming.

The library begins to wind down for stock take by week 7 which doesn't give us that much time to reach our goals. As the students try so hard with their accurate reading often it can be at the expense of fluency and expression. This is an area that must also be exercised, so you may want to monitor their out loud reading once a week.

Our library borrowing is Tuesdays again for this term and I will encourage students to have enough reading material for the week.

Heating Up

The weather isn't the only thing that is heating up. Our topic for science investigation this term focuses on the physical science of how heat moves from one object to another. We will learn about the conductivity of materials while we investigate different heat sources. Kind of naturally follows on from our previous topic *Melting Moments*. Science is so much fun.

Bah Humbug

Well, it's that time of year when we are bombarded by a plethora of commercial paraphernalia about the up coming Festive Season. It irks me greatly and I get into the Bah Humbug spirit because Christmas is

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Dec 25th and a joyous time, but not Oct through early Dec! Argh.

humbug!) Should you need to meet with me at some stage please organise a time.

Hark, the Year 3/4 Choir Sings.

Having said that this term we have been approached by Charles Sturt Council to help support their Carols by Candlelight on the 6th December. What an honor to be asked and to have our children's voices lifted in song at this festive time. On Tuesday's Diana Busolin, Alan Uphill and some of the year 3/4 classes will gather to give our vocal chords a good old stretch while we learn the songs for the evening. It would be wonderful if you could put that date in your calendar and join in, bring a picnic blanket come sing with us. More information later when it comes to hand.

Here's to the last hoorah

Cheers Ellen

Next year...it's closer than you think!

In the latest newsletter there is an article that you should look at closely regarding information that we need to place your child next year. Please put your thinking in writing and pass it on to us before the due date, as you can appreciate the class placement exercise is a huge undertaking, so, for your needs and concerns to be included, please take the necessary steps outlined.

Well, it's goodnight from her

I am looking forward to this term albeit an emotional one, as I form strong friendships with my students and I'm not sure I want to part with them. Yes, inside this hard exterior of insistent, persistent and consistent Ellen lies an old softy.... sigh. Oh well, others have to enjoy them too I guess and how ready are they.

This term will race past and the silly season will be here before you know it, (bah