



Serviceton South State School

*We learn; we care; we are team players
We are Serviceton South Sapphires!*

Newsletter

29 March 2019

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Harmony Day



Harmony Day is a national celebration in Australia. It is held on the 21st March every year. It is a day to think about the different types of people who contribute to make Australia such a wonderful place to live. It is also an opportunity to celebrate diversity with friends, school and community groups. On Friday 22nd March we celebrated Harmony Day and National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Students were encouraged to wear orange or their traditional dress and participated in class activities that focused around "Everyone Belonging."

Principal's Piece

Dear Serviceton South Community,
Friday 29th March will be my last day as Principal of Serviceton South State School. I have enjoyed my time here at this great school and look forward to continuing to hear about the achievements of the students.

Mrs Alison Prendergast will be Acting Principal for the final week of the term.

Warm regards
Wendy Neal
(Principal)

Greetings to the Serviceton South community!

I am looking forward to joining you next term and I have already enjoyed one visit so far this term with one more planned for next week.

A little bit about myself:

I have been in education since 1993, where I started my career at Berrinba East SS in Woodridge. I spent the next 18 years in this area, working in another school and as Advisory Teacher, Support Teacher-Learning Difficulties and the final 5 years as a Deputy Principal back at Berrinba East. This was followed by a 2 years stint as a DP at Birkdale SS. I left there in 2013 to take up Principalship at Blackwater North SS. I have also held principalships at Ipswich Central SS, Miltchelton SS, Biloela State High School and lately Gympie South SS.

I am a proud state educator who has a passion for building a strong culture around student growth, especially in Reading and in working with staff and community to achieve this.

Next term, please do not hesitate to come up and introduce yourself.



Look to the Stars Acknowledgement Ceremony

On Tuesday 19 March, two of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, Caidence and Lillian, represented Serviceton South State School at the Queensland Police Academy to support the unveiling of the *Look to the Stars* Indigenous artwork. *Look to the Stars* was created in collaboration with a purpose built working group representing a cross section of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the Queensland Police Service (QPS). Sharing stories, experiences and perspectives, the group worked to form a collective narrative of the past and present to create a united message for the future. ***“As we look to the stars, the Guiding Constellation lights up the sky, illuminating our way forward through trust, relationships and respect.”***



Student Indigenous Leaders 2019

Recently our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 5 and 6 had the opportunity to nominate for the student leadership position of Indigenous Leader. Interested students were required to submit an application form and participate in an interview with Ms Neal and Mrs Prendergast. All staff and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 4-6 were able to vote for their preferred leader. Congratulations to all students who have participated in this process.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held next week on Tuesday 2 April and Wednesday 3 April from 3pm to 6pm. The interviews will last 15 minutes and will be held in the school hall. This is an important opportunity to meet with your child's classroom teacher to discuss your child's learning, as well as any social or behavioural concerns. If you have not yet made a booking, please return your booking slip to your child's teacher by Friday 29 March.



School Camp: Years 5 & 6

We are currently in the process of confirming details of our school camp for students in Years 5 and 6. This camp is scheduled for Term Four.

NAPLAN

Students in Years 3 and 5 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests in Term Two. Testing will be held on Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th May. These tests are designed to give a point in time snapshot of a child's progress and are an important tool for comparing this progress with peers within the school, across the State and also across Australia. Further information will be provided later this term and early in Term Two to families who have a child sitting NAPLAN.

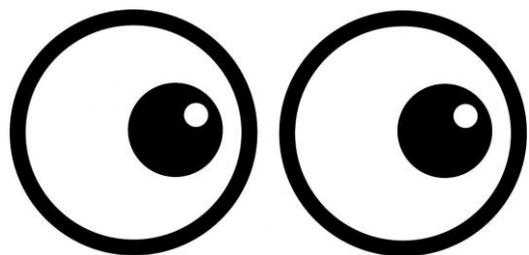
Curriculum Update

As we draw to the end of the Term 1, I wanted to thank you for all the support you have given your child this term with their learning. It is crucial that students are at school every day to ensure they aren't missing key concepts of the curriculum, are well rested from a good night's sleep and that their brains are firing from a big, healthy breakfast. I know from experience mornings can be hectic and it's often difficult to fit everything in with kids, for this reason I feel so lucky to work at a school that has a free daily breakfast club for all students. By now your children are probably feeling the effects of a busy first term after 6 weeks of holidays and I encourage you to use the holidays as a time to rest and recharge for Term 2. To this point, I would like to talk about the importance of continuing to read through the holidays and some things you can do to support your child's literacy learning. As you are resting and recharging, take the time to enjoy a book yourself. Children often mimic the behaviours of influential adults and when they see you reading and enjoying a book, they will want to be just like

you and enjoy a book. Take some time to read with your child. You could take it in turns or you could read to them and then have a conversation about the characters or what is happening. Read a range of texts to and with your child – don't just use picture books or novels. Children need to read a range of text types including, magazines, newspapers, emails, websites, junk mail... the list goes on! When you read a variety of different texts it's important to talk about the purpose of the text and why it was written. Another strategy is to flip the roles and have them ask the questions! There are many more ideas to support literacy development at home:

- Make up rhyming words (access Dr Seuss books to support this)
- Visit the library and spend some time there finding and reading books – membership is free and council libraries offer a range of child friendly activities run by the library staff
- Read and sing nursery rhymes
- Cook with your child and read the recipe together
- Discuss the meaning of unknown words
- Reading includes looking at and talking about pictures
- If English is not your first language, read texts in your native language
- Encourage your child to write and illustrate their own book
- Encourage family and friends to read with your child
- Play high frequency word games (there are thousands of ideas on Pinterest/Google to support this)

Above all, make reading fun! Reading is much easier when we are interested and we enjoy it. Never force a child to read as it will lead to feelings of negativity. Choose texts that are linked to their interests e.g. animals, dinosaurs, comics, world records.



Visit by Registered Nurse for Prep Vision Screening

Good vision is important for a child's educational, physical and social development. Vision screening

is therefore vital in early childhood, particularly for conditions such as 'lazy eye', which if not detected early can lead to blindness.

A Registered Nurse will be visiting the school in 2019 to commence vision screening for all **Prep Year** children. The testing will occur on Thursday the 20th of June and Friday the 21st of June at the school hall. If you wish to have your child participate in this vision-screening program, please complete and sign the consent form sent home with your child and return this to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. All permission forms must be returned by the **1st of April**. You will be advised in writing of the outcome of your child's screening.

Please note that if your child has had a vision assessment in the past 12 months it is not necessary for him/her to participate in this screening program. If this is the case, please complete the consent form and indicate that you do not wish for your child to participate, and ensure that you follow the schedule of reviews recommended by your eye health professional.

Date to Remember

2 April	Parent/Teacher Interviews 3.00pm - 600pm
3 April	Parent/Teacher Interviews 3.00pm - 600pm
5 April	Last Day of Term 1
23 April	Return to school
24 April	ANZAC Day Service

Year 1-6 EAL/D Homework Club

Homework Club for Years 1-6 EAL/D students will be held in the Parent Room every Wednesday afternoon from 2:45- 3:30pm. Teachers and teacher aides are available to help the students complete their homework. Students may also have time to read a book at their level with one of the staff members. This is a great chance for children who speak another language at home to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. If your child has not yet attended homework club, please come along and see what happens. It's important to encourage your child to attend. Please come to the door of the Parent Room to collect your child no later than 3:30.

Cross Country



Cross Country

Our Cross Country was held on Wednesday 20 March. Congratulations to MARS for winning the house.

Score:

MARS - 233

PLUTO - 212

NEPTUNE - 197