Introduction

Dear Families

Welcome to U6 and another exciting year of learning! I am especially looking forward to working with your child. This year as a whole school we are implementing a connected curriculum that incorporates all learning areas, which is centred around a focus question. This term's focus question is "can all living things flourish?" In addition, the school is beginning our journey towards implementing the Walker Learning Approach from Foundation to year 7. Key aspects which will be trialled this term are; focus students, investigation and reflection. The following is important information on our class procedures and the curriculum content for this term. If you have any questions or comments regarding your child's education, please don't hesitate to make an appointment to come and see me.

Maths

Maths is taught at an explicit level through practical and integrated activities that build on previous mathematical knowledge. This year we will be covering mathematical skills and knowledge in the following content strands: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability.

This term students will be focusing on place-value, developing confidence with number sequences to and from 100, partitioning numbers, and solving simple addition and subtraction problems. In addition, we will also be focusing on length and area. Students will be estimating, measuring and comparing lengths using informal units. This will be done through a range of hands-on activities with the use of various concrete materials.

Further information regarding Mathematics and the Australian Curriculum is available at the following link: http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/mathematics/curriculum/f-10?layout=1#level1

English

Each morning students are engaged in a literacy block where reading (shared and guided), writing, phonics, spelling and comprehension is explicitly taught and practised. Students will be introduced to a wide variety of strategies to assist with further developing students’ accuracy and fluency and extending their sound and sight word knowledge.

Our focus for writing this term is on the features of recounts and narratives. Students will be explicitly taught the structure of a recount whilst also looking at sentence structure and punctuation. In addition, students will also be reading, deconstructing and comparing fairy tales with the opportunity to create oral and written narratives through a variety of independent and group activities.

In spelling our focus will be on the sounds of the alphabet, where students will be introduced to a variety of word families, blends and digraphs. This term students will be focusing on 'ch', 'sh', 'th', 'ng', 'ph', 'ck', suffix 's', 'qu' and 'wh'. To assist students with building their vocabulary, spelling
words will be given out on Mondays and glued into their homework book to practise at home ready for a spelling test on Fridays.

In addition, students will be engaging in an author study on Pamela Allen where they will be identifying the style, genre and comparing characters and texts.

Further information regarding English and the Australian Curriculum is available at the following link: http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/english/curriculum/f-10?layout=1#level1

### Science

In Science this term we will be focusing on Biological Science, in particularly looking at living things. Students will have the opportunity to observe the features and behaviours of small animals, learning how they move, feed and protect themselves. This will provide students with a better understanding of the importance of adaptation and survival for animals in their habitat. U6 students will be working with U4 students as they develop their skills to conduct, investigate, process data, predict and communicate their thinking.

For further information on the Science Curriculum please see the link below: http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/science/curriculum/f-10?layout=1#level1

### HASS – Humanities and Social Sciences

In HASS this term students will focus on family life, in particularly looking at how family dynamics and roles have changed overtime. They will reflect on their daily lives and make connections between the past and present. Students will compare their life to their parents’ and grandparents’ childhood, identifying similarities and differences between the two.

### Specialist Areas

This year students will be provided with the following specialist lessons:
- PE (with Terry Ahern on Wednesdays)
- Japanese (with Belinda Brenen on Wednesdays & Fridays)
- Performing Arts (With Tiffany McCallum on Thursdays)
- Positive Education (with Desy Pantelos on Fridays)

Japanese:
Students will participate in guided group activities such as games, songs and simple tasks, using movement, gestures and pictures to develop understanding and convey meaning based around our theme. They will also participate in shared listening, viewing and reading of texts, and respond through singing, role-playing, drawing and actions. We will begin to recognise and copy some hiragana and a few high-frequency kanji as well as notice that there are differences in how language is used in different cultural and social contexts, especially important for children to understand.

Physical Education (PE):
Terry offers a 45 minute session once a week. The focus for this term is fundamental movement skills and inparticularly exploring locomotion (running, skipping etc.). All sessions begin with a warm up and during hot weather, students will be involved in indoor activities such as indoor hockey, gaga ball, and towers.

Performing Arts:
The Performing Arts comprises of Music, Drama and Dance. In Music, students will become aware of rhythm and demonstrate aural skills by keeping in time when listening to and practicing
music. Students will learn an Indigenous lullaby as a performance item. In Drama, students will explore body movement and expression to communicate dreamtime stories. In Dance, students will become aware of how their body can move exploring locomotor and non-locomotor movements.

Positive Education:
In the PEARL room this term students will be exploring the following skills:

Gratitude: One of the easiest ways we can add joy to our lives is by practising gratitude. Gratitude is when you feel thankful for some positive aspect in life, whether it is a person, an object or an experience.

Kindness: When someone performs an act of kindness towards others, it has a powerful ripple effect, because both the person who received the kindness and the person who performed the act benefit from it. Learning to be givers shapes children’s values and provides greater opportunities to develop kindness as a virtue, which improves their lives whilst also reducing violence and bullying. This also ensures greater joyfulness in their lives.

Love: Love is more than an emotion or an intangible connection; it is indeed a truly tangible action. If everyone treated others with love, it would guarantee to make the world a nicer place. Students will be involved in activities targeted to acts of kindness, consideration, respect and compassion. This will bring greater joy into all their lives.

Forgiveness: Teaching students to forgive is an essential life skill that will make navigating childhood into adolescence and even further into adulthood easier. Holding onto anger and resentment is a sure recipe for anxiety and stress for both children and adults. The earlier that forgiveness can be taught and reinforced, the earlier we can prevent our children from taking on the victim role, and in turn helping to prevent anxiety. It is vital for kids to learn that they can be forgiven and acknowledge that they can forgive others.

Compassion: Compassion radiates from the heart along with love, kindness, caring, forgiveness and acceptance. The essence of compassion is connection and communication. Students will be focusing on connections particularly where they are kind and empathetic. Compassionate kids truly make a difference in this world.

Morning routines

1. Come in and put your bag on your bag hook.
2. Take out your reader folder and drink bottle.
3. Put your drink bottle in one of the ‘Drink Bottle’ baskets.
4. Put any books you would like return to the library in the ‘Return’ basket.
5. Put your reader folder on the bookshelf next to Miss S’ desk.
6. If you have a note for Miss S put your communication book in the basket on the bookshelf next to Miss S’ desk.
7. Put your lunch order in the lunch order basket at the front of the classroom.
8. If it is your ‘Show and Tell’ day give Miss S your sharing to keep safe in the cupboard.
9. Sign your name off on the interactive whiteboard.
10. Quietly find a spot to read with a parent or a partner.

Library Day / Computers

U6 visits the library every Wednesday morning and during this time the class gets the chance to have a browse in the library and also the opportunity to do their borrowing. When your child has finished reading their borrowed books they can place it in our ‘Book Returns’ basket in the
classroom so that they may be able to borrow again.

During ICT lessons students will be learning how to safely use a variety of devices and practise logging on using their own personal profile. They will be familiarising themselves with the keys on a keyboard and practising their typing skills through a variety of games. Students will be using such software programs as Tux Paint and Active Inspire to enhance their work. In addition, students will also have the opportunity to access Mathletics (via the internet) later in the term to encourage further development of their mathematical skills.

Parent Helpers

At Kidman Park Primary we value the support and expertise parents can bring to the classroom. If you have a special skill that you would like to share with the students or are able to volunteer for reading or support the activities during literacy block please let me know. Please note that it is a DECD requirement that all volunteers need a DCSI History Screening. To access a form please go to the following link: http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/services/screening

Important Dates

Acquaintance night is week 2 on Tuesday the 7th of February from 6:30 to 7:15pm.

U6 and U4 will be hosting assembly in week 7 on Tuesday the 14th of March at 2:15pm.

School photos are in week 10 on Wednesday the 5th of April.