

Newsletter Issue No 2 Term 1 2019

Dear Subscribers Name

Welcome to our second newsletter for Term 1 2019. Apologies for the delay, we have had some technical issues.



Principal's Message

Dear Parents

I am so very impressed with the manner in which staff and students have now settled in to the new school structure.

Classrooms are peaceful, students are engaged and where appropriate, students and parents are being supported with matters around attendance, behaviour, curriculum access and specific risk factors. I have welcomed the opportunity to engage with families during this very hectic first 4 weeks of school.

Scitech: That our school again had the pleasure of engaging with Scitech to provide unique learning experiences was just fabulous! More than 90% of our students were supported by their families to attend and we thank you for that.



Year 5/6 Students at the Scitech Show

Student Councillors: My sincere thanks to School Board members Mrs Wright and Mr Guest, as well as Deputy Principal Mr Weckert for working with me to select, on merit, our Student Councillors for 2019. The Selection Panel have chosen the following students to represent and lead our K-6 students this year: Molly Pechar, Emily Crawley, Lylah Heather, Mia Walter, Jack Hallam, Lloyd Henderson, Isaac Francis and Ben Gibson.



Our Year 6 Student Councillors with Mr Brand

We congratulate our new leaders and are passionate about supporting them, as a leadership team, to contribute amazing things to our school this year.

Next Wednesday the Councillors will attend a Leaders' Conference with Councillors from neighbouring schools and will then plan to host a similar day here in Term 2. Best wishes Team and we look forward to presenting each of you with your badges at the Assembly next Friday.

P&C News: It has been a delight to work with and support the P&C to merit select a new Canteen Manager and also to establish a Committee to plan for and develop exciting nature play opportunities at Castletown PS. The enthusiasm and commitment of parents is very exciting and we can expect significant benefits to flow quickly to the school as a result – watch this space as the P&C are really keen for your valued ideas and suggestions.



P&C Nature Committee Members - Hailee Schmidt, Larissa Bower, Suzie Styles, Greg Bower and Fiona Ryan.

School Board: This week, another 5 members of the Board attended a full day of induction and training and this complements and supplements the opportunity 9 members had for the same in 2018.

The School Board is the critical interface between our school and the community. This relationship is most effective when Board members understand their role within the school's governance structure and how to get the most from it.

Items on the agenda for the next School Board meeting on 13 March include; Board Performance Review, 2019 School Budget, key directions in the School's 2017-19 Business Plan and policy development including Dress Code, Managing Student Behaviour and Healthy Eating.

Colin Brand
Principal



Deputy's Desk - Student Services

Mr Weckert is the Deputy-Student Services. Each fortnight he will share information pertinent in supporting our students to achieve success at Castletown Primary School. Today's article includes Attendance, Behaviour Management and the Virtues Project and WA Public School Leadership Strategy.

Attendance

After 4 weeks of school, our attendance rate across Kindy to Year 6 sits on our Strategic Target of 95%. Congratulations, to our Year 3's, which currently have the highest attendance rate at 97.5%. Did you know that when a student's attendance falls below 90%, they are at educational risk? Absences from school need to be explained and parents can inform the school through our Updat-ed App, website or communication to the school. We currently have 11.6% of absences from school as unexplained and teachers will be following up with respective parents.

Behaviour Management and the Virtues Project

The start to the year at Castletown Primary has been fantastic from our students, with positive displays of behaviour everywhere. With a number of changes in the routine at school, including moving year levels to new classroom, new play areas and the restructure of classes at the end of week one, our Staff have

support our students extremely well to engage successfully at school. Students are displaying a wide range of the Virtues our school aims to awaken within our children. Respect is a focus Virtue across the different phases of learning in term 1. At the first School Assembly next Friday, we will draw the first tickets from the Virtues ticket Boxes. Teachers award students with a ticket for displaying Virtues in the classroom and in the playground. Students will be awarded a prize from the new Virtues Prize Box.



There is no tolerance for inappropriate behaviour that disrupts the safety and learning environment for students. There have been 6 suspensions so far this year and each has provided an opportunity for the school to engage with families to create better outcomes for our students. Teachers are making every effort to ensure students are supported to be safe and engaged at school.

WA Public School Leadership Strategy 2018 - 2021

On Thursday, I attended this professional development with Principals and Leaders from across the Esperance district. This strategy sets out the rationale, guiding principles, scope and major initiatives over the next four years. This opportunity provided me with a fantastic opportunity for growth as a leader and strengthened my relationships with colleagues in the Esperance district. It also gave strong affirmation for the direction our Principal, Mr Brand, has for Castletown PS.

In a nutshell, schools led by highly effective principals are especially successful in identifying and meeting the needs of all students. In these schools the principal leads a school-wide commitment to a single, deep-seated moral purpose: to see every student learning successfully and working toward their potential. The principal regards this as the core mission of the school and this commitment drives and guides all aspects of their work.

Mr Weckert
Deputy Principal - Student Services



Deputy's Desk - Curriculum

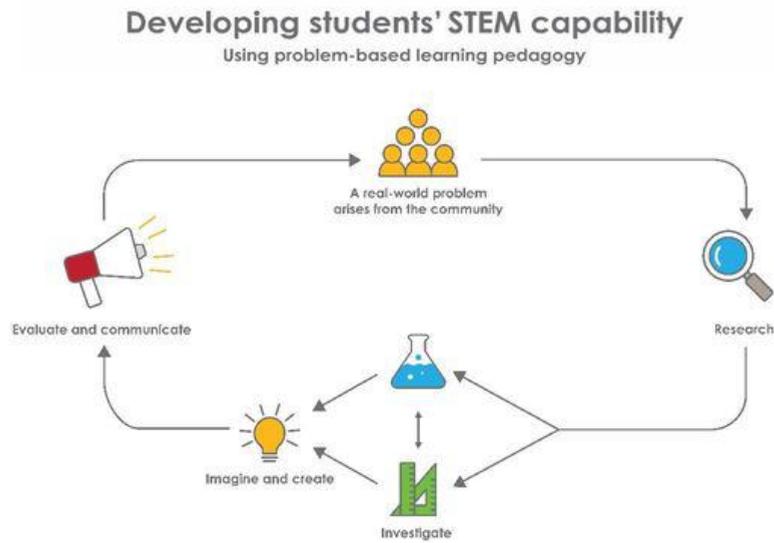
Mrs Fetherston is the Deputy - Curriculum. Each fortnight in the newsletter she will share information pertaining to curriculum at Castletown Primary School. Today's article includes STEM Learning Project, Incursions and Excursions, Online Learning Programs, NAPLAN 2019, Brightpaths and Assemblies.

STEM Learning Project Professional Learning

On Monday, 25th February, all teachers from Castletown attended professional learning at Esperance Primary School regarding the STEM Learning Project Resources. These resources have been developed for the Western Australian Department of Education by a consortium comprising Scitech, Educational Computing Association of Western Australia, Mathematics Association of Western Australia and the Science Teachers Association of Western Australia. It is fantastic to have such quality resources designed by Western Australians for Western Australian children.

"The STEM Learning Project's aim is to generate students' interest, enjoyment and engagement with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and to encourage their ongoing participation in STEM while learning and in subsequent careers." (2019, STEM Learning Project)

STEM Learning Projects are based upon solving open-ended, real world problems. The process is outlined in the diagram below.



This semester every class from K-6 will engage in one of the STEM Learning Projects. It will be exciting to see the many different solutions our students create to solve the real-world problems in their projects.

Scitech Incursion

Throughout the year, students at Castletown Primary School are often afforded the opportunity to participate in quality incursions and excursions. This week our students were able to experience the wonder of Science through a Scitech Show and Workshop. The feedback from staff and students has been overwhelming positive with students excited by what they have experienced and learnt.



Payment of Incursions and Excursions

A frustrating thing regarding the Scitech Incursion for the school was the number of students that had not paid by the due date and were paying right up until the day of the incursion. We are required to make

alternative arrangements for students who do not participate and aim to advise our teachers in a timely fashion. These late payments created difficulties for our admin team, financial officers and staff. In future, students who have not paid by the due date will not be participating in events. We will set the payment due date a week before the event and will send reminders out prior to this date.

Current Details

It is important to ensure that your current details are up-to-date with the school to ensure you receive all communication from the school (newsletters, reminders and communication from your child's teacher or the Admin Team). You may need to add the school's email address to your safe senders list as we send bulk emails out and your email provider may mistakenly assume the email is spam and send it to your junk email.

On-Line Learning Programs

At Castletown Primary School we have purchased licenses to provide our students access to Reading Eggs/Eggspress, Mathletics and Typing Tournament. These Australian programs are well regarded throughout Australia as being useful tools in improving student outcomes.

In the past two years all our staff have received professional learning from Tracey Hodgkinson of 3P Learning (the producer of the Reading Eggs/Eggspress and Mathletics Software) in how to use Reading Eggs/Eggspress and Mathletics effectively in the classroom to provide differentiated activities for students, allowing students to work at their own individual level.

Students have the ability to access these programs at home as well, to facilitate and support their learning. The log-ins for each of these programs will be sent home with your child. The program can be accessed via computers or tablets. There is a Mathletics app available but as the program is being updated it has been recommended by 3P Learning that students access the program from their browser (Safari on Apple IOS).

Reading Eggs/Eggspress is available for K-6 students, Mathletics is available for PP-6 students and Typing Tournament is available for PP-6 students (Please note - PP students will be receiving their logins for Typing Tournament later this year.)



NAPLAN 2019

From 14th -24th May, our Year 3 and Year 5 students will be engaged in completing the NAPLAN Assessment. For the first time, all students will sit the assessment online except the Year 3 Writing – which will be completed on paper. A parent information brochure has been sent home with Year 3 and Year 5 students today.

Brightpaths

On Friday, I attended professional learning in Perth regarding the Brightpaths Assessment Tool and Reports. The Brightpaths Assessment tool is used to assess students' writing in a variety of genres and then provides identified teaching tips to help progress student's writing to the next level. All teachers at Castletown Primary from K-6 are utilising this tool to improve student outcomes in their classroom. The professional learning I attended was about using the data created from these assessments to identify whole school strengths and weaknesses and creating plans and targets to progress student achievement.

Assemblies at Castletown

This year we have chosen to schedule our school assemblies on Fridays. Our first Senior Assembly (Years 3-6) will be held this Friday, 8th March, from 8.50am and will be led by Mrs Rose's Year 6 students from Room 9. We will be introducing our new School Leaders and announcing the Faction Captains at this assembly. All parents are welcome to attend the assembly. The hosting class will be inviting parents of their class to a morning tea to be held in Room 9 after the assembly.

Mrs Fetherston

Deputy Principal - Curriculum



K-PP POL News

On Wednesday EC3 went to the Scitech show.

We had lots of fun learning about "How things change." We made a cake in a cup. It was yummy!!!!

Mrs Gallop

Pre-Primary Teacher



Year 1-2 POL News

The Year 1/2s are starting on our STEM projects.

The Year two's task is to create a water tank that collects clean water.

Room 3 used a 2 litre plastic bottle, a piece of thin material for a filter, hot glue gun, elastic bands and tape.

The whole class had a great time with everyone having success in different degrees.

We hope you enjoy our photos.



Mr Moss
Year 2 Teacher



Year 3-4 POL News

The Year 3s and 4s thoroughly enjoyed the SCITECH visit this week and getting their hands sticky with the workshops, where we had to create a coating from different powders and liquids for a tablet that would not start to dissolve until after 20 seconds.

We are settling into routines now and there is a lot of fun learning to be had in our classrooms.

The Year 4s are enjoying eating lunch together and they are learning about the Earth's surface Beneath our Feet in Science. It was a lot of fun to explore the different features of rocks and soils and we are excited to learn more about how they are formed during the term.

We are all enjoying practising for the Athletics Carnival and have been busy throwing, running and perfecting our long jump.

Mrs Dellaca
Year 4 Teacher



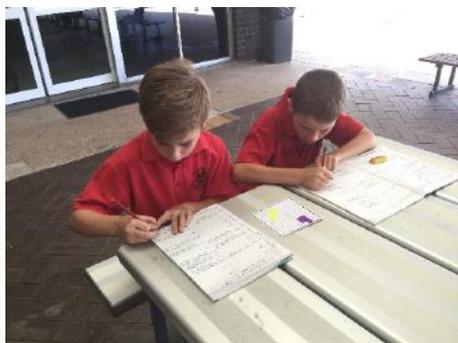
Year 5-6 POL News

It's been all go in the Senior Area, with Year 5 and 6 students working feverishly in class and behind the scenes.

The Year 6 councillors were announced after their applications were successfully accepted, with Ben Gibson, Mia Walter, Emily Crawley, Lloyd Henderson, Isaac Francis, Molly Pechar and Lylah Heather becoming our school leaders for 2019.

After writing to a selection criteria to nominate to be a Faction Captain, this week the Year 5 and 6's will vote on the short-listed nominees in their respected factions.

In Term 1, Year 5 classes are studying and writing persuasive and narrative texts, and Year 6's narratives. Both years are also observing, researching, investigating and inquiring in their History, Civics and Citizenship and Earth and Space Science units. Additionally, instrumental students will also be participating in instructional music lessons once a week with Miss Lemon (brass) and Miss Starcevich (clarinet, flute and classical guitar).



Year 5 students in Room 11 recording the value of each blocked out pentomino in ascending order using a 100s grid.

Miss Tonkin
Year 5 Teacher



Specialist DOTT POL News - Musical Notes

We have made a great start on our 2019 musical journey. The course for the year has been outlined with a focus on Choral Performances in Term 1 & 4 and the Instrumental Program in Term 2 & 3. This should see us prepared well in advance for the Esperance Music Festival.

Our virtue for the year's beginning is Respect. Respect of self at school and our Australian culture. Respect of others...their culture and diversity. Respect of our resources, the environment and sustainability.

To create this awareness, students have been learning, responding, singing and rapping Respect songs, Australian classics, medleys and rounds. Some of this work will be showcased at the next Senior Assembly on Friday the 8th of March and the Junior Assembly being held on Friday the 15th of March.



In Week 10 Castletown will hold our ANZAC ceremony. We have been revising "Can you Hear Australia's Heroes Marching" and 'Flanders Fields' at choir and music in anticipation of this event. We do hope you can come see us perform.

Mrs Andrea Liddelow
Music Teacher

Event Quick View

Fri 8th March
[Assembly Room 9](#)

Wed 20th March
[Jumps and Throws Day](#)

Thu 21st March
[Athletics Carnival](#)

Fri 22nd March
[Assembly Room 3](#)

Community Events

Welcome to our Community Events Page For the latest Escare News click [here](#)

A friendly reminder that if your child has misplaced any uniform items to please check the lost property box located in the undercover area.

Yours sincerely

Julie Fetherston & Tania Barnes
Newsletter Co-ordinators