

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, 12/2/2024



Landsdale
Gardens
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal's Message

Welcome back to our foundation families and a big welcome to our new families that have joined Landsdale Gardens in 2024. I was particularly impressed with the way our students quickly settled into their new class routines and are already demonstrating our GROW values of Graciousness, Respect, Optimism and Willingness to make mistakes and learn from feedback. This year we start with 220 students, 3 Kindergarten classes and 7 classes from Pre-Primary to Year 6. We welcome Brittany Newton (PP), Sasha Nicholaidis (Year 4/5), Anika Brown (DOTT), Adam Farrand (EA), Aiden Simpson (Phys Ed) and Isaac Fullarton (School Psych) to our teaching team.



Due to the uneven enrolment pattern in our school, we have created composite classes mixing students from two different year levels. If your child is placed in a composite class, they will not be held back by lower-level content or miss out on learning their year level curriculum content. Instead, they will become more confident making friends across year levels, will become more independent and have opportunities for remediation and extension.

Last week, our students were tested and grouped according to their ability/skill level for spelling and reading. Within these groups, teachers will also differentiate to cater for the specific needs of their students. These groups will be fluid for a couple of weeks as teachers determine whether students have been placed in the appropriate level. These groups are made up of students from many different year levels so that students can receive extension and remediation where required.

Developing the habit of going to school every day is vitally important so your child does not miss out on important ideas, concepts, knowledge and skills they need for future learning. It is compulsory for students to attend school and should only take time off when they are unwell. Missing half a day of school each week equates to one month of missed learning opportunities. The *School Education Act 1999* does not allow principals to give permission for families to take holidays during the school term. As students are required to attend school every day, time off for holidays is recorded as an 'unauthorised vacation' and holiday work packages will not be supplied.

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School Times

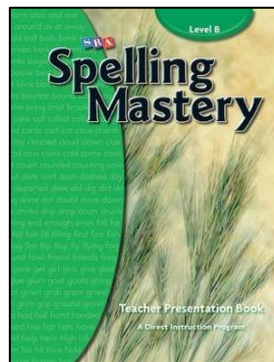
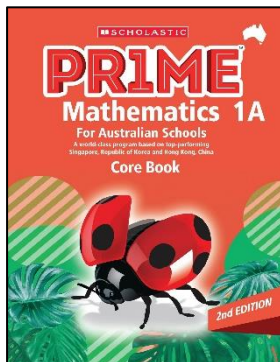
Classroom doors open at 8.30am with classes officially starting at 8.40am. For the safety of all students, please do not arrive before 8.20am. All students are required to sit on the verandah outside Bain if they arrive before 8.30am and are not permitted to play on the equipment. We have two break times scheduled: 1st Lunch (10.50am – 11.20am), 2nd Lunch (1.20pm – 1.50pm). The students play for the first twenty minutes and eat for the last 10 minutes of each break. Please ensure your child has their hat every day and arrives on time so that they do not miss important learning at the start of the day.

Parent Information Meetings

We encourage you to attend the Parent Information Meetings being scheduled in week 3 this term. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher, meet the other parents in the class, hear about the learning programs and understand the expectations for the year. Please remember that all classrooms have an open-door policy for a quick chat (between 8.30am and 8.40am) and to see what your child is learning. If you require longer discussions about your child's progress, please make an appointment with the classroom teacher. Class teachers will be providing an overview of what they are covering in each subject each term via a class newsletter on Compass. They will also provide photos and updates of important events occurring throughout the term.

Voluntary Contributions & Charges/Books

Money collected through Voluntary Contributions and the ICT levy will supplement school expenditure to provide important equipment and materials to enrich the opportunities for our students. Families that pay before the 1st March will go in the draw to win a parking bay in the staff car park for a year. The contributions are \$60 and the ICT Levy is \$25 Kindy and \$50 PP-6. Payment can be made via Eftpos, Compass or by direct transfer BSB: 066 040 Account No: 19906731 (include your child's full name in the reference). If you have not paid for your child's spelling and maths book through the booklist via Campion, you need to make payment at the school office. **Your child will not be supplied a book until payment is made.** If you are having trouble paying, please see Vanessa/Lisa in the front office.



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Communication

Compass is our communication platform that will allow you to access up to date and meaningful information about our school and your child's progress. Via the compass app, you will be able to;

- ✓ Provide explanations for your child's absences.
- ✓ Communicate with your child's teacher.
- ✓ View the school calendar.
- ✓ Pay and provide consent for events.
- ✓ View newsletters and information via the news feed.

If you are now reading this newsletter, congratulations on successfully downloading the app! Don't forget to turn on notifications and see Lisa or Vanessa if you having trouble.



Home Reading

Home reading has started for students in Years 1-3. Your child should be bringing home their milkshake chart and their home reader every night. Once you have listened to your child read, ask them questions about the book using the ideas on the back of the milkshake chart. Please initial and date the card each day. Once your child reads for 100 nights, they will receive a milkshake. Please only sign one milkshake even if they read more than one book each night.

100 Nights Reading at Star Books Café - After listening to your child read, initial and date the milkshake (one per night)

Star Books Café Menu

Comprehension I understand what I read	Accuracy I can read the words	Fluency I can read accurately, with expression, and at a rate that matches the text	Expand Vocabulary I know, find, and use interesting words
First Set purpose for reading Use prior knowledge to predict and connect with text Check for understanding, monitor and self-correct Back up and reread	First Look carefully at letters and words Use beginning and ending sounds Blend sounds, stretch and reread Chunk letters and sounds together	First Read texts that are a good fit Use punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody Adjust and apply different reading rates to match text Reread text Read unconvincely	First Tune in to interesting words Use prior knowledge and context clues Use pictures, illustrations, and diagrams Use word parts
Active Reading Make and adjust mental images; use text to confirm Ask questions throughout the reading process Make and adjust predictions; use text to confirm Infer and support with evidence Recognize literary elements (genre, plot, character, setting, theme, problem/solution)	Word Parts Flip the sound Recognize high-frequency words on sight Use picture clues	Word Understanding Cross-check: Do the words... • look right? • sound right? • make sense? Use prior knowledge and context Skip the word, then come back Read unconvincely	Figure Out Word Meaning Apply understanding of figurative language Use reference tools such as dictionaries, thesauruses, and glossaries Ask someone to define the word for you Read unconvincely
Analysis of Reading Use main ideas and supporting details to determine importance Use text features to learn important information (title, headings, captions, graphic features) Analyze how visual elements integrate and contribute to the meaning of text Determine and analyze author's purpose and support with text Recognize and explain cause-and-effect relationships Compare and contrast within and between texts Read unconvincely			The CAPS Book: Engaging All Students in Daily Reading Assessment and Instruction. Copyright © 2010 by Corwin Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

BEHAVIORS THAT SUPPORT READING

Get started right away • Stay in one spot • Work quietly • Read the whole time • Increase stamina • Ignore distractions • Persevere

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GROW Certificates

Congratulations to the students who received a GROW certificate last Friday. Our students are given GROW tokens in class and during play times when they are demonstrating the GROW values. There are three levels of achievement; Bronze, Silver and Gold. Once they achieve a gold certificate for all four values, the juniors (PP-2) will receive a silver pin and senior (3-6) will receive a gold pin.



Art & Science with Mrs Lee

I am thrilled to be teaching Science and Art this year at our wonderful school. Together, we will embark on a journey of memorable exploration and discovery. Science and Art will take place in 5 week blocks to promote focused exploration and continuity of learning.

In Weeks 1-5 of Term One, students will be exploring the wonders of chemistry. They will learn about the properties, composition and behaviour of matter. Lessons will involve hands-on experiments, collaborative projects and critical thinking exercises to deepen their understanding of key scientific principles. Our focus will be on fostering curiosity, promoting scientific inquiry, and developing strong problem-solving skills. I am committed to creating a safe and inclusive learning environment where each student can thrive and feel confident exploring the wonders of science.

Termly Overview:

Year 1: Students will be introduced to different materials and will be exploring their basic properties. They will understand how common substances interact with each other. Students will learn the concept of states of matter and how materials can change from one state to another through simple experiments.

Year 2: Students will continue to explore materials and their properties, with a focus on buoyancy, flexibility, and transparency. Students will engage in hands-on activities to investigate these properties. They will learn about reversible and irreversible changes, with a focus on certain substances combined to form new materials.

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Year 3: Students will delve deeper into the properties of materials and learn about how they can change under different conditions. They will be introduced to the concepts of mixtures and solutions, exploring how substances can be combined and separated. The students will expand on their understanding of forces and interactions between materials.

Year 4: Students will explore the internal structure of different materials and how it influences their properties. They will be introduced to concepts such as atoms and molecules. The students will build on their understanding of states of matter, such as melting, freezing, condensation and evaporation.

Year 5: Students will look into the structure of atoms, including the nucleus, protons, neutrons, and electrons. They will understand how elements are arranged in the periodic table. The students will explore the concept of chemical energy, its role in reactions and understand how energy is transferred during chemical changes.

Year 6: Students will expand on the concept of energy changes during chemical reactions, including discussions on exothermic and endothermic reactions. They will build a deeper understanding of the properties of acids and bases, exploring the formation of salts, and understanding the pH scale in more detail.

All classes will be learning about the safety practices in the science classroom. They will develop a deeper understanding of chemical safety and risk assessment throughout the term.

I look forward to a fantastic year of learning and growth!



Year 5/6 camp meeting

Year 5/6 camp at Swan Valley Adventure Centre will be discussed at the Taaruk 4 and Taaruk 5 parent information meetings this week. On Thursday 15th, students will be given final costings for the camp. Camp permission notes and payment options will be sent out on Compass this week. A short meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st February in Taaruk 3 to answer any further questions that families may have.