

# Team Engage Newsletter - Term 1

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are excited to be teaching your children this year. The children have made a great start to their learning for 2016. It has been wonderful to experience such enthusiasm and keenness for learning amongst the Team Engage children.

To help put names to faces, the teachers in our team are:



Mrs Melissa  
Upperton (HB13)



Miss Bekee  
Albertson (HB14)



Miss Harriet  
White (HB17)



Mrs Rachael G  
(HB16)



Miss Erin Sutherland (HB16  
& Reading Recovery)

## Beginning of the Year Testing

During the initial weeks of this term we will be undertaking assessment in key learning areas to establish children's current learning levels. It is important to us that this is completed accurately and effectively, and because of this, it will take us three to four weeks to carry it out. Until this assessment is completed, children will be working at the levels at which they ended 2015. It is good practice to give children familiar reading material at the beginning of a school year. It gives children a chance to regain reading confidence, focus on reading for meaning (comprehension skills), develop fluency & expression, and learn the reading time routines of their new homebase. It does not hold development back - indeed a student who is ready for more difficult material will jump to their appropriate level when testing is completed. You should expect to see some of the reading books your child read last term home again over the next 3-4 weeks.

Many students experience some "drop back" with their literacy and numeracy skills due to the long holiday break. These students will need time to consolidate skills learnt last year. Your child's teacher will communicate with you if they feel your child might benefit from some extra work at home.

## Learning for Term 1

This term, our Inquiry focus is looking at the qualities of the Clearview Learner, learning to learn alongside others and celebrating what each child brings to the learning community.

In The Arts we have a Visual Art focus on drawing and students will look at the work of Picasso. In Music, we have a focus on beat and children will be using the percussion instruments.

In Mathematics, we begin the term with a statistics unit looking at probability, before starting numeracy (addition and subtraction) in week 4.

In Writing we are working on personal writing and learning to write recounts. Students will learn about the elements that make up a successful recount. This is a great time of year for recounts as the children have returned with lots of stories from holiday adventures.

In PE we are learning to play co-operative games and developing skills in striking and fielding.

On Friday mornings, we have Discovery and would love parents to be involved in this. If you have a skill you would like to show children or would be happy to help alongside a teacher, please let your child's teacher know. Topic possibilities are endless: cooking, cultural skills, gardening, building things, investigating things - basically anything that encourages children to discover new things and extend learning and curiosity.

## A few photos so far...



## Standardised Testing in the Junior Team

Below is an explanation of the testing that you can expect to hear about at milestones in your child's time in our team. This testing is in addition to the assessment that homebase teachers carry out at regular intervals, such as running records (an analysis of a child's reading behaviours), alphabet & sight word checks and numeracy snapshots.

At 6 years of age, all students are given the "Observation Survey" which assesses skills in literacy. During this testing, a student's ability to hear and record sounds in words is assessed, as is his/her ability to write words unassisted, his/her understanding of print conventions, his/her knowledge of the alphabet, and his/her accuracy when reading words within and without the context of a story.

The literacy based testing detailed above is standardised, which means it can be compared with national data and is done so on a nine-point scale called a stanine (derived from "standard nine"): 1 being the lowest and 9 the highest. We communicate the results to you via a summary sheet that is sent home. Teachers are very happy to explain your child's results in more detail and suggest ways in which you could assist at home if you wish - please see your homebase teacher to make an appointment once you have been provided with your child's results.

### Reports

Reports are written every 20 weeks of your child's schooling for their first three years of school. We call this "Anniversary Reporting." At 40, 80 and 120 weeks an overall teacher judgement is made against the National Standards in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. At 20, 60 and 100 weeks, a judgement is made around how your child is progressing towards meeting the next Standard - this is known as an interim report.

## Home Learning

Team Engage's home learning consists of daily reading of the book that your child has brought home. We suggest you choose a quiet time to read when your child is not tired. Some people find after school the best time; others find the next morning works better. Once your child has read to you, please complete an entry in the green "Read-It" book. We encourage you to address your reading comments to your child. Examples of things you might write include, "well done for fixing up your mistakes," or "I like the way you read like you were talking."

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead in Team Engage. Our Team Weebly, on which we will share the children's learning is up and running... Check out: <http://clearviewengage2016.weebly.com/>

Kind regards,  
Erin Sutherland (Team Leader)  
Melissa Upperton, Bekee Albertson, Rachael G & Harriet White  
(Team Engage Teachers)