Dear Families,

Welcome back to school for our last but very busy term for the year. It was fantastic seeing children leading their loved ones through their learning journey, the big smiles and proud faces on both children and adults were a pleasure to behold. All children have worked so hard this year to develop new skills and achieve their ILP goals. This term we will be consolidating all the fantastic learning we have been achieving so far whilst challenging ourselves with new and exciting skills in all areas of the curriculum. I am confident that the effort your children have put into their learning will be evident through their Semester 2 reports and portfolios.

It is the time of year that we also look to the future and have a few thoughts and maybe concerns for next year. We will be giving children the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that will build stronger friendships within their own year level and increase confidence to cope with changes that may occur when transitioning to a new class or perhaps area of the school. Some strategies include: lunchtime rotations, children have the opportunity to create new social circles, encouraging children to play in independent play areas and transition sessions allowing children to experience spending time in other classrooms. Please feel free to come and speak with myself or Allison Chapman if you have any concerns or questions. This term some students we will be participating in the AIS swimming or Aqua Safe programs. With summer looming and an increased amount of time spent near the water it is important to teach our children water safety and swimming. If your child is attending one of these programs please be prepared and send swimwear and a towel during the weeks that your child is attending. There will be information notes when the time gets closer.

Inquiry
To meet the needs of the Australian Curriculum outcomes for physical science, this term year 1 and 2 students will be inquiring into different topics. To accommodate this learning year one students will spent two hours a week working with Michael and his year ones while year two students from our class and Michael’s will work with me. Inquiry investigations will still take place in the classroom.

Year 1- ‘Look! Listen!’

Light and sounds surround us, bringing a wealth of information about our world. We use light and sound to communicate with each other. Sounds can be as different as beautiful music or screaming sirens. Light can transmit the pictures from a television screen or the expressions on someone’s face. Through this unit students will investigate how sources of light and sound are produced and how they travel.

Big idea- Light and sound are produced by a range of sources and can be sensed.
Lines of Inquiry:

- Our senses are used to learn about the world around us
- The sun as a source of light
- Objects can be seen when light from sources is available to illuminate them
- We use light and sound to communicate with one another

Inquiry Year 2- ‘Push-Pull’

Forces are at work in everything that we do- we push to open doors and pull to tie ropes. Gravity pulls on things to make them fall down or to keep them down. Through this unit students will have the opportunity to explore pushes and pulls by investigating, observing and gathering evidence about how these forces act in air, water and on the ground. Students will identify the effect of the pull of gravity and learn that both air and water can ‘push’.

Big Idea – Forces change the way things move.

Lines of Inquiry:

- Forces can be harnessed to do useful things
- The balance between opposing forces determines whether objects float or sink
- The forces of gravitation determine how things move

Through this inquiry students will work with the Australian Curriculum Science areas. Students will develop the skills of planning and conducting experiments and processing and analysing data and information. For further details, please see the link below:


Literacy

*Between the pages of a good book is a lovely place to be* (J.K.Rowling)

This term we will continue with our established everyday literacy experiences, including explicit teaching of reading and writing. We have a wide variety of books and writing materials available in our classroom, which is a support to the development of literacy skills. Students are continuing to discover how written words work as they connect their daily lives to reading and writing opportunities. Our class will participate in journal writing each week which provides an opportunity for students to retell events that have meaning for them and allows ownership of the texts produced, we do lots of talking prior to writing. This term we will be learning about recounting events and having your support will be helpful. Could families let us know what your child has been doing over the weekend and perhaps include special events. Students will be provided with opportunities for play-based learning, interaction with print around our school building phonological awareness, building vocabulary knowledge and a focus on letter names and letter sound correspondences. We use i-pads, visual stimuli and interactive white boards to develop and support the skills required to be a successful writer.
**Reading**
Exposing children to reading materials daily has a positive effect on acquiring phonics understanding and a wider use of vocabulary. Children will continue to develop their reading by working independently and with support to achieve their reading goals. To assist in enriching our students reading ability we offer a comprehensive variety of reading materials in our classroom including nursery rhymes, ABC books, information books and storybooks. Below are a few ideas that you may also like to use at home to support your child’s learning:

**Introduce new vocabulary when you talk with your child.**
- When you use a new word, make sure to explain its meaning to your child and encourage them to ask about words when they do not know the meaning of a word
- Ask questions that help your child to think about why and how and not just what
- When you talk, be sure to listen to your child’s response and build upon what they are saying.

**Writing**
This term, we will have a focus on procedural writing to link in with our Science inquiries, writing will include lists and instructions. We will also consolidate and further develop the skills of recount and narrative writing. Students will learn the structure and language features associated with these types of texts connecting them to real life contexts. We will continue to learn about grammatical features and put these understandings into practice while engaging in the writing process.

**Oral Language**
We will continue improving vocabulary and pronunciation by explicitly teaching sounds and actions that promote the correct enunciation of letters and words. We will run small group and individual sessions designed to target individual learning needs.

**Home Reading**
Please continue to read with and to your child, listen to them read and enjoy being a participant in your child’s reading development. Parent/Carer support is a crucial element in the development of sound literacy skills. Please encourage your child to return and exchange books regularly. Each day children choose a book from our home reading box. It is a pleasure to observe the children getting so much enjoyment while acquiring a very important skill. Please support your child with reading at home and support me by completing the reading log.

**Mathematics**
This term children will continue to learn about number and everyday applications. We will also be inquiring into formal and informal units of measurement for volume and capacity, mass and time. Students will be involved in measuring and comparing the capacities and volume of objects using formal and informal units. The children will be exploring how to estimate, compare, describe and solve practical problems involving capacity/volume. For example, they will experiment/play with jugs, containers, cups and bottles in a water tray and discuss terms such as full/empty, more than, less than and half full. They will investigate questions such as how many cups of water will fill the bottle and which container holds the most water.

To link in with measuring of volume and capacity, children will also be engaged in measuring and comparing the mass of objects using balancing scales. Children will investigate mass through the use of mathematical experimentation and applying mathematical language to describe their finding such as; “is about the same as”, “is heavier than” and “is lighter than”.

Children will continue to learn about time durations including months, seasons, weeks, days and hours.

**Library Norma John**
Our class library day will remain on Tuesdays with the 1/2MM Itchy Bears. Please remind children to bring a library bag on this day and be responsible for returning books regularly.
Physical Education
This term 1/2 children will continue to practise a variety of fundamental movement skills; these will include striking and leaping. We will include regular Perceptual Motor Development sessions where children will work on toning muscles to build upon their ability to receive, interpret and respond successfully to sensory information. Hydrotherapy will continue for students on a physiotherapy plan and dance/cooperative games will continue on a Monday afternoon. Please ensure that each day your child has appropriate footwear, clothing, a brimmed hat, plenty of water and healthy food for optimum energy.

Art with Sally Visser- Marchant
In Art class this term children will study the work of Edvard Munch, Kandinsky and Vincent van Gogh within a program that links with the year 1 and year 2 inquiry units. They will be experimenting with a range of mediums throughout the term such as fabric collage, painting papier mache.

Music with Kirsty Robinson
In music sessions the children are working on a great arrangement of a terrific piece by an internationally renowned Australian composer for the end of year concert. It’s quite challenging but the children love it. In other work they are making decisions about tempo, rhythm and voice style to create different musical effects.

General Reminders 😊
Turner is a nut aware school. There are children with serious nut allergies in the 1/2 cohort so please keep this in mind when packing your child’s lunch and recess.

Please help to encourage your child in building independence of organising their own belongings by providing them with positive feedback about their ability to pack their own items into their school bag.

1-2 term 4 blurbs

Please have a look at the Turner School website and read Jen Faul’s team update for term 4. It touches on an important point that parents and carers may like to consider at home.

As always please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and I look forward to seeing you throughout the term.

Thanks and best wishes,

Dawn Schwalm and Helen Misa (Learning Support Assistant)

(Email address) dawn.schwalm @ed.act.edu.au

Important dates for 1 / 2 Brave Bears SDS Term 4, 2015
Please refer to the whole school Tm 4 calendar that went home with the week 1 newsletter.

Wk3 Wednesday 28th October – Children’s Week Whole School Assembly including Read Aloud 2.10pm Snr Hall

Wk 4 Year 2 Aqua Safe at CISAC

Wk 5 Year 1 Swim School at AIS and Yr 2 Aqua Safe at CISAC

Wk 6 Year 1 Swim School at AIS
Wk 7 Wednesday 25th November Jnr Assembly 2.10pm Snr Hall

Wk 8 Wednesday 2nd December End of Year Concert 5.30 picnic and 6.30 concert commences

The newsletter and website will keep you updated with all events.