Greetings:

This term seems to be flying by! We’ve had a great week for book week. It was lovely to see the school full of middle and upper primary students on Tuesday for our focus day with Lameroo and Pinnaroo. The Junior Primary class also took part in a focus day at Lameroo. These are great opportunities for our students to socialise and make connections, and learn in a much larger group of students.

Just a reminder that our athletics carnival is next Thursday, the 3rd of September. If your child needs transporting to Coonalpyn, please let us know by Tuesday afternoon.

We had a working bee last Friday, and I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents, grandparents and community members that contributed. Thankyou to Adam and Tanja Morgan, David Morgan, Ashley Litchfield, Penny Howard, Adam and Sonia Broadbent, Fiona and Casey Woolfit, Chris Knight, Greg Stephenson and Kelli Harvey. An amazing amount of work was done particularly in the front garden. Also a big thank you to Ricky and Cathy from the shop, who generously provided lunch for all of our volunteers, and to Tim Colthorpe for providing a load of compost for our two new veggie gardens. There is still much work to be done, so if you are able to help out in any way, please let us know – we might be able to give you a job!

I mentioned in the last newsletter that our student free day in week 4 had teachers from across our partnership learning about executive functioning. It sounds like a new fad, but in fact it’s been talked about for a long time, just with different words. Resilience, learning skills, learning how to learn, and even our learning toolbox, all relate in some way to executive functioning. Research has identified three main types of executive function:

1. Impulse inhibition: your ability to stop yourself acting on automatic impulse, as well as your ability to focus or filter out distractions.
2. Working memory: your ability to mentally hold and manipulate several pieces of information at once, from simple facts to personal goals.
3. Mental flexibility: your ability to think of new ideas, make new plans and find new ways to overcome challenges.

People with good executive function tend to have more successful lives overall. They are happier, healthier, live longer, achieve more, earn more money, have happier marriages, friendships and family relationships – executive functions contribute to success in all aspects of life. Executive function is not something you are born with - it develops over time. While there may be a genetic component to executive function, there is a lot of evidence to suggest that it can be...
deliberately developed and used effectively at any stage in your life – so there’s hope for me yet! Information from (www.myfuture.edu.au) If you’d like to learn some more, google this YouTube clip: The Adventures of You Animations

Regards,
Ruth

A Point to Ponder

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”
Helen Keller

FLU and COLDS

While hopefully our battle with the flu is pretty much over, we would encourage parents to keep sick children at home until they are completely recovered, so they do not pass illness onto their peers. Remember that it is not too late for children to have a flu injection as we are yet to see the peak of the influenza season. Please remind your children about covering coughs and sneezes, and always washing their hands afterwards, to prevent the spread of flu.

Wash, wipe, cover, don’t infect another.

Working Bee Wonders!

Tea at the Bowling Club

If you would like to attend the tea at the Bowling Club on the Saturday night of the 50 Year Celebration, PLEASE RSVP to the school, either by phone: 85772277, or email: dl.0145.info@schools.sa.edu.au so that we can gather numbers for catering.

Early in the year we sent home a record sheet for each child to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. This challenge ends in September, so it’s important that we ensure all students have had their reading recorded. If you have lost your record sheet, please put a note in your child’s diary and we will send one home. If you have forgotten to record books they are reading, just begin now, or if you can remember some titles they have read, add them in. We need these forms back by early next week. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Book Week Characters
MIDDLE AND UPPER PRIMARY CLASS REPORT

The weeks are continuing to be jam-packed with activity for our class, with this last week having seen a great day of socialising and learning during our Focus Day and Book Week activities on Tuesday, a morning of German learning on Wednesday and several of our students attending the SAPSASA athletics selection day at Lameroo today.

In English we are continuing to have some fun with poetry and learning some tricks to make our writing more descriptive and exciting, such as the use of similes and metaphors.

Maths lessons have seen everyone becoming quite proficient at using fractions and decimals and next week we will be starting to investigate money, where our grasp of decimals will be very helpful.

In PE we have extended the time we are devoting to athletics practice, with SAPSASA as well as our sports day with Coonalpyn and Raukkan still looming. It has been great to see students so enthusiastic they are setting up equipment to practice events like high-jump, long-jump, discus and shot-put at lunch times.

During Science we have been learning about materials and the students’ current investigation is to find out about a type of traditional housing. They had to research what materials were used and what properties those materials had that made them suitable for the environment they were used in. They are now building models and dioramas of their chosen house type and we have some great looking igloos, tee-pees, log cabins, an Egyptian house, stone cottage and an underground house under construction.

Preparations for our performances at the 50th celebration are coming along really well and almost all the costume items we need have been found. We are still seeking two smallish Hawaiian shirts if anyone happens to have one we could borrow.

Kathryn Roberts

JUNIOR PRIMARY CLASS UPDATE

This week we were fortunate enough to engage in a variety of different learning opportunities. On Tuesday we participated in the Book Week Parade and over the week, we have enjoyed sharing stories and working on a few Book Week themed activities too. On Wednesday we had German and students began learning about Pets! On Thursday we ventured to Lameroo to participate in the Early Years focus day with students in the same year levels from Lameroo and Pinnaroo. It was a fantastic day and all students were buzzed as we left, talking about the new friends they made and the fun they had at the various activities. The theme of the day was based on the Aboriginal Dreamtime story of “Tiddalik the Frog”. After listening to the story being told, students were split off into mixed groups to participate in activities around the story in Science, Art, Cooking and Music. Enjoy some snaps of the day below!

Take care,
Miss. Lorelle Barton
PCW Corner

My role as Pastoral Care Worker at Geranium is currently being Reviewed. Thank you to those parents, students and staff who have taken the time to fill out and thoughtfully answer surveys about my role as PCW. I really do feel privileged to be working at Geranium in this capacity.

TOOLBOX~ Parenting workshop is up and running with a great bunch of parents meeting on Monday nights. If there is a need, we may be able to run another one, (day-time) down the track for those who couldn’t make it to an evening session. If you are interested in this possibility, you could let me know at school.

It was incredible to see the school “bursting at the seams” on Tuesday when we had students from Pinnaroo and Lameroo to join with our MUP class for Book Week activities. I loved seeing our students dress up as “colourful” book characters!

One of our lovely students suggested that I dress up as “Ella”, a character from Ella Enchanted. So I did! I like the story of “Ella”, the story of a girl who is cursed with the “gift” of obedience by a foolish fairy called Lucinda. Ella knows that at any time, anyone can order her to hop on one foot, betray her kingdom, marry a Prince...

I’ll leave you with a quote from the book. “…Decisions were a delight after the curse. I loved having the power to say yes or no, and refusing anything was a special pleasure.” Saying no can be a difficult thing in our day to day lives- but we too, have the power to say yes or no- to be free of the demands made on us!

I keep all families and staff of Geranium Primary School in my prayers,
Margaret Smith (Pastoral Care Worker)