



Challenge Chatter Term 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope everyone is well rested after the Easter break and ready for a busy and fun packed Term 2.

Term 1 was a lengthy term which allowed students to settle into their new classrooms as well as diving head first into our curriculum content. Students learnt about the First Fleet and the arrival to Australia. They also built on their CAFE skills and developed individual goals, wrote Persuasive, Narrative and Procedural texts and completed a range of challenging tasks involving Place Value, Addition and Subtraction.

Please find below information regarding upcoming events and general housekeeping points.

SPECIALIST TIMES

Specialist	CA	CB	CC	CD	CE
PE	Monday 10am	Wednesday 9am	Monday 2.30pm	Wednesday 10am	Friday 11.30am
ART	Friday 9am	Friday 10am	Friday 11.30am	Monday 10am	Friday 12.30pm
AUSLAN	Wednesday 2.30pm	Monday 12.30pm	Thursday 10am	Tuesday 10am	Monday 10am
MUSIC	Wednesday 9am	Monday 10am	Tuesday 11.30am	Thursday 11.30am	Wednesday 10am

• All Challenge grades go to the Library on Wednesday.

SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons will be commencing on Friday 5 May, 2023 for Grades **CA, CB, CC and CE**. CD will have their lessons later in the year. This program aims to develop water confidence, safety awareness and teach correct stroke and breathing techniques.

Students will complete 6 lessons in total on a Friday on the following dates: 5, 12, 19, 26 May and 2, 9 June, 2023.

The session times for each class are listed below:

- CA - 12.30pm - 1.05pm
- CB - 1.10pm - 1.45pm
- CE - 1.50pm - 2.25pm
- CC - 2.30pm - 3.05pm

Please ensure you have given approval and payment for this event on Compass as well as returning the form provided at the end of Term 1. Further information about what students are required to bring and details on the swimming program can also be found on Compass.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be sent home at the end of Week 1 and will begin in Week 2. Similar to our first term, students will be required to complete a minimum of 4 nights of reading and one set of Mathematics tasks each week. In replacement of the spelling component, students will be required to work on their project for our inquiry topic this term, Fighting Extinction. Students will be required to research and create a student developed information report on their chosen endangered animal. This project will allow for writing, spelling and handwriting opportunities as they work through each component and the presentation phase of their project.

Students will continue to log their reading in the back of their homework book. Their project research will be completed in their booklet which will be stuck into their homework books. Additional information and work can be completed on the blank pages following the booklet.

We had a positive response to our homework program in Term 1 and had a high success rate of students completing their homework tasks each week. These skills continue to develop persistence, independence and organisation for your child. Homework is due on Thursday morning, for the books to be corrected and returned to the students on a Friday. Students who do not complete all tasks required will complete these missed activities after lunch on a Friday.

Students are also allowed to switch their readers on any day before or after school, during recess and lunch eating times or when directed by their teacher. We do however encourage students to keep their reader for **one week** to build on fluency and comprehension before changing. Students will move up a levelled text if they successfully pass their Running Record testing during their 1:1 teacher conference throughout the term.

INQUIRY

The Challenge teachers are very excited to get started on our inquiry topic, Fighting Extinction, this term. The focus on sustainability and endangered animals is always a topic that is thoroughly enjoyed by our students. Students will use the context of a contemporary zoo to investigate animal ethics and welfare. Students will learn about animal conservation and how this is achieved by the Melbourne Zoo and Melbourne Aquarium, and how zoo-based conservation is designed to fight extinction. Students will select an endangered animal to research and complete an independent inquiry based project to be presented on our Inquiry Celebration Day. Our celebration day will take place on Thursday 22nd June, however students will be required to do a smaller presentation to their class in the weeks leading up to this date. Your child will receive a timetable with their presentation date before Week 5.

CURRICULUM

Despite Term 2 being our shortest term this year, the teachers have planned for a range of topics for our students to be engaged within. Our focus continues to be placed on challenging students' ability to think critically and creatively, problem solving as well as catering to their individual learning strengths and abilities.

This term our Writing sessions will continue with our procedural writing which we began in the later weeks of Term 1. Students will be focusing on being able to follow the structure of the text as well as giving explicit details so their steps can be followed. We will also be looking at information reports which will tie in nicely with our inquiry unit and support students with their researching skills and ability to write factual texts.

In Reading, students will continue to work on their individual CAFE goals through sustained reading and 1:1 Conferences with their teacher. Students will be working in focus groups this term to continue to build on their reading skills in a small group setting. Our class novel for Term 2 is *Finders Keepers*, a science fiction text, which follows the main character into a parallel universe filled with lost objects from the real world.

This term in CATCH Maths, we will explore Multiplication and Division, Fractions and Decimals, Money, Chance and Probability and a range of Geometry concepts such as Space, Maps and Symmetry.

TISSUES

If you forgot to send along a box of tissues in Term 1 we would gratefully appreciate a box this term.

UPCOMING DATES

- Tuesday 2 May - Cross Country
- Wednesday 7 June - Feeling Fabulous Day
- Monday 12 June - King's Birthday (*Public Holiday*)
- Thursday 22 June - Inquiry Celebration Day (*Sustainability Day*)
- Friday 23 June - End of Term 2 – early dismissal – 2.30pm.

Please contact your child's teacher if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Smith, Mrs Harvey, Mr Gee, Mrs Teasdale, Mrs Massey and Miss de Man
Challenge Teachers