**ROOM ELEVEN NEWSLETTER - TERM THREE 2017**

Welcome back to all Room 11 pupils and families. I trust you had a relaxing holiday and are ready for another exciting term.

# Inquiry

This term our inquiry centres on science and exploring the scientific method. We have begun this journey with some introductory experiments, including balloon rockets, and in Week 3 we will start our senior school science rotation. This rotation will take place on Wednesday mornings and will give all senior students exposure to some exciting, hands-on science. We will continue this science theme when the senior school visits the Science Roadshow on Wednesday 13th September.

# Maths

We have begun Term 3 with mass and capacity, before we move on to geometry and then finish the term with statistical investigations. It is important that all students complete their assigned homework in the timeframe set by me. These tasks are designed to reinforce and provide additional practice of the skills and strategies we are learning in class.

# Literacy

Our literacy focus is on developing more sophisticated comprehension skills, including the ability to make inferences and predictions from a text. In genre writing we are examining procedure through the medium of scientific experiments. We are also working on developing enthusiasm for writing by starting most days with a quickwrite. This is a short 10 to 15 minute period during which all students write independently on creative topics provided by me. There is no expectation for students to plan or edit this writing and I will not assess it unless the student requests this. The intent of quickwrites is to develop an expressive writing habit and for students to view themselves as writers without the pressure of planning or assessment. Students are welcome to revisit a quickwrite to further craft their writing and I am happy to provide feedback and advice whenever they request it.

# Upcoming Events

The Spooner Shield is scheduled for Friday 18th August, which is in Week 4 of this term. Children will need to wear appropriate sports gear for practices and during games. This is one of the few sporting opportunities where selection is based on merit. The best players for the teams available have been chosen, resulting in some children not being selected at all. We are only able to enter one team for each code, including two reserves per team. Those who don’t compete will be catered for at school with an exciting programme for the day of the Spooner Shield Competition.

The Arthur Miller School Cross Country competition has been scheduled for Monday 4th September. We suggest if children are keen to make the inter-school team they need to start and continue training at home, after school and in the weekends. The habit of “persistence” and “taking responsibility” for their own training will benefit their fitness and potential to do well. Training will take place for Year 3 - 6 students on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 1.30. Students will set their own goals for these school training sessions. To be selected for the Arthur Miller Interschool cross-country team students will need to finish in the top six during the AMS cross-country.

**Optimist Yachting**

The year 6 pupils will get the opportunity to go Optimist Yachting from **6th to – 10th November** from 9-12.30 each day, which is week 4 of Term 4. I am alerting you to this activity now to enable parents to organise time off work should they want to be involved sometime during that week. We rely heavily upon parents to transport and supervise from 9.00-12.30 each day. Your support in these matters is appreciated. A week of EOTC activities is organised for the Year 5’s during this week while the Year 6’s are sailing.

**Class Goals**

Classroom goals have been, and will continue to be, centred on taking personal responsibility, respecting the rights and opinions of others and greeting others courteously. Dynamics within the classroom have continued to be positive and most children have developed mature work habits. Disciplined homework habits still need to be developed by a small core of students.

**Students are all required to wear shoes when playing on the fields this term, to try and mitigate the amount of mud we tend to traipse through the rooms. This decision will be reviewed again in term 4. Students are welcome to wear slippers in class.**

 **Important Dates**

* Friday 18th August Spooner Shield competition
* TIS Year 6 visit Monday 21st August
* Monday 28th August Year 6 Visit to Guthrie Smith and PanPac
* Monday 4th Sept School Cross Country
* Tuesday 12th Sept Interschool Cross Country
* Wednesday 13th September Science Roadshow

I look forward to another term of working with you and your child and encourage you to come in to the classroom at any time to share their learning journey, or just for a chat.

Regards

Terry Maloney

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Class Blog addresses: [http://mrmaloney.edublogs.org/](http://cdurham.edublogs.org/)  <https://blog.seesaw.me/amrs11>