

KARINGAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 2 2021 NEWSLETTER

M12



Hello M12 Families

It has been a delight to see all the children start back at school so enthusiastically. We have had a very smooth start to the term and the children have been eager to learn.

From time to time, you will have questions, or you will need to have a chat to me about all sorts of things including what may be happening at home that may be affecting your child's learning. I am available to chat every afternoon straight after school in the junior playground. However, I am expected to be at staff meetings on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 3.45pm. If the matter is personal, I am always happy to make an appointment to chat with you.

If you need to give me a message before school, please write me a short note, and I promise I will read it as soon as the children are settled. I hope you can understand that chatting at the door in the mornings can be unsettling for the children who are waiting for my attention.



Swimming

The children who participated in the swimming program had a lot of fun and along the way they learnt about safety in the water and how to float and stay above the water. They were taken around the pool to look at all the safety signs and even tried out the life saving vests to learn how to wear them and how to hold them down at the collar while they were in the water.

Earth Day

M12 and M3B (our buddy class), spent the afternoon of Earth Day gardening. We will try to do a little bit of gardening every second Thursday afternoon and grow some vegies to cook and some flowers to arrange in our classroom. Its good for the soul and the children love getting their hands into the soil and poking the seeds into the earth. It will fit in nicely with our botany program. The children are learning the correct names for all the different parts of plants, leaves, flowers and roots.



A few reminders

I have included an up to date timetable for you to have at home. It has changed quite a bit over the last few months but I feel confident that it has settled now.

M12 will have art classes on Wednesdays, so if you have not already supplied an art smock for your child, I will be collecting them all this week to put into a tub for the art room. Please ensure that the art smocks are named.

Our library day is Tuesday as per usual, and the children will be able to take a library book home this week if they have their library bag and they have no overdue books to return. The red bag that has their name written on it is their library bag. If your child has misplaced his/her library bag please send a replacement cloth bag with them on Tuesdays with their name on it.

Monday is the day to remember to wear running shoes as the children will be doing P.E. on this day.

The children started their Reading Eggs program last term and this program is very beneficial to the children to help them learn their sounds and sight words. They are also participating in the Athletics program. These programs are both excellent and supplement the Montessori program. They can both be done at home for a short time each night after school — a great alternative to other less educational computer games.

Reading at home



The children have been taking short, simple books home to read. This is a very important and enjoyable part of school life. The books are of an appropriate level for each child so that they can experience success (with a little help). It is important that they read to as many people within your household as possible because this will lead to them gaining confidence in their reading ability. Could I ask you to please read with your child every night and return the reader to be changed each day. I will read to as many children as I can each day but I will be conferencing with 5 children each day to assess which strategies each child needs to practise to be able to move forward and set their individual goals to work towards.

There are a few little things you can do to help your child with their reading:

- Don't jump in and help too quickly. Let your child have a really good chance to figure it out first on his/her own.
- Don't cover up the picture (beginner readers use the pictures as cues).
- Allow the children to read to you before they get too tired.
- Make reading a happy time for your child.

The older children are reading longer chapter books and they may enjoy reading these on their own. They do not have to return the books each day but a chapter each night is a guide for a minimum reading time.

Writing

Last term we spent a great deal of time learning the phonetic sounds of the alphabet. You can help the children at home by asking them to sing the phonetic alphabet song they have learnt. Not the ABC song that they may have learnt earlier before starting school. The children are also working on their letter books and they are learning the letter formations for each letter. They are very proud of their progress thus far, and I am sure they would like to show you what they have achieved if you have a minute or two after school.

They have also started to concentrate on sentence structure. Writing short sentences that contain a verb, a subject and an object. They are also learning about capital letters and full stops. Some of the older children are working on writing narratives and using the correct narrative structure for their stories.

At this stage some of the children are still drawing their stories and that is ok. Every child is improving and working towards their own individual goals.



Maths



This term we are focussing on the decimal system and the children are working through the various Montessori activities that range from very hands on concrete representations of the decimal system to the slightly more abstract activities for those who have grasped the concept and working on practising and mastering each skill. The children will also be revising activities they have been presented with in Term 1.

The Montessori Program and Choice

As the children become more familiar with the Montessori materials, they will have a larger choice of activities to practise. Through observation and discussions with the children, I am able to present activities with which I am confident they will be able to experience success. As the children master each activity, they will be presented with another which is just a little harder.

Independence

Independence is also a major element in the Montessori program, and the more independent a child becomes the more choice they are given. The children who have not yet developed independence will be helped to find appropriate activities until they are able to do this for themselves. For example, if a child is unable to make a choice, then he/she will be directed to an activity that I think they will succeed in. If a child chooses to do an activity which is too difficult then he/she will be redirected to an alternative activity, for example, if a child wants to practice writing and is not yet ready to practise letter formations with a pencil and paper, they will be invited to use a chalkboard and chalk or even practice the letters with sand in a tray instead.





There is always a way of facilitating learning which is just right for each child. A little bit of a challenge is great; however, too much can be counter productive and damage a child's self-esteem.

The children try to select activities from different areas of the room each day, for example, the reading area, the writing activities, the maths area, the cultural area, the sensorial area and the practical life activities. This is not always possible because of time restraints and the time the children would like to spend on each activity. However, I do like the children to choose at least one reading, writing and maths activity each day.

An older child may choose to research how a volcano is formed as a result of listening to the first great story. This may take all day and continued at home.



In Montessori that is entirely possible although I would make sure that in the following days the other areas of the curriculum would take priority.



I'm looking forward to a fantastic term with the children and once again if you have any questions at all, please contact me or come and have a chat after school.

Cheers,

Carol Chainey

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