Welcome to midterm 1, and no different to last year the time continues to fly. Many of you have commented on the very settled start to the year with learning routines very quickly developed and embraced by all students. This means everyone is well on the way to gaining new understanding and reaching their potential with us all ‘learning hard’ as we like to put it. One of the focusses for us as a school for 2015, and beyond, will be the development of the concept for all our students that the brain is like a muscle and with exercise it can grow and get stronger. To support this we are starting to draw attention to these opportunities to exercise our brain as part of our daily learning experiences with the long-term goal that students become acutely aware of the part they play in their own growth and success.

Swimming for our Reception to Year 5 students has been and gone with lovely weather last week making the experience even more enjoyable. As you can see from the photos engagement was high with many students confronting their fears and participating for the first time or at a more challenging level. This has been a fine example of the growth mindset that we are working towards for all of our students where true learning occurs when we are out of our comfort zone, not doing something that we were already capable of.

Student leadership opportunities continue to appear with a group of senior students visiting Aldgate Kindy this week as part of a ‘big buddy’ program that we hope will increase our public profile with the Aldgate community and also give our students a chance to give back to another learning community. I have also been approached by an eager group of junior primary students under the leadership of Elliot who are eager to organise and run a Paper Plane competition. They have come up with a range of categories to suit everyone and will also be running paper plane making lessons in the library Weeks 9-10 in the lead up to the competition in Week 11.

Many of you may not be aware that our school is part of a wider DECD partnership with 18 local kindys, Primary schools and Heathfield HS known as the Mt Lofty Partnership. Within this group I have taken on some shared leadership responsibilities and, as a result, I have been given the opportunity to work with the primary schools in our partnership one day a week to investigate, and further our abilities as a collective to ‘stretch’ student achievement with the goal that all students reach their potential. I will be released to work across the schools on Fridays with Trina Howlett coming into our school to work with the Year 5/6/7. Many of you will know Trina as she is a regular relief teacher and extremely well known to our students and respected by them all. She will be working closely with Sue and myself to ensure that she is working as part of our team. It is my hope that my time working with other schools will be hugely beneficial for our students and teachers as I learn what is happening, and how successful it is in local schools very similar to ours.

Finally I would like to remind you all of the AGM which is next Monday from 6:45pm for nibbles and drinks before we reflect on last year and engage with our 2015 school priorities. This is not a late night but a very important one and your attendance and input would be highly valued.

Regards, Travis
I went to the swimming pool, I loved swimming because I learnt a lot. Mallee

I’m doing the star float. Vala

I was doing freestyle and I was going to get the coloured sticks. Elliot

I like swimming, it was so much fun. Isabella

We made a train in the water with the noodles. Miles
PCW JOTTINGS

I have been spending some time in Jan’s class this term talking about social skills and using a program called “What’s the Buzz?”.

Today we talked about waiting and how that sometimes can be really hard to do, particularly when we are waiting for something we really enjoy. It is always fabulous to hear from the children their ideas of how they might wait patiently and what strategies or “tricks” they might use. It is also interesting to reflect each week on how useful the topics we talk about could be to many adults I know!

In the story we shared today, the main character Archie had to wait his turn to hold a puppy that one of his class mates had brought in to show and tell. Archie loves dogs and it was very difficult to wait patiently for his turn until he noticed that it could be surprisingly enjoyable watching his friends have their turn. He was able to notice how they enjoyed holding the puppy, the different ways they held the puppy - whether they cuddled it close or just put it in their lap, whether they patted the puppy or stroked its fur. Before Archie knew it, his mood had switched from impatient annoyance to enjoyment of the experience even though he still had to wait.

With life being so busy it is often easy to respond immediately to our children so that we can get on with what we’re doing. Helping our children to wait patiently is also an opportunity to help them start to learn the skills of switching our attitude so that we are able to roll more easily with what life throws at us.

Maybe I should remember this lesson when I’m stuck in traffic!

Have a great weekend,
Cathy

TUESDAY SPECIAL LUNCHES!
PROVIDED BY
HEATHFIELD GOURMET GENERAL STORE
$4.50 PER SERVE
3RD MARCH (WEEK 6) Pasta with Tomato Sauce
NOTE: NO REGULAR LUNCH ORDERS AVAILABLE ON THIS DAY

DIARY DATES

Mon 2nd March 6.45pm Governing Council AGM
Thurs 5th-Fri 6th March Year 6/7 Aquatics Camp
13th March Leukaemia Foundation Crazy Hair Day
Tues 17th March Heathfield High School Showcase Evening 5.45 - 8pm

Congratulations to our Year 5/6 girls who participated in the Courier Cup Swimming Carnival yesterday. We were particularly proud of how bravely they competed as most of the girls had never taken part in a swimming competition nor performed as part of a relay team. They were a true representation of the spirit of our school.

Well done, can’t wait for next year!!
Many thanks to your support of Pancake Day
We raised $79 for Uniting Care.
(and enjoyed some yummy pancakes!)

Thank you!! from the Heathfield Play Group. We now have a wonderful play room in between the sand pit and the awesome new playground with our toddlers also loving visits to the chooks.
The room is well-equipped with all sorts of toys to inspire the imagination of toddlers and parents. Spread the word about this wonderful hidden gem. All welcome.

Playgroup is on Tuesdays during term time.
Pop in any time from 9.15am - 11.30am.
Any donations of good quality toys appreciated.
If you have an unwanted, good quality vacuum cleaner we can make good use of it!

Piano Stool Wanted
We have a number of budding musicians who have started piano lessons this term. We would love to hear from anyone who has an unused piano stool at home that they are willing to donate.

CRAZY HAIR DAY
Friday 13th March 2015.
Colour and/or decorate your hair - be as crazy as you like.
Two time shaver Zane Lewis is being brave and shaving to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. If any other students have signed up to get their head shaved, please see Cathy in the front office.
All funds raised at school will be donated to participants’ fundraising accounts.