Junior
School

Tuesday

28th February

2012

SOUTHERN CROSS

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Junior Primary Teachers

1 / 2 A  Pamela Crawford
         Anne Robinson

1 / 2 B  Angeline Singh

Principal:   Averil Nunn
Assistant Principal: Anne Robinson
Co-ordinator: Angeline Singh
Grades One and Two

Specialists:  Grade 1 and grade 2 will have:

Physical Education  weekly with Justin Thompson
Computers       weekly with Justin Thompson
French           weekly with Andrew Altube
Music            weekly with classroom teachers
Art              weekly lessons with classroom teachers
Library          Weekly with Library staff

All other subjects are taken by the classroom teachers who incorporate an integrated and team approach into the students’ learning and well-being.

Take Home Readers
The children are encouraged to spend at least 10 minutes each night reading their take home reading books. Please supervise and help your child. Readers need to be returned every morning so that they can be changed except if your child is reading chapter books.

English:  In grade 1 and 2 the children are building on their skills developed in Preps. They are learning to write and read words phonetically and to build on their sight vocabulary so they can develop an independent approach to reading. They will be involved in English groups and work through learning activities which run 4 times a week. These activities re-enforce the skills introduced by the teachers and give the students a chance to practise what they have been taught. The children will have many books read to them, which encourages the development of expression and confidence in reading aloud. They have the teachers modelling the correct procedures of reading and writing to them and they also have many opportunities to develop their Speaking and Listening skills. The English skills are also used
during the day to develop these most necessary abilities. All students will be working on the same topics and developing similar skills but the application work will be graded to suit the students' levels of ability. All students will also be reading daily. It is our intention to work as a team to develop sound English skills for all the students in grade 1 and 2.

**Mathematics:** In grade 1 and 2 the children will be provided with many practical learning experiences and they will be using equipment and materials to help facilitate concrete learning. The areas of number, space, measurement, chance and data will be included in the program. This year we will initially focus on the numbers 0 to 100. The children in grade 2 and our extension grade 1 group will eventually be able to complete activities involving numbers to 1000 and beyond. The children will learn how to apply Mathematics to real life experiences and situations. Our Mathematics program ensures that learning is fun as well as stimulating. Children participate in many enjoyable games, which are paramount to their understanding of concepts, particularly at this age. At every opportunity the students will be involved in hands on experiences as this creates superior understanding of the concepts being taught.

**Integrated:** This year’s Grade 1 and 2 topics are

- **Term 1**  Healthy Food
- **Term 2**  Transport
- **Term 3**  People Who Help Us
- **Term 4**  Weather

*If you ever have any questions regarding any part of your child’s education please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher to clarify your thoughts.*

**Homework**

**Readers:** Children are encouraged to spend 10 minutes each night reading their take home reader book. Please supervise and help your child. Readers need to be returned every morning so that they can be changed.
**Personal Spelling:** This is a way of developing each child’s spelling skills so they operate at a level appropriate to themselves. The words chosen are spelling errors that have occurred in the child’s written work. These words are recorded in the back of their writing book and then transferred to a sheet, which is sent home so the students can practise during the week. The children are individually tested and new words are given or the same words retested if they are incorrect. The students’ respond very well to this process as it encourages ownership of their own words.

**Work Sheets:** Each Friday the grade 2 students receive a homework sheet that is pasted into their homework books. The sheet needs to be completed and handed in by Wednesday of the following week. The work sent home is to re-enforce the concepts being taught at school and give the students more practise. Homework is set at a level that will enable most students to work independently. If you have any queries please contact your child’s teacher.

Grade 1 students will not commence formal homework sheets until semester 2 however they will have some personal spelling words to learn weekly, sight vocabulary sheets to practise and they must also read nightly and change their readers each day.

**Many thanks to all the parents who have generously offered their time to listen to our students read each morning.**
How You Can Help When Your Child Reads To You

Remember that reading is developmental and each child learns to read at their own pace and in their own way similar to learning to walk and talk.

When your child reads:

- Talk about the cover and what the story will be all about.
- Give close attention and show interest in the story.
- Share the story in a warm and comfortable place.
- Be enthusiastic about every attempt to make sense of print. Sometimes what your child reads will be different from the printed text. This is acceptable if the basic meaning is not changed.
- Be patient while your child tries to work out the text. Curb your natural impulse to assist, for this is a valuable learning time where your child will try out the strategies he/she is learning at school.
- If your child is distressed by not knowing a word, remind him/her of the strategies that can be attempted:
  - read on to the end of the sentence
  - start again and read the whole sentence
  - look at the picture
  - use the initial letter as a cue
If this does not work tell your child the word because waiting too long will interrupt the flow of the story.
- If your child reads ‘nonsense’ ask a question that will focus on the meaning of the story:
  - does that make sense?
  - is that what he would really do?
- Talk about the PICTURES and don’t rush them when they are absorbing information or delighting in the colours and forms of the pictures.
- Whenever your child self-corrects to regain meaning, praise their efforts. Eg. ‘Good! Now it makes sense’.
- Encourage expression and remember that punctuation is an important part of ‘getting the meaning’.
How You Can Help Your Child With Reading

Make it fun!

Reading time should be a happy time. It is important to make reading together an enjoyable time for both yourself and your child.

- Establish a routine of reading to your child every day. This is one of the best ways of developing lifelong positive attitudes to reading and an understanding of print and books. *Foster a love of reading at home.*
- Read with your child. Reading together is a good way to end the day.
- Model reading. Read yourself. Turn off the T.V. for ½ an hour each night and read instead.
- Talk about the books you read and encourage your child to try reading. Be interested in what your child is reading.
- Encourage older children to read with younger children.
- Let your child see that we read for both ENJOYMENT and information.
- Don’t make take home readers the `be all and end all’ of reading. Read the T.V. guide, footy news, library books etc. together and discuss what you have learned or discovered.
- Encourage your child to make good use of the local and school libraries.
- Praise every effort in reading, especially if confidence is low. Don’t compare your child’s performance with that of relatives and friends.
- Give books as presents and show your child how to care for them.
Good Routines and Habits

It is always good to develop good routines and habits early. Listed below are several suggestions that may assist your students to develop healthy routines:

1. Good Diet – eating a healthy and balanced diet has been proven to give children an advantage with their learning.
2. Having a good night’s sleep. It is also a known fact that children of this age need a minimum of eight hours sleep each night to function well the next day.
3. A developed homework and reading routine. Every child in Junior Primary, now for grade 2’s and second semester for grade 1’s, is expected to complete their homework on time. Therefore a nightly homework area and routine is vital.
4. Responsibility for making sure that they have their required books and pencil case at school each day. Hats are to be worn at all times while out in the yard in terms 1 and 4.
5. Responsibility for their clothing and other personal belongings. It should be named!
Mindful Meditation

With the enormous stresses of life that the children must become accustomed to, Southern Cross has introduced a program designed by Janet Etty-Leal (www.mediationcapsules.com) to help them develop life skills to deal with the problems that they may confront.

Mindfulness is a way of relieving stress and learning how to recognise and manage emotions better. We devote one planned half hour session a week as well as impromptu sessions as they are required. Please visit Janet’s website or see the junior primary teachers if you require further information about this innovation at our school.
Tribes

‘Tribes’ is a whole school and community based program that has been implemented throughout all grades. It is a fantastic and effective program that aims to bring students together and allows them to work as a community by helping and supporting each other. Through this daily and consistent approach students become more tolerant of each other and also learn to solve their own differences and issues.

The Tribes program consists of 4 agreements which all students have to apply on a daily basis.

These are:

- Mutual Respect
- Attentive Listening
- No ‘Put Downs’
- The Right To Participate/Pass

Our Tribes program will be used in conjunction with Restorative Justice, Circle Time and our on-going commitment to quality Boys Education. The Tribes program begins in term 2, every second Friday afternoon. It begins then to allow our new Preps to settle into school life. Our Senior Leadership students plan and run these sessions as part of their Leadership development. Class teachers are there to supervise.
Better Buddies

The Better Buddies Program is an enthralling program that focuses on establishing the relationship amongst our students, prep to grade 2, with a focus on feeling safe and cared for in our school environment.

The Better Buddies Program also brings students together for a range of fun ‘get-to-know-you’ activities to help develop these important relationships amongst students.

This exciting and inspiring program compliments the existing TRIBES PROGRAM that the students and teachers are already highly involved in. In term 2 this program will begin on the alternating Friday afternoon to Tribes. Watch the website for updates and photos.
Edward deBono’s Six Thinking Hats/ Learnable Intelligence- Think Plus Program

*Intelligence is about know-how. It’s all about growing our brain - it’s all in the mind. It’s not only the abilities; it’s the personal qualities too.*

The Think Plus journey that SCPS is embarking on is an exciting one, one that we are all continuously assisting our students to challenge their thinking skills through discovering, questioning, exploring and creating new ideas and being curious about learning.

The aim of this innovative program is to teach children to think. They are constantly immersed with a continuous flow of pure information available to them from an ever expanding electronic, technological and digital world. We need to teach them to be discerning, analyse and form an understanding of what they see. They need to learn how to use all of this information to help them to solve complex problems and issues and make meaningful decisions to help them formulate new knowledge and become happy, successful members of society who can deal with the world in which they live. Watch our website for exciting updates.