

Athelstane Advocate

Athelstane Public School

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Term 2 - Week 3

Friday 17th May 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers,



Welcome back to Term Two.

Athelstane Remembers

During the recent school holiday our student leaders attended the ANZAC Day dawn service at Arncliffe Park. The service was well attended with over 200 members from the local community getting up early to pay their respects on this very significant day. Athelstane Public School was represented by the Student Leadership Team who had a number of important roles to play in the formalities of the ceremony. Our student leaders, Eoin and Rianne, delivered the Ode whilst Fatima and Hassan had the responsibility of laying a wreath on behalf of all public schools in the local area. Eoin and Rianne both spoke with poise and confidence after being called upon to take on the important duty of reciting the Ode of Remembrance as the ceremony was about to commence. Both of these students presented extremely well and received high praise from those in attendance. All of our leaders represented our school with distinction and deserve commendation for their involvement and commitment.



New Playground Almost Ready

Our new playground in Area 2 is almost completed and ready for use. It certainly looks like it is going to be a wonderful addition to our school and give great enjoyment to all of the students at Athelstane. This playground was designed by a group of our students and has a number of fantastic features including wheelchair accessibility.

Gymnastics Kicks Off Next Week.

Our specialist gymnastics program will commence in Week 4 and will run on Tuesday and Wednesdays for the remainder of the term. This program is delivered by specialist gymnastics instructors and has proven to be well loved by students in previous years. The program aims develop an array of skills through a range of fun activities.

ELECTION BBQ HEROES

I would like to acknowledge the band of wonderful parents and supporters who volunteered their time to support our P&C with the operation of the Election Day BBQs. Your efforts to serve up the best democracy day sausages around was well received by the thousands who cast their votes at our school. Athelstane Public School has the highest numbers of voters through the gates out of any of the polling centres in the electorate. Some voters even commented that they went out of their way to come and vote at Athelstane because they know the sausages are so good here. Well done and thank you for your amazing work.

Checkmate

This term Athelstane Public School has commenced their involvement in the NSW Junior Chess League. Taking place on a Friday afternoon after school, our team takes on the best chess minds in St. George Zone. Our team of four students from Years 4 and 6 are setting the boards alight in the opening rounds winning 7 out their 8 matches. Keep up the great work!

Debating

Last week saw the Athelstane Public School's Debating Teams commence their competitions. With all members of the teams new to debating in 2019, it will be exciting to see how they develop and refine their skills over the course of the competition. In their first outing both teams performed strongly and presented some very strong arguments around the topic that "Homework should be banned across all Primary Schools." Unfortunately the decision didn't go Athelstane's way on this occasion. The feedback from the adjudicator was very informative and will provide an opportunity for an improved performance next time. Both teams will be taking part in a debating workshop at Lewisham Public School next week to help them develop and refine their skills.

NAPLAN

This week saw our students in Years 3 and 5 undertake the nationwide NAPLAN examination. Students sat tests in Writing, Language Conventions, Reading and Numeracy. I am pleased to report that our students were not impacted upon by some of the technical difficulties which hampered the efforts of students at other schools across the country. In 2020 all school will be required to complete the digital version of NAPLAN online. NAPLAN can be a stressful situation for students and we need to remember that this only one element of everything that takes place within a school. A recent post of social media summed this up nicely,

Next week you will sit your first NAPLAN test. Before you take this test there is something very important for you to know:

This test does not assess all of what makes each of you exceptional and unique.

The people who score these tests don't know that some of you love to sing, are good at drawing or can teach others how to use a computer program. They have not seen the way that some of you can dance with grace or speak confidently to a large group. They do not know that your friends count on you to be there for them when they are sad. They do not know that you participate in sports, help your Mum and Dad or that play with your little brother, sister or cousins. They do not know that you are caring, thoughtful and that every day you do your best. Because these attributes cannot be tested.

The scores you get from this test will tell you how you did on that day, but they will not tell you everything. They can't tell you that you have improved on something that you once found difficult. They can't tell you that you brighten up your teacher's day. They can't tell you how amazingly special you are.

So come to school ready to do your best for the NAPLAN test and remember there is no one way to 'test' all of the wonderful things that make you, YOU!

We look forward to receiving our student's results later in the year.

Semester One Reports.

All our staff are currently busy preparing the Semester One Reports which will be sent home towards the end of this term. An opportunity will also be available for parents to have an interview with their child's teacher to gain a deeper insight into how they are progressing and areas of future learning. This will also be a nice opportunity to see how the students have progressed with their individual learning goals which were discussed in Term One.

Open Day For Kindergarten 2020

On Wednesday 22nd May Athelstane Public School will be hosting an Open Day for families who have children starting Kindergarten in 2020. Commencing at 9:30am this opportunity will give parents a valuable insight into Athelstane Public School and what to expect when starting Kindergarten in 2020. If you know of a family who has someone ready to start Kindergarten next year, encourage them to come along and learn all about our wonderful school.

OPEN DAY

Wednesday 22nd May 2019
9.30am to 10.30am

- Arrival and refreshments in the library
- Welcome and presentations
- School tour
- Q & A session with staff and prospective parents
- Meet our Principal and staff
- Learn more about what Athelstane Public School offers in the early years of schooling

To confirm your attendance, please call our office on 9567 3550

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Final Thought

"Believe you can and you are half way there."
Theodore Roosevelt

Mr Lindsay
Principal



What's On



Monday 20th May

Debating Team attending Debating workshop

Tuesday 21st May

Gymnastics Program begins

Wednesday 22nd May

Zone Cross Country

Wednesday 22nd May

National Simultaneous Storytime

Thursday 23rd May

SPARK and 121 Program (each Thursday through the term)

Monday 10th June

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Wednesday 19th June

Year 5 Visit to Kogarah High School

Wednesday 26th – 28th June

Stage 3 Camp to Canberra

Tuesday 2nd July

Kindergarten Excursion

Wednesday 3rd July

Parent Teacher Interviews



Assembly Awards

The following students have been consistently displaying the values of our school.

They are to be commended for their effort.

KL	Zain S Mohammed K Natalie V
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KW	Hussien Che Hussein K Hussein Cha
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K-2M	Abrar B Isa I
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1H	Abbas K Batoul C Ali J
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2I	Elaaf D Hassan D Idris Z
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2PS	Mohammed F Fatima
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3K	Tselmeg S Zara E Zahraa F
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3M	Laila E Rayan E Marwa M
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3-4A	Kodi S Samit T Paul I
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3-6D	Peter D Mikala M Jonah L
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4DW	Mohammed G Fatima A Rana M
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4H	Zeinab E Zeinab D
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5A	Younes C Mahdi B Zainab I
5I	Ralph S Mariam S
5-6K	Evan B Fatima Z Nour F
6L	Abbas Sal Ava P
6S	Hassan H Shiggy E Atef A

Behaviour Awards

Bronze, Silver and Gold awards are presented to students who have exhibited exemplary behaviour.

Students earn ACES towards achieving one of these awards for consistent behaviour that follows the class and school rules.

KL	Sarah S Adem U Joshua M Layla K Aleena N
KW	Sumayyah A Hussein C Bindka P Abbas F Hussein K
3K	Ali C Ayah E Ethan H Leen F Maddison P Nour M Mohammed K Orla M Sukhtulga K Undrakh G Zahraa F Zaharaa E Zara E Zaynab K Jessica M

4DW	Azjargal B Olivia E Shema U Moussa S Fatimah S Zaynab M Rana M Miriam A
6L	Mohamed Ali C Khalil C Hussein A Uyanga O Eoin M Fatimah K Moustapha K Issa J Khongorzul I Zeinab E Mariam A

Naplan

Congratulations to our Year 3 and Year 5 students who this week participated in Naplan which assessed them in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. Naplan provides parents and the school a snapshot. Results will be released in early September.

Spark and 121 Programs

The Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN) is a not-for-profit organisation that connects business with schools through mentoring and partnership programs.

ABCN have structured structured programs that involve volunteers from corporate companies mentoring students. Athelstane has been involved with ABCN for eight years. The two programs that we participate in are called SPARK and 121.

SPARK is a reading program where volunteer mentors read with a student. They focus on reading fluency and comprehension of texts read.

121 is a numeracy program targeted at Stage One students whereby they participate in educational but fun games to build students foundational number skills.

Recently we launched both programs at our school, welcoming TATA Consulting and TAL mentors who have kindly volunteered their time.



Digital Citizenship

In this increasingly technological world that we live and engage in, we feel it is important as part of the student welfare programs at Athelstane that students learn what it means to be a digital citizen.

So what does it all mean, you might be asking yourself? Digital citizenship is about confident and positive engagement with digital technology.

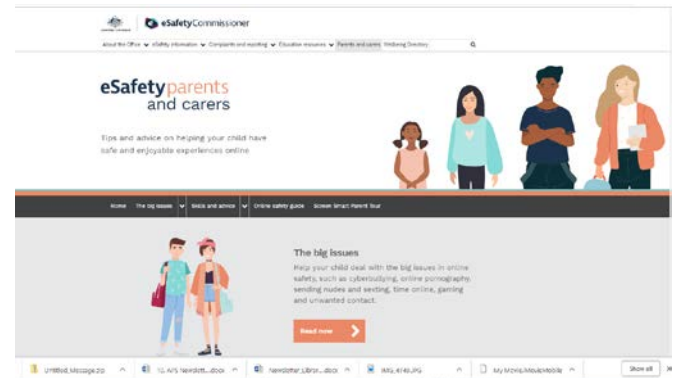
A digital citizen is a person with the skills and knowledge to effectively and safely use digital technologies to participate in a digital world.

Three core principles that responsible digital citizens should practise are:

- ENGAGE positively
- KNOW your online world
- CHOOSE consciously.

The eSafety Commission provides valuable information for parents (and students) about the issues that concern parents about their children engaging with technology, in particular texting and social media.

Go to: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>



Student Absences, Lateness and Early Leave

It is a legal requirement that when your child is absent that we receive an explanation for the absence. You may do this by sending a note to school or get onto the Skoolbag app. Once in the app click on eForms and select Absentee Note.

Lateness or early leave are things that at times cannot be avoided. However, coming to school late and leaving school early, impacts the learning of your child.

Home School Liaison officers periodically check the class rolls and action unexplained absences, lateness and early leave. We will send home a letter if we are concerned.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Your Child Cannot Access Mathletics or Reading Eggs?

At times students are experiencing difficulty logging on to Mathletics or Reading Eggs. If you are using a computer, try a different web browser ie: Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox.

Unfortunately, we have restricted access for students where payment has not been made.

It is important that students are able to access Reading Eggs and Mathletics because they are used to reinforce the learning that is taking place in the classroom.

Mathletics Certificates

Children who engage with activities in Mathletics earn points which can result in a certificate.

So what you see below is how many children have earned 1000 points in a week and been awarded a certificate that you can ask your child to show you when they log onto Mathletics. All certificates are stored in their Mathletics account.

KL	11
KW	15
K2M	1
1H	12
2I	10
2PS	24
3K	34
3M	102
3-4A	4
3-6D	2
4DW	54
4H	87
5A	19
5I	9
6L	40
6S	42

Can parents be informed about their child's progress when using Mathletics?

Yes you can. You can register and each week you will receive a report that outlines how much time your child spent on Mathletics and how they went on the activities they completed?

How do I register?

Go to: <https://core-api.3plearning.com/ParentCentreService/ParentRegistration.aspx>

From the Library...

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Every purchase from Scholastic Book Club helps our school buy extra classroom resources. Scholastic Book Club orders for Term 2 will continue with Issue 4 which will be distributed to students when received from mid-term.

The easiest way for families to order and pay for Book Club is to use the online **LOOP** platform. This will ensure that students get their orders, which are delivered to school for free, and that the correct payment is received. Please use the link to register and start your order www.scholastic.com.au/loop

LOOP is also available as an app, for both apple and Android devices. *Families who order via LOOP will receive a free reusable book bag with their second order for the year, and a poster and bookmark for those who place their third order.*

For cash payments, please ensure you have the correct money and that the envelope is securely sealed with your completed order form, including student's full name and class. This makes it a lot smoother to process all orders and ensures the order can be submitted to Scholastic in a timely manner.

Thank you to everyone who ordered from Book Club this year so far. 20% of what you spend goes back to Athelstane Public School. Your support, in ordering from Book Club, has allowed the school to buy additional books and classroom supplies.

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME 2019



Next Wednesday, 22nd May, we have the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Lindsay and our Kindergarten children to the library to participate in National Simultaneous Storytime for 2019. National Simultaneous Storytime is an annual campaign that aims to encourage more

young Australians to read and enjoy books and Mr Lindsay will be our storyteller again this year. Each year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. This year's book is *Alpacas with Maracas* written and illustrated by Matt Cosgrove. Matt's books are well loved here at Athelstane Public School and we are excited to see what Mr. Lindsay has in store for our youngest students next week.

Mrs Crisafulli
Teacher Librarian

This week in Occupational Therapy (OT)

Students in Years 1 and 2 developed their understanding of left and right. They learnt that when they hold up both hands with their thumbs out to the side, the left hand makes an 'L' shape. We discussed how 'L' stands for 'left' and called this our 'good L' because it is the correct way around. We then used the 'L' shape to help identify which side was the left. The 'bad L' (or the L shape that was backwards), helped identify the right side.

Why is learning left and right important?

- It helps us follow directions used throughout each day e.g the teacher might say "get the pencils that are on the left side of the pink folders."
- Difficulty understanding left and right can affect maths, reading, writing and other motor skills.
- Children can understand left and right on their own bodies before being able to identify objects such as shoes.

What can I do to help my child develop their understanding of left and right at home?

- Encourage your child to use strategies to help them e.g finding the 'good L' or knowing which hand they write with e.g 'I write with my right hand so I know that this object is on the right side.'
- Give simple instructions to help them locate objects e.g "Look to the right of the forks to get the straws."

- Play fun games like body twister and see if they can correctly identify the body parts.

What do I look for?

See whether your child has difficulty finding their left and right. Breaks instructions down so they identify their left or right before they go and locate the object or body part. Leave a message with the office if you need any further tips or advice.

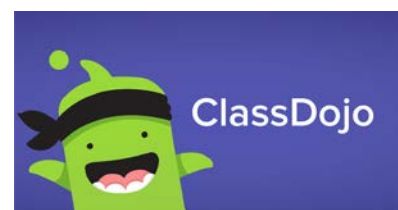
Enjoy!

Stephanie Clements
(Occupational Therapist)



Students playing a game of body twister to practise finding their left and right body parts. Here, they were asked to touch their left foot to their right ear and all had a giggle that it was like taking on a foot phone.

How can you stay connected with what is happening at Athelstane?



CLASSROOM SNAPSHOT

1H

Hi everyone and welcome to the wonderful world of 1H! We love learning about new things and always try our best at all that we do!

We start our day with a busy English Block. First up reading groups! This is where we engage in reading and a range of literacy activities that support our skills to decode words and understand different texts. Next up writing! Our focus has been writing letters to important people in our lives describing why we value them so much, exploring empathy and compassion.

Our Mathematics time is always fun because Mrs Harris joins us to explore the interesting world of numbers. We are learning about all the different ways you can count numbers, add numbers and subtract numbers helping to develop our problem-solving and reasoning skills.

Last term for Sport we focused on fundamental movement skills ensuring that we undertake different movements with the correct technique. This term we can't wait for gymnastics!

Exploring our schoolyard for Science was an adventure as we observed, discussed and investigated different living things that exist within the gates of Athelstane Public School. History has led us to explore the lives of families in the past and our own families in the present.

In the Creative Arts department, one thing we love to do in 1H is dance and learning new dance moves is always fun. We are also overjoyed by our artist study for the Athelstane Art Show, Joan Miro, a surrealist artist from Spain.

The artworks we are exploring use lots of different shapes which is supporting our own knowledge of two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. Well, that's all from us and we hope you have enjoyed the snapshot into 1H!





CLASSROOM SNAPSHOT

51

Welcome to 51!!! We are a wonderfully talented bubbly bunch of successful learners.

We fill our day with reading groups, writing extravagant stories and persuasive texts, Mathematics, learning about Australia as a Nation, science investigations, sport and art.

We have been getting ourselves ready for the Athelstane Art show. During our art lessons on Wednesday afternoons, we have been working on making, designing and appreciating art. Our focus artist is Jamiee Paul - a Sydney based artist, who sketches animals. We have ventured to draw, sketch and recreate a number of animals over term one and two, rhinos, toucans, parrots and peacocks, have been the focus of some of our artworks. The students though initially taken aback by the task at hand, strive to success through trial and error and teamwork.

51's latest undertaking, was a peacock. We began by sketching the outline, before adding an outline. We filled in the peacock's body with some blending and smudging oil pastels. To create the amazingly colourful and wild feathers the students looked at positioning and colour compositions. Before adding in the final watercolour background and retouches.

Look at how amazing they have turned out!!!

