Dear Families

Welcome to another busy and exciting term. In this letter we will briefly explain some of the engaging programs that will be happening this term as well as inform you of a few changes and housekeeping matters to support you and your child’s return to school for a new term.

**English**

*Writing* – This term the students will be exploring the genre of *writing to describe*. Due to the individualised nature of the LSG, where some students are in the experimental writing phase and other students are in the proficient writing phase, the students will explore this genre via targeted and individualised programs. We will be using the *First Steps* program to facilitate this unit.

*Reading* – The students are all participating in our ‘Daily 5’ program. They have been grouped together based on ability, to ensure that they are reading the right level of text, and learning the most powerful reading strategies for the stage they are currently in. This program will ensure they have opportunities every day to read to an educator. Students will work individually and in small groups, with the teacher on targeted strategies to enhance their reading ability. The online program *Reading Eggs* will also be used daily to complement and enhance our guided reading program; all students can access this through the internet outside of school hours.

**Mathematics**

*Number* – The focus this term in number will vary depending of each student’s Individual Learning Plan (ILP). The continuum of learning will include basic number recognition to 10, being able to count, order, and write numbers to 10, 20, 30, 50, 100, 1000, as well as two and three-digit addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division. The students also have access to *Maths Seeds* for the rest of the year. This program is connected to reading eggs. Students can access this program at home (internet connection needed). Please contact your child’s teacher to get the username/password.

*Time* – LSGTC will supplement our lessons on number by exploring time. We will look at reading digital and analogue clocks, understanding calendars, as well as reading, interpreting and following timetables. This is a very crucial life skill for the students to have, and is something they can be encouraged to look at when at home, e.g. looking at a calendar for an upcoming birthday party etc.

*Money* – LSGTW and LSGBN will continue to look at money this term. The emphasis will be on real world application of using money, and will focus on addition and subtraction, for example, making sure the change you receive is the correct amount.

**Social Skills and Health**

We will continue our focus on mindfulness this term. The students have responded fantastically to the MindUp program. They are learning a number of different mindfulness practice and have three sessions a day. We will also be exploring the concept of a growth mindset and it’s connection to mindful behaviour.
Science
In science we will continue learning about animals, completing a unit called *Feathers, Fur and Fins*. This unit will examine animals of land, air and sea - focusing on appearances, habitats, lifecycle and diet. The students will explore this science unit through ‘investigations’.

History/Geography
We will be learning about the geography and history of Canberra during term 4, focusing on major attractions. We will look at our place in the world, our school, our suburb, our city and country. We will learn where the names for suburbs came from and why the city was planned the way it was.

Visual and Performing Arts, PE and Spanish
Our specialist visual and performing arts, PE and Spanish lessons will continue to be on Fridays but will move to the afternoon session. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing for PE and dance.

Library
The LSG library sessions continues to be on Mondays for LSGBN, Tuesday for LSGTW and Thursday for LSGTC. At this time students will be able to borrow and return books as well as investigate and build their skills in the use of our school library. This term we have been practising our ability to choose good fit books. To find a suitable book we follow the acronym IPICK. This stands for: -

I - I choose a book.
P - Purpose - Why do I want to read it?
I - Interest - Does it grab my attention?
C - Comprehend - Do I remember and understand what I am reading?
K - Know - Do I know most of the words?

Fruit break
Each day, students will have fruit break during the morning session. This is an opportunity for the students to give their brains a boost to help them concentrate through until Break 1. Students will need to bring fresh fruit or vegetables, ideally cut up, which is easy for them to manage and eat in approximately 10 minutes.

Finally, if you would like to meet with us to further discuss your child’s learning, please don’t hesitate to make an appointment. We can be contacted via the front office or email: tom.camilleri@ed.act.edu.au, tracey.webster@ed.act.edu.au, rebecca.naughton@act.edu.au

Kind Regards

Tom Camilleri, Rebecca Naughton, Tracey Webster, Anna Kapantais, Kate Macdonald and Keiko Phillips.