

TEMIS

Newsletter

The Ela Murray International School

www.elamurray.com

Term 1 Week 2 Thursday, February 2, 2017

Deputy Principal's Message

The ELC started the year by conducting a professional development meeting on play – Play is Learning. Along with our new ELC staff member, Mr Elias Benjamin, staff from Koroboro International School and The International School of Lae joined us for the day.

In sessions led by each ELC teacher, together we explored topics such as the environment, the adult's role, the use of visible thinking strategies, learning through play and the concept of play itself.

Play is difficult to define in terms of a single feature. What we see is that play is a combination of several characteristics; it is self-chosen and self-directed; the means are more important than the end; it has structure specific to the players; it is imaginative and involves an active, alert but non-stressed frame of mind.

Play is the basis of the ELC program and we are more than happy to share our philosophy of early childhood education. Through play, we see our children make friends, develop confidence, solve problems and generally take control of their own experiences. We believe this is the way in which children learn to structure their own behaviour and make sense of their world.

Our evidence is in the confident, enthusiastic, happy and curious children we saw begin their Prep experience at the start of this year and who we see in our centre every day.

This year, we again welcome many new families to our play-based program at the Early Learning Centre. With our staggered start, the introduction to the ELC has been smoother. However, we acknowledge the fact that starting in a new environment can be an overwhelming experience for most young children.

We assure parents that this is all very normal, especially after a long holiday. Fortunately, the ELC staff are very experienced in dealing with separation anxiety and children soon settle in. Please speak with your child's teacher if you have any queries. If you have any concerns about your child's separation once you leave, you can contact the ELC on;

321 4304
7348 1293
7685 2346

We are always happy to take your call.

Kerry Honey

Farewell to Mr. Jeff Aimano

With sadness, we farewell Mr. Jeff Aimano, a long-serving teacher at TEMIS, as he leaves the school tomorrow, Friday. Mr. Aimano has worked at Ela Murray for 16 years, primarily in the Grade 7-8 area of the school. We congratulate Jeff as he takes up a position as Resource Teacher at Tabubil International School. This is an exciting opportunity for Jeff and we wish him all the best as he takes on a new challenge.

News from the Curriculum Team

English - This year sees the introduction of the new IEA curriculum for English. The new curriculum is more detailed than the current one and will support our teachers to ensure that we are teaching key skills in 4 strands: Reading, Writing, Language and Speaking and Listening. The curriculum is in line with expectations for a range of countries including Australia, the USA and a range of international curricula.

As a school, we already have detailed mapping in place, ensuring that we cover a range of genres in writing – for example poetry, instructions, explanations, adventure stories etc. In the past 2 years, we have done a great deal of work on developing our explicit teaching of comprehension strategies and these are emphasised in the new curriculum.

We will be implementing a new spelling program this year. Having received informal feedback from parents on 'Words Their Way' and evaluated the program as a staff, the decision was made to stop using this program across the school. Having considered a range of programs, we decided to use Soundwaves, a program produced by Firefly Education in Australia. You may have noticed your children saying short rhymes with accompanying actions – this is all part of Soundwaves. It recognises that sounds can be written in more than one way and explores how they can be put together to form written words. Each week students will explore a different sound and ways to write it. This will be through investigation of word lists at an age appropriate level. Students will receive a word list each week to practise at home. In addition, there is an online section with games and activities, which will be available for parent use – a grade level password for the site will be distributed after the parent information evening on Tuesday.

Mathematics – Next week, Sally Hughes, IEA Maths Advisor will visit TEMIS to follow up on some of the work she did with staff at the Staff Development Days at the start of the year. She will be working in a range of classes to support both students and teachers. We look forward to welcoming her back to TEMIS in Week 6.

General Notice

Please note, children should not be at school before 7:30 a.m. on both the Murray and ELC sites. Sadly, we are already having a few children being dropped off much earlier, some before 7:00 a.m. It is parent responsibility to care for children before 7:30 a.m. If you do arrive at school before this time, you need to stay with your child until 7:30 a.m. when classes are open. Our staff are all busy preparing for the day prior to this time and we do not provide supervision before 7:30 a.m. Thanks!

Religion will start in Week 4 this term. On the enrolment or reenrolment form there was a box to tick indicating your preference for your child's religion group. We will use these to group students into Catholic, Protestant and Values classes.

Parent Group News

We would like to welcome you all to the first Parent Group meeting of the year to be held on Monday, 6 February, 2017 at 1.30pm in the Murray site staffroom. Hope to see you there.

The Secondhand Uniform Shop will be open on Friday from 1.30-2.30pm. If you have any uniforms that are too small, please drop your uniforms off to the Murray site Admin office and we will collect them from there. The Secondhand Uniform Shop is located up the stairs at the far end of the hall. All proceeds from these sales will go to the TEMIS "Serving Others Committee" to donate to charity. We will update opening times once ASAs begin.

*Kylie Butler-McIntosh
President*

Craft Market

The next TEMIS Craft Market of the year will be held at the Ela Beach site as usual on Saturday, February 25, from 7.30am to 11.30am.

Craft Market fees for 2017:

Annual stall holders - K250.00
Casual - K25.00 per market day

School News

Important—School Access

If you are coming onto the school site at any time, you need to show your Parent Pass to Security as you come in the gate. If you have forgotten your parent pass, you need to get a Visitor's Pass from Security at the gate. I have stressed with G4S Security that this system *must* be followed. I understand that this may be frustrating for you, but it is essential that it happens. The whole point of this system is to prevent unauthorised access to the school site and keep our students and staff safe.

Out Of Hours School Care

In the past, there has been some confusion about this program. We do not offer an after school care program. Out of Hours School Care is only in place to cater for children who have not been picked up on time. Children who have not been picked up by 3:00 p.m. will be taken to the school library and registered in the program for that particular day.

Important Dates

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|-----|-------|
| TERM 1 | PUPIL FREE DAY (STAFF DEV. DAY) | FRI | 17/03 |
| | TERM 1 ENDS | WED | 05/04 |
| | SCHOOL HOLIDAYS | THU | 06/04 |
| | | WED | 19/04 |
| | GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER MONDAY | FRI | 14/04 |
| | FALL IN THE BREAK | MON | 17/04 |
| TERM 2 | TEACHERS COMMENCE | WED | 19/04 |
| | STUDENTS COMMENCE | THU | 20/04 |
| | PUBLIC HOLIDAY QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY | MON | 12/06 |
| | TERM 2 ENDS | FRI | 16/06 |
| | SCHOOL HOLIDAYS | SAT | 17/06 |
| | | TUE | 18/07 |
| TERM 3 | TEACHERS COMMENCE | MON | 17/07 |
| | STUDENTS COMMENCE | WED | 19/07 |
| | PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: | | |
| | NAT. REM. DAY | MON | 24/07 |
| | NAT. REP. DAY | SAT | 26/08 |
| | INDEPEND. DAY | SAT | 16/09 |
| | TERM 3 ENDS | FRI | 22/09 |
| | SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: | SAT | 23/09 |
| | | WED | 04/10 |
| TERM 4 | TEACHERS COMMENCE | WED | 04/10 |
| | STUDENTS COMMENCE | THU | 05/10 |
| | TERM 4 ENDS | FRI | 08/12 |
| | SCHOOL HOLIDAYS | SAT | 09/12 |
| | | TUE | 23/01 |

Parents will be charged for late pick-up as follows:

1. A flat rate of K25 per child for the first hour, whatever time he/she is picked up in that hour.
2. If a parent is late in excess of one hour, the charge will be K50 per child for the first hour and K25 per child for the second hour, whatever time he/she is picked up in that second hour.

I have had parents question the fairness of being charged K25 when they have arrived to pick up their child at 3:10 and they have only been 10 minutes late. In fact, they were 40 minutes late. **School pick up time is 2:30 p.m.** not 3:00 p.m. We allow a 30 minute grace period from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. which should be sufficient for any genuine delay because of traffic or other unforeseen event.

Please note, the 30 minute grace period **only** applies between 2:30 p.m. and 3:00

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p.m. It does not apply after 4:00 p.m. if a child has an after school activity, or any other time at which a music, swimming, tennis lesson or sport practice may finish. If a child is not picked up within **10 minutes** of the finish of the A.S.A or other activity, they will then be taken to the school library, registered in Out of Hours School Care and the fees noted above will be charged.

School Rules

During 2016, as a whole school reviewed and revised our school rules. Following considerable discussion amongst staff and students, we revised our school rules to better reflect how we believe we should be operating at The Ela Murray International School. Our revised TEMIS School Rules are as follows:

At TEMIS:

- We are learners
- We are responsible
- We are respectful
- We are safe

Teachers and students also spent time at the end of 2016, exploring what those rules look like in different situations e.g. in the classroom, in the playground, at the swimming pool. Through exploration of different contexts, students and teachers have created a School Rules Matrix to guide how we operate, with the general intention of ensuring that everyone is kept safe, happy and learning as best possible.

For the start of the school year, all classes will explore the rules and what they look like, as part of the first Inquiry topic of the year. The whole process has been exciting and very productive and we are now looking forward to putting our new rules and learning into practice.

Acting Deputy Principal

Many of you will be aware that Michelle Reynolds, one of our Deputy Principals on the Murray site, left TEMIS at the end of 2016. We are currently seeking a new person for that vacant position. In the interim, I am delighted to inform you that Ms. Caroline Moeder has been appointed to an Acting Deputy Principal role until a permanent appointment is made. Caroline is a long-serving staff member here at Ela Murray and is an experienced teacher and team leader. Congratulations Caroline!