



Term 3 Week 6  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021  
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## DIARY DATES

TERM 3	2021
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	Diocesan Athletics Carnival – <b>POSTPONED</b>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	BOOK WEEK
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> August	Stage 2 & 3 Touch Gala Day – <b>POSTPONED</b>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Staff Development Day – <b>POSTPONED</b>

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

How can I hear God?

You cannot hear God like you hear people or sounds around you. God talks to you very softly because he does not want to frighten you. He uses a secret language – the language of the heart. Set your heart to “receive”!

Sometimes you hear his voice inside you sometimes through the words of the Bible, sometimes in “coincidences”. Sometimes he speaks to you through other people.



Sometimes it is through your mother, when she comforts you.

Sometimes it is through the tears of a child who is being picked on.



Sometimes it is when the sun is shining and the flowers are blooming.

**God is available to talk 24 hours a day.**

Sometimes it is when you listen to your favourite music.



Sometimes it is through the eyes of your father, when he is proud of you.

Sometimes God speaks through the words of Holy Scripture.



Sometimes God speaks to you in bed of an evening, when all is quiet.

Please continue to stay safe.

Richard Blissenden  
Principal

### CONGRATULATIONS

To Imogen (4D) on recently receiving a certificate of excellence from MindQuest for her work at a weekend workshop! Well done!

### BOOK CLUB

Book Club issue 6 is available online now. As physical catalogues for issue 6 were not sent out, Book Club catalogues for LOOP orders are available to view online at [scholastic.com.au](http://scholastic.com.au)

When you place your issue 6 Book Club LOOP order online, you will have the option to select **Home Delivery** or **School Delivery**. The home delivery option can be selected at the time of ordering with a cost to the parent of \$7.50. Any school deliveries will still be sent to the school and can be collected with the [iLearn@Home](http://iLearn@Home) packs. If you have any questions please contact Kristine Muir at [kmuir2@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kmuir2@parra.catholic.edu.au) or on 8844 5700.

### SCHOOL FEES

All families should have received their Term 3 invoice for the final instalment of school fees for the year. The due date on the invoices is 18th August 2021. Given the ongoing restrictions and lockdown, we are aware that many people are living in a period of financial uncertainty at the moment. For this reason, please don't feel pressure to have fees paid by this due date. Families are welcome to extend the due date for fees until term 4. Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta remains committed to ensuring no family is denied a Catholic Education if they are experiencing genuine ongoing financial hardship. If you feel your financial situation may be ongoing and prevent you finalising your fees by year end, we can offer you an application to apply for fee assistance. Susan Albertini is currently working remotely and can be contacted on [salbertini@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:salbertini@parra.catholic.edu.au) or by leaving a message at the school office if you need to discuss deferring fees until term 4 or if you feel you may require further financial assistance.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



August 20	Sophia M Joshua A Samuel J Hayley A Jackson H
August 22	Jiya A Jacob K
August 23	Ava C
August 25	Christian G Minnie E
August 26	Japreet K
August 30	Jerome S Taliya A Sophia S
August 31	Wylie L Jackson A Harriest S

We wish these children a very Happy Birthday!



## FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

### THE IMPORTANCE OF BOOKS

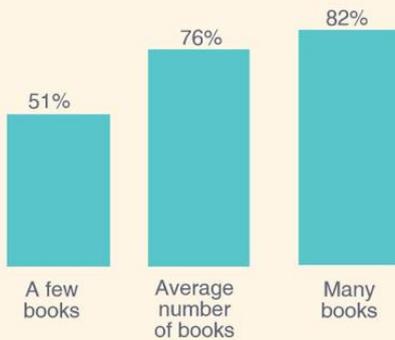
This is worth considering. Do you need a lockdown birthday present or motivation gift? Try a "book" from an online store and add to your child's collection!

# The relationship between BOOKS AT HOME and student achievement

The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) is an international comparative study of student achievement. Here, we look at TIMSS data on books in the home and the percentage of Australian students at or above the proficient standard\* for maths and science.

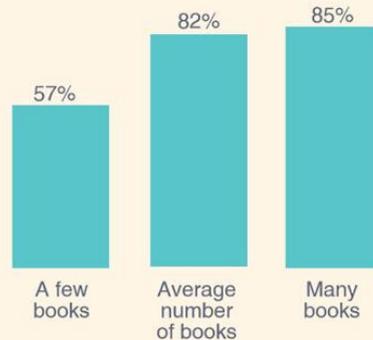
#### Year 4 Maths

Students at or above the proficient standard for Australia:



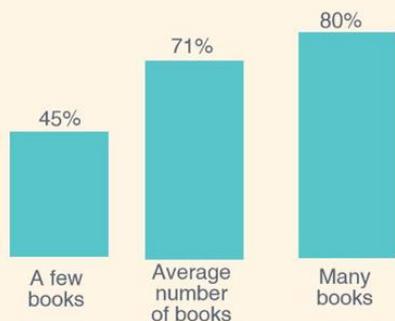
#### Year 4 Science

Students at or above the proficient standard for Australia:



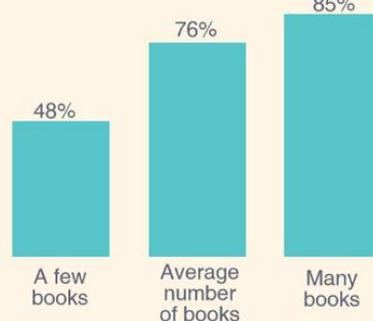
#### Year 8 Maths

Students at or above the proficient standard for Australia:



#### Year 8 Science

Students at or above the proficient standard for Australia:



#### \*What is the proficient standard?

The Measurement Framework for Schooling in Australia 2015 set the proficient standard for TIMSS mathematics and science as the Intermediate International benchmark. Proficient standards represent a 'challenging but reasonable' expectation of student



# The Tarantula Spider

Antony W 5K

The Theraphosidae spider, also commonly known as the Tarantula spider, is one of the world's well - known spider species. This spider is known for its deadly bites. It is estimated that these frightening creatures have been living for more than 390 long years. There are, in fact, more than 850 species of the Theraphosidae identified on planet Earth.

The Tarantula spider is an insect - which means that the body contains a pair of abdomen and celphelorax. The 8 pairs of legs helps it scuttle around, and the eight eyes creates a wide sight view to see incoming predators. Fun fact - They are covered in hair, but it's not actually hair! They are covered in setae.

Tarantula spiders are mainly found in the treetops, on ground, or below ground. About 60 - 70% of tarantula species live in rainforests and woodland biomes, whilst others roam in the desert sands. They create shelter using bits of bark and leaves on trees. Below ground tarantulas dig burrows with their fangs and seal the door with silk, and will emerge out when prey is spotted.

The diet of the Theraphosidae spider usually varies in size. Small tarantula's diet usually consists of small bugs and insects. Larger spiders begin to feed on animals such as birds, snakes, lizards, bats and mice. They can even attack other spider species and will attempt to eat any kind of meat.

Sure, they might be the size of an average teacup, but their biggest predator is the Tarantula Hawk. A special type of wasp, which stings the tarantula to stun it, and brings it to the nest. The wasp puts the eggs on top of the tarantula, and when they hatch, they feed on it, inside out. Ouch!



Another large predator of the Theraphosidae spider is us. That's humans, all right! In Cambodia, people roast the spider's setae off and then eat it. Sounds yuck, but apparently it isn't that bad, if they're still eating it! But the least biggest predator is giant centipedes and insects.

The Theraphosidae spider has adaptations which allow it to survive. Some of them have lighter, and thinner bodies for tree life. The legs are flexible, allowing the spider to gain better agility. The hair that's, "not really hair", helps detect vibrations from incoming enemies and prey.

The Theraphosidae spider, also commonly known as the Tarantula, is one amazing creature. Although it is feared not only by acrophobic people, it is also well - known for its skills and bites. Let's just get away from this deadly creature, though. (Just a suggestion)

# Sloths

By Matthias N 5K

Sloths are one of the strangest animals around. But did you know that sloths are also one of the most interesting creatures? Sloths are tree-dwelling creatures found in the jungles of Central and South America. Sloths are members of the Order Pilosa, and are distantly related to Armadillos and Anteaters. There are two kinds of sloths- The Three- Toed sloth (*Bradypus*) and the Two- Toed sloth (*Choloepus*)



(Left) A sloth and her baby)

## Appearance

Sloths are around 50-60 Centimetres long and weigh approximately 4 kilograms. Sloths have a thick brown and slightly-greenish fur coat and are about the size of a cat. Sloths have a short, flat head, big eyes, a short snout, a short or non-existent tail, long legs, tiny ears and sturdy, long arms with strong claws at the end. Sloths are extremely slow and are in fact the slowest land animal on earth. They have very poor eyesight and hearing, but a strong sense of smell and sense of touch.

## Habitat

Sloths are located in the Tropical Rainforests of Central and South America. Sloths spend much of their lives in the canopy, snoozing and remaining hidden from predators. Even though Sloths are very inactive, when they do move, they do so from tree to tree via the use of vines. While sloths live in the branches of many types of tropical trees, their preferred one is the Cecropia tree.

## Diet

Sloths mostly munch on leaves, twigs and buds. Because the animals don't have incisors, they trim down leaves by smacking their firm lips together. A low metabolic rate means sloths can survive on relatively little food; it takes days for them to process what other animals can digest in a matter of hours. Sloths consume the leaves of the Cecropia Tree. Two- Toed Sloths eat insects, small reptiles, birds, so not all Sloths are herbivores. Sloths have a four-part stomach that very slowly digests the tough leaves they eat, it can sometimes take up to a month for them to digest a meal. Digesting this diet means a sloth has very little energy left to move around making it one of the slowest moving animals in the world. A Sloths diet is very low in fats and protein, which is required for an animal to obtain energy.

## Predators

Sloths' most common predators are big cats like Jaguars, Ocelots and birds such as Harpy Eagles. Most of the time, these animals attack Sloths when they are on the ground and going to the toilet, which they only do once a week!. For some obscure reason, Sloths do not go to the toilet in their trees, instead, they go to the toilet on the ground and as they are so slow, they mostly die from attacks from predators.

Cont...

### Adaptations

Sloths have symbiotic bacteria in their stomachs which break down the tough Cecropia leaves they consume. They have a highly specialised muscle arrangement that can produce enough strength to withstand the force of a Jaguar trying to rip them from the tree. Specialised tendons in the sloth's hands and feet lock into place, allowing them to hang upside down for long periods of time without wasting any energy. This unique locking mechanism is also how sloths are able to sleep while hanging from a tree branch, and they have even been known to remain suspended upside down after death! Sloths' incredible fur creates an environment for other organisms such as fungi or algae to grow and live on it. This algae turns a sloth's fur green which provides camouflage. Three-fingered sloths have two more neck vertebrae than any other mammal, allowing them to turn their heads through 270° and effortlessly keep their nose above water when swimming.

### Interesting Facts

Did you know that Ancient skeletons of sloths suggest that sloths may have once been larger than a small elephant! Although they spend most of their time in the trees, sloths are surprisingly good swimmers — they can swim through water three times faster than they can move on the ground! On average, Sloths fall out of their own tree about once a week for their entire lives, but this doesn't bother them, as a sloth can fall for 100 feet without sustaining injury! They also can extend their tongues 10-12 inches out of their mouths, which is 9-11 inches longer than the average person can!

In conclusion, Sloths are a very interesting species, and there is more information to be learnt about them every day!

### **Sunsmart Snippet**

#### How does sunscreen work?

When we protect our skin by applying sunscreen correctly, we reduce our risk of skin cancer.



Sunscreen reduces the amount of UV radiation reaching your skin by providing a barrier to absorb or filter UV rays away from you skin. This prevents damage to the cells below.

When UV levels are 3 or above, sunscreen should always be used with other forms of sun protections such as clothing, hats and shade.

[www.sunsmartnsw.com.au](http://www.sunsmartnsw.com.au)



### **Nutrition Snippet**

#### DITCH THE HAM SANDWICH.

Click on our [sandwich filling ideas](#) tab for lots of healthier alternatives



Read more about why we need to limit ham at [healthylunchbox.com.au](http://healthylunchbox.com.au)

For this and more visit: [healthylunchbox.com.au](http://healthylunchbox.com.au)

