Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

Fantastic NAPLAN Results AGAIN!!!

Parents whose children sat the NAPLAN test will very soon receive two NAPLAN reports. If you have any questions or queries, your child’s teacher or the leadership team would be only too happy to help.

Congratulations to the children who sat the test and our dedicated staff and families as our results across year 3, 5 and 7 this year were again very pleasing. Out of the possible areas for improvement from the children who sat the test in 2013 (our now year 5s and 7s), we grew at a quicker rate than the Australian average in 90% of areas and were less than 1% off making that in 100% of areas. As you may already know through a newsletter earlier this year, we were acknowledged as being a “Gold Star School” through the Advertiser after ACARA noted us as being a school who demonstrated higher levels of growth in our students when compared to like schools. What is pleasing is that we have done this for three years running. What I can assure you is that as a staff and school we are totally committed to further improving the learning opportunities for our students and will thoroughly review our results to refine the learning experiences we currently have in place.

Although this is only one snapshot of our children’s learning at a particular point of time, this speaks volumes about the quality of teaching and learning opportunities at our school and of what Virginia Primary students are capable of.

Parenting Ideas

We recently signed up for a year trial period with ‘Parenting Ideas’. The partnership with parenting ideas supports us with access to monthly written articles by childhood experts for the benefit of both staff and parents. We look forward to hearing feedback from you on whether or not you find these helpful.

2016 Enrolments

We are beginning to look at numbers of children for 2016 so that we can begin looking at our class structures later this term. As we are zoned and there has been a significant increase in parents wishing to enrol their children here, it would help our planning if you know of any changes for next year (if you are moving etc.) if you could let the front office know as soon as you can.

Also, if you know of any families considering enrolling at Virginia for next year, could you please let them know to contact us as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help.
SAPSASA – Playford District Athletics Carnival
On Friday the 28th of August, 40 students aged 10 or older from VPS competed in the Playford District Athletics Carnival with 14 other schools at Munno Para Little Athletics Club. The students participated in a variety of events such as; 100M sprint, 200M sprint, 800M, Long Jump, High Jump, Discus, Shot Put and the 100M Relay. Our students showed tremendous work ethic, teamwork, sportsmanship and demonstrated our school values throughout the day.

This led to a wonderful achievement for our students as we came second in the small schools category. The following students have been selected to represent the Playford District at the State Carnival on Tuesday 22nd of September at Santos Stadium.

Chloe Mickel
10 Year old – Shot Put and Discus

Maleni Kien
10 Year Old – 100M Relay

Vinnie Jurkovic
12 Year Old – 100M Relay

Marta Jokic
13 Year old – Shot Put

Isabella Paradiso
13 Year old – 800M and 100M Relay

Taylah Nguyen
13 Year old – 100M Relay

Well done boys and girls on your achievements and a special thank you to all the parents that assisted and supported on the day.

SAPSASA - Knockout Sports Update
Our girls Australian Football team have made it through to another Grand Final, this is the third year in a row VPS has made it to the Grand Final. The final will be played on Wednesday the 23rd of September (week 10); our opponent is yet to be determined.

Our boys SAPSASA Soccer team lost the quarter final in a close match against Thorndon Park Primary School. The final result was Thorndon Park 5 – Virginia 3, well done to the boys for making it to the Quarter Finals. (James Yates)

BOOK WEEK 2015
The library staff would like to thank all the students, families and staff for celebrating Children’s Book Week 2015. We would also like to make a special mention to Giovanna Azkour for all her help and support she has given us in the library so far this year, especially during this very busy time.

VPS would also like to thank the ‘Book Week Committee’ for all their help and support with decorating the library, making posters, working with our MC’s and coming up with the idea of our competition ‘Name the Character’ which was extremely popular.

We would also like to congratulate our group of year 7 student MC’s, Taylah, Edmond, Nakai, Claire and Zak who did a marvellous job planning and running the parade on Wednesday with the support of Leonie who was extremely organised and lead the team beautifully. It was great to see so many students and staff dressed up and enjoying themselves at the parade.

If you haven’t had the chance to visit the library, please do so as it looks brilliant. Shirley got to share some of her artistic talent and definitely did a great job with that.
Footy Colours Day – Last Day of the Term

Each year, Fight Cancer Foundation asks all Australians to unite and wear their favourite football team’s colours and help support the fight against cancer. This year, our school has registered to take part and support this event.

For the past 25 years Fight Cancer Foundation has supported cancer patients and their families and through Footy Colours Day, they have been able to help thousands of young Aussies. They cannot do this without the support of people like you in our community.

Football unites communities – whether you follow AFL, NRL, Soccer, Rugby Union or any other sport – let’s unite, stand shoulder-to-shoulder and support young Aussies living with cancer.

Students are welcome to wear their ‘favourite football team’s colours on the last day of term and bring a donation to support this cause.

Family Reading Night!

Thank you for your expression of interest in our family reading night. The evening will proceed on Wednesday the 23rd of September at 5:30pm and finish at 6:30pm. The reading activities will take part in the Performing Arts Room. This night is designed to encourage purposeful reading in the household. All parents attending will receive helpful take home activities and support materials for their children.

There will be a free sausage sizzle on offer for parents and students who participate. We will have translators supporting parents in each activity. There is still time to express your interest if you haven’t already yet. Please let your classroom teacher know if you are interested. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the night!

Snake Awareness

Virginia Primary is located in a semi-rural area with considerable surrounding horticulture and farming land. It is common to have a number of snake sightings at the school, including juvenile snakes which are poisonous. As the weather is warming up, it is important to remind everyone of the importance of keeping safe and to be extra vigilant.

One of our programmed focus areas for term 1 and 4 of each year is snake awareness. Teachers discuss with children what they should do if they see a snake in the yard. They also discuss how to keep safe, by wearing enclosed shoes during high risk periods, not walking through garden beds and keeping school bags zipped up and off of the floor.

We will be organising a guest speaker to come out to our school to talk to our students about ‘snake safety’. If a snake is sighted, please alert the front office immediately.
Habits of Mind
Developing your child’s habits of success

Listening with Understanding and Empathy

Good listeners........

- Don’t interrupt
- Are able to share and reflect back their understanding
- Are tuned in to the conversation
- Listen with an open mind
- Value and appreciate someone else’s point of view
- Think about how people talking feel (their point of view)

Successful people spend a lot of time and energy listening. They empathise with and try to understand other people’s point of view. They are able to detect indicators (cues) of their feelings and accurately express another person’s concepts, emotions and problems. They gently attend to another person demonstrating their understanding of and empathy for an idea or feeling. — Art Costa

What you can do at home

- Reinforce, model, praise and practise good listening with your child
- Share stories with your child and ask their opinion about something related to the story
- Recap a great part of your day and a part of your day that you would change if you could
- Play listening, concentration and memory games together
- Spend time listening to your child