



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 5, 2017

12th April

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 11

Thursday 13th April

Sports Day

Early Dismissal 2:15pm

Friday 14th April

**GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC
HOLIDAY**

NO SCHOOL OR OSHC

Term 2, Week 1

Monday 1st May

First day of term

Week 2

Tuesday 9th May – Thursday 11th May

NAPLAN Testing

Year 3,5 and 7 students

Wednesday 10th May

Mother's Day Stall

Thursday 11th May

Rm 4/5/6 Excursion

to Gorge Wildlife Park

Friday 12th May

UP Bike Ed

Week 3

Thursday 18th – Friday 19th May

PUPIL FREE DAYS

OSHC AVAILABLE



Principal: Ilia Tsoutouras

Deputy Principal: Voula Pounendis

Gov. Council Chairperson: Anita Trenwith
Park Road, Virginia SA 5120

Phone: (08) 83809292

Fax: (08) 83809576

Email

dl.0455.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Visit our web site

www.virginiaps.sa.edu.au

Download our school app



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

On behalf of the staff I would like to wish all of our families a happy Easter and a safe and enjoyable school holiday break. I look forward to hearing about the holidays when we return and most importantly look forward to another important term of learning.

Thank you to all of our helpers!!!!

High quality learning programs don't happen without the support of volunteers and helpers. Thank you to everyone who has supported our school/ pre school over the last term, whether it be in classrooms listening to reading, in the canteen or other odd jobs around the school. Your work is highly valued and greatly appreciated.

Parent Insights

This week's edition will focus on a really interesting topic, "keeping children safe in public". We hope you find it insightful and interesting.

If there is anything in particular you are looking for, please do not hesitate to come in and see either Ilia Tsoutouras (Principal) or Voula Pounendis (Deputy Principal) who may be able to help with finding an article to suit your needs.

Arriving to school on time

It is crucial that students arrive to school on time. Being 15 minutes late a day on average a year adds up to over 9 days of learning. The morning routine is crucial for getting organised for the day and often the learning that takes place in the morning isn't something that can be caught-up throughout the day. Can you please make sure you are ready for learning by 8:55am.

Mother's Day Stall

Our Fundraising Committee will be holding a Mother's Day Stall next term on Wednesday in week 2. Gifts will range from \$1 - \$15. There will be a display at the front office for parents to have a look at. We would appreciate your support.

Newsletters on Facebook page!



Our newsletters are now attached to our facebook page. They will also be uploaded to the Skoolbag app which was recently updated.

We are trying to cut down on paper usage. If you are happy to read



our newsletters via facebook, skoolbag, or e-mail rather than receiving hard-copies, please do let us know.

Email address for school newsletter OR you are happy to read via facebook

Please return to the Front Office

NAME:

CHILD'S NAME:

ROOM NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:



Virginia Primary ANZAC Commemoration Service

As ANZAC day falls during the school holidays, yesterday we held our school commemoration service. Where do I begin....? What a beautiful job to all the individuals involved. From the moment all classes walked onto the front lawn, we all saw a deep level of respect in every way. Thank you to the students who were involved, specifically students from rooms 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 - you all know who you are! A job well done to the sound technicians for thinking interdependently and working flexibly with our new sounds system. May I add what a beautiful job the senior choir did with their performance, and a big thank you to Mrs Graham for organising the service and Ms Watts for supporting our sound technicians.

It was again evident that at Virginia Primary we all work together which is beautiful to be part of.



NAPLAN Testing – Week 2

NAPLAN Tests for years 3, 5 and 7 will be held from the 9th – 11th May (with a catch up day on the 12th May if required).

NAPLAN is used by governments, education authorities and schools to determine whether young Australians are meeting important educational goals in literacy and numeracy. It provides a snapshot of your child's progress as they travel through school, to see how well they are learning the skills of reading, writing and mathematics. It also provides information to the school that assists in determining areas for further development.

It is important to know that NAPLAN is not a pass or fail test. It simply looks at what level students are achieving in literacy and numeracy against the national standards and compared with their peers throughout Australia.

Some nervousness is expected and, as a parent, you can help your child by treating NAPLAN test days just like any other school day and reassuring them that NAPLAN is not a pass or fail test.

Students cannot prepare specifically for NAPLAN and are not expected to do so and although NAPLAN familiarisation is important, drilling and excessive practice is unnecessary and unhelpful. Individual test results will be available at the end of term 3, usually around September and will be distributed by the school.

If you have any concerns please talk to your child's teacher or a member of leadership as soon as possible.

Term 2 Pupil Free Days

PUPIL FREE DAYS
Term 2, Week 3
Thursday & Friday
OSHC available



Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Catherine Gerhardt



Keep children safe in public with these 5 ideas

There is a strong shift away from the old rule of “never talk to strangers” to “never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first”. Catherine Gerhardt has 5 practical ways to help keep children safe in public.

There is a strong shift away from the old rule of “never talk to strangers” to “never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first”. A child who has been taught to never talk to strangers may feel they have nowhere to go if they find themselves lost in a shopping centre or other public place.

As parents we need to emphasise who is a “stranger”. Your definition and your child’s may be quite different. Engage with your children to help them understand that a stranger is simply someone whom they do not know. We do not know if someone is good or bad just by looking at them. Rather, we need to teach our children about “strangeness”, which is way down at the feeling level. This is about helping kids recognise that something doesn’t feel right, and then to trust and act on those feelings.

Five ways to enforce the new rule:

1 Never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first

This is the new fundamental rule to keeping kids safe. This rule must NEVER be broken. Regardless of if it is a school, public or family function, work with your children to ensure they always ask an adult for permission before going off with ANYONE.

Classic “what if” scenarios are worth their weight in gold. “You are at school and walking back to class after snack when a man comes up to you and says he is looking for his son’s class. He asks you to go with him to show him where it is. Do you go?”

Use tempting scenarios that are relevant to your child, such as puppies or toys, and discuss safe options and strategies in each case.

2 Your personal alarm

Children have an innate sensitive personal alarm, which we can teach them to use. This is their natural defence system. Work with them to identify and recognise the physical and environmental signals that cause their alarm to sound. Knowing that a rush

of adrenalin will cause physiological changes in our bodies and activate our personal alarm is a good start. A child’s personal alarm will present the same physical and emotional cues that an adult’s will.

3 Trust your instincts

Have you ever gotten “the creeps”? Maybe it’s the idea of snakes, mice or heights that does it for your child. Encourage them to draw on how it feels when they get the creeps. Instincts are those feelings you get when something or someone makes you feel uncomfortable. Instincts are the physiological changes that happen to our body when our personal alarm goes off.

Physiological changes include noticing that you feel scared or nervous, your tummy feels upset and your heart is racing. And you know what? Our personal alarm is right 100% of the time.

more on page 2 >>



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael’s **NEW ParentingIdeas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.





... Keep children safe in public with these 5 ideas ...

4 Personal space vs. safety zone

Most kids understand the concept of personal space. How many times have we heard, "Stop invading my personal space!" Most people feel comfortable within an arm's length of others. However, do your kids recognise their safety zone? Teach your child to be aware of their surroundings. If a "strange" person is too close, suggest they back away and maintain their safety zone. A safety zone is much bigger than your personal space – at least three giant steps bigger.

5 Safe places, safe people

There are times when a child must ask for help quickly and instinctively. We already know that not all strangers are bad, that most strangers will help a child who is lost or upset. It is situations that are safe, not places. Talk with your child and reinforce that he or she must ALWAYS use his or her skills with ALL people, including those presumed safe. Encourage your child to tell an adult they trust when someone or something has frightened them.

As parents we need to empower our children with self-confidence and trust in their ability to sense when something is just not right. It doesn't matter if they can articulate it; they just have to feel it.

For more ideas to keep kids safe visit the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

To find out more about Catherine Gerhardt's great work about keeping kids safe online and offline visit Kidproofsafety.com.au

Catherine Gerhardt



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



Term 2 Calendar
(current as of 12/04/2017)

| WEEK | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|------|--|----------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| | 1/05/2017 | 2/05/2017 | 3/05/2017 | 4/05/2017 | 5/05/2017 |
| 1 | | | | | |
| | 8/05/2017 | 9/05/2017 | 10/05/2017 | 11/05/2017 | 12/05/2017 |
| 2 | | NAPLAN | NAPLAN | NAPLAN | Bike Ed (Yr 5/6/7) |
| | | | Mother's Day Stall | Room 4,5,6 Excursion | |
| | 15/05/2017 | 16/05/2017 | 17/05/2017 | 18/05/2017 | 19/05/2017 |
| 3 | | | Governing Council Meeting 7pm | PUPIL FREE DAY Staff Learning | PUPIL FREE DAY Staff Learning |
| | 22/05/2017 | 23/05/2017 | 24/05/2017 | 25/05/2017 | 26/05/2017 |
| 4 | | | | Brave Performance | Bike Ed (Yr 5,6,7) National Sorry Day ASSEMBLY (Rm 9/10) |
| | 29/05/2017 | 30/05/2017 | 31/05/2017 | 1/06/2017 | 2/06/2017 |
| 5 | Reconciliation week | | | JP foot checks | Bike Ed (Yr 5,6,7) WALK TO SCHOOL DAY WALKATHON Casual Clothes Day Kids Helping Our School |
| | 5/06/2017 | 6/06/2017 | 7/06/2017 | 8/06/2017 | 9/06/2017 |
| 6 | World Environment Day | | | JP foot checks | Bike Ed (Yr 5,6,7) ASSEMBLY (Rm 4/5) |
| | 12/06/2017 | 13/06/2017 | 14/06/2017 | 15/06/2017 | 16/06/2017 |
| 7 | Queen's Birthday Public Holiday | SCHOOL PHOTOS | | SCHOOL PHOTOS (catch-up) JP foot checks | Bike Ed (Yr 5,6,7) |
| | 19/06/2017 | 20/06/2017 | 21/06/2017 | 22/06/2017 | 23/06/2017 |
| 8 | Refugee week | | | | Bike Ed (Yr 5,6,7) Start Smart Financial Literacy |
| | 26/06/2017 | 27/06/2017 | 28/06/2017 | 29/06/2017 | 30/06/2017 |
| 9 | | | | Start Smart Financial Literacy | ASSEMBLY (Rm 3/13) |
| | 3/07/2017 | 4/07/2017 | 5/07/2017 | 6/07/2017 | 7/07/2017 |
| 10 | | | | Progress Reports sent home | Whole School Assembly |