



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 7, 2017

29th May

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 5

RECONCILIATION WEEK

Thursday 1st June
JP foot checks

Friday 2nd June
Walkathon/ Casual Clothes Day

Week 6

Friday 9th June
Assembly
Community Centre
9:15am

UP Bike Ed

Week 7

Monday 12th June
Queen's Birthday
Public Holiday
NO SCHOOL OR OSHC

Tuesday 13th June
SCHOOL PHOTOS

Thursday 15th June
SCHOOL PHOTOS CATCH-UP



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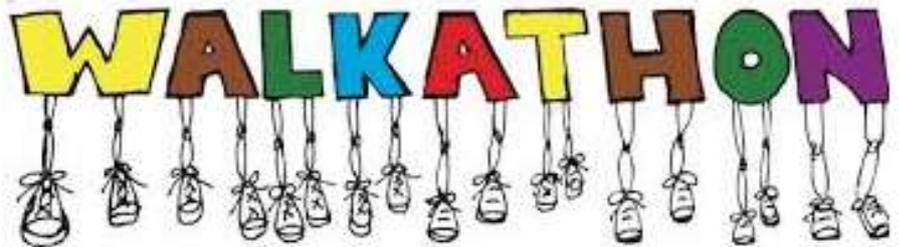
www.virginiaps.sa.edu.au

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

FRIDAY 2nd June (WEEK 5)



On Friday we are hosting our major school fundraiser, the **WALKATHON** with **CASUAL CLOTHES DAY**. Over the last few years we have directed funds towards the expansion of wireless internet infrastructure and our Kitchen Garden program. This year we would like to further bolster our readers/ novels stocks for children to support our school priority in reading. **We are really hoping you can support and get behind us and we can hopefully reach our target of \$5000.** We would love to see as many families as possible so please come along. Walkathon will commence at 9:30am and conclude just before recess.

Public Education Awards (*Nominations close on the 31st of May*)

The Public Education Awards recognise and reward the achievements of teachers, leaders, allied health professionals, support and corporate staff across our state.

Nominations are anonymous and may be made by any member of the public. Permission is not required from the nominee. Nominees must submit an application if they wish to be considered for an award.

Don't miss your chance to nominate an outstanding education professional within DECD to recognise and reward their dedicated and inspirational contribution to young South Australians.

For more information and to nominate an employee at your school or preschool go to: www.decd.sa.gov.au/awards.

Nominations close on the 31st of May.

Principal's Position

The tenure most common for a Principal's position is five years. It is hard to believe that come the end of this year it will have been five years since I joined this fantastic school, they do say, 'time flies when you are having fun'. Last week our Education Director Ros Maio attended Governing Council to work with them and explain the merit selection process and advertisement of the position here which will again be for five years. The process usually takes 6-7 weeks meaning we should be able to report back to you on the outcome of the panel process by either the end of this term or early next term.



One Principal's Friday...

Last Friday was again a very busy day at Virginia, I managed to visit a few spaces and thought I would highlight a couple of the special things that happened throughout the day.

Assembly – Rooms 9 and 10 hosted our Reconciliation assembly. They shared Kevin Rudd's 'Sorry' speech made in Parliament along with a very respectful, more widely representative and culturally inclusive version of Advance Australia Fair. We had many classes share their work including the Receptions sharing their version of the song 'this little light of mine', Room 9 and 10 sharing their work on Reconciliation and persuasive texts, Room 14's science investigations on micro-organisms, Room 8's reflection on the text 'Nanberry' and Room 7's work on information reports.



Bike Ed – Our Year 5-7 students are a part of a 'bike safety' program running over the term.

Wakakirri – hiding in the Vietnamese room was a small but very dedicated group of staff and parents who were volunteering their time to organise props and costumes for Wakakirri. Students were also volunteering break times to support with art work. We are really looking forward to sharing more about Wakakirri in the not too distant future as I am sure the story is one many of you, or your families would be familiar with.



It was also pleasing to be able to present two students with their times tables medals. Congratulations Hoan, Jess E and also Aaliya!

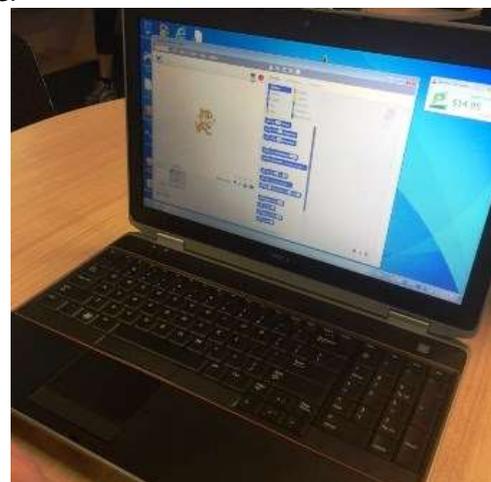


Playgroup – I was fortunate enough to visit playgroup and say hello. We are regularly getting a great turn out to these sessions which is fantastic. Playgroup allows children to familiarise themselves with our setting and parents to connect with one another, our Preschool/ School and ask any questions they may have.

Kitchen Garden – This is always a favourite for our students. They were learning about the white moth and how they are territorial. The students then made white moths to string up in the garden as a deterrent for tricking real moths.

Lunchtime activities

Coding club was running in the computer suite. A group of students who joined the club are learning about computer programming with Ms D. Coding skills can be used to create apps, in gaming and anime.





Soccer with Mr Yates is always great fun, the small oval looked empty because the big oval was full. Team-work skills were highly evident. Mr Yates is busy preparing students for SAPSASA and also running a variety of playtime activities.

I also took a parent on a school tour and sat in on some very interesting and challenging maths lessons, some involving fractions and another lesson focussed on 3-Dimensional shapes. I saw children stretching their thinking to solve some pretty complex problems. The Habits of Mind of Persistence, Striving for Accuracy, Managing Impulsivity, Thinking Flexibly and Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations sprung to mind as the dispositions students were using to support with their learning. I also stumbled across our JP taking part in their morning health hustle out the front of the Year 6/7 rooms and some very enthusiastic Year 6/7 students who decided it was so much fun they would join in. As you can imagine, they were very warmly received with a smile and a laugh by our younger students!



As a school we regularly review student progress and achievement data. It was fantastic to look at some of the check-in data and see the continual

growth in the finer, more complex mechanics of reading in our JP.

I was so enthused with the quality of learning and the quality of extra-curricular learning opportunities students were able to be a part of that I found myself writing grant applications after all my 'other' work was complete. It was getting dark and finally looked up at the time and realised it was far later than I had anticipated, but all very much worth it. Stay tuned for further updates.

Diversity Award Winners - CONGRATULATIONS

The following students were recognised for demonstrating the school value of Diversity. This value highlights the similarities and differences in all people. It is about encouraging people to be confident and proud of who they are.

- Rm 1 – Alesha and Lucas M
- Rm 2 – Lincoln
- Rm 3 – Gabriella
- Rm 4 – Michael Le
- Rm 5 – Kathy
- Rm 6 – Austin and Alea
- Rm 7 – Chloe and Amilia
- Rm 8 – Hiep and Huy
- Rm 9 – Elias and Quynh
- Rm 10 – Shae and Flynn
- Rm 11 – Lilly and Milane
- Rm 12 – **At Bike ed
- Rm 13 – Menh and Callob
- Rm 14 – Aaliyah and Nadia

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:

Parent Insights

This week's edition will focus on a really interesting topic, "Parents using kids as bargaining chips". 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 Iliia Tsoutouras (Principal) or Voula Pounendis (Deputy Principal) who may be able to help with finding an article to suit your needs.



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Parents using kids as bargaining chips

It's been said that children are the unwitting victims of a breakdown between partners, but it doesn't take a separation for kids to be caught up in their parents' disputes.

In particular, kids of all ages can be impacted by games of one-upmanship that can be played out even when parents are together.

It happens when one parent criticises the other parent's child-rearing either verbally or non-verbally: a raised eyebrow can send a strong message. This type of criticism creates doubt and uncertainty in children.

It happens when one parent intentionally overindulges children by buying them toys, gadgets and clothes or granting them excessive freedom out of spite. Competitiveness and disloyalty cause confusion and unhappiness in children.

It happens when a parent withholds affection and attention to children to punish their partner for some transgressions they may have committed. Callousness leads to feelings of unhappiness and guilt in children.

Consistency is the greatest gift parents can give

Kids crave consistency from their parents. They love to be able to predict how their parents will raise them as this puts them in control, which is vital for their healthy development. When they grow up in a predictable, caring environment they are more likely to take the learning risks necessary to grow and develop. In unstable, unpredictable environments kids either go into their shells to keep safe or they rebel. Consistency requires parents to use predictable routines, to stick to a known set of rules and to act always in their children's best interests when raising them.

Avoid negative partnership spill over

Families have many relationships within them. Parents have relationships with children as individuals and as a group. Children also have relationships with each other and with each parent, if there are two. Parents also have a relationship with each other, which can be compromised when there is family breakdown. The challenge for parents

is to prevent a breakdown in their relationship impacting on their other relationships including each person's relationship with children. Positive parent relationships also have a positive effect on children's learning and wellbeing. Conversely, anecdotal evidence suggests that the spill over to children from their parents' negative relationships is significant indeed in terms of negatively impacting children's learning and their wellbeing.

Kids are mood detectives

If two parents are in dispute there is an absolute imperative for the parents to keep the breakdown or conflict between themselves and to minimise the negative spill over to children. Inevitably, children will experience a tension if it exists between couples no matter how well their parents try to keep a dispute private. Kids are mood detectives. They're generally better than we think at picking up the nuances of relationship tensions.

more on page 2 >>



Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my **FREE** weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.

