



# VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

**CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY**

Issue 15, 2017

27<sup>th</sup> October

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### TERM 3

#### Week 3

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

Year 6/7 Footsteps

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

True North Theatre  
(Arts program)

Governing Council 7pm

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Playgroup

Assembly

'Day for Daniel'

Wear as much red as possible

#### Week 4

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

Year 6/7 Aquatics

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

Rm 14 Excursion to Bird Sanctuary

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

Playgroup

#### Week 5

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

Preschool Transition Visits

Assembly Rm 2 and 10

9:15am

Community Centre

Parents/ Caregivers welcome



**Principal:** Ilia Tsoutouras

**Deputy Principal:** Voula Pounendis

**Gov. Council Chairperson:** Anita Trenwith

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Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

Welcome to Term 4!!!

It has been a busy start to term with swimming taking place this week. Being two weeks in, we are nearly ¼ of the way in to Term 4 as this is a 9 week term. Throughout this term you will see regular Government announcements in terms of strengthening the Public Education system in an initiative titled, "Your child, their school, our future". I must say, having been a part of planning meetings, I believe the strong focus on literacy, numeracy, learning dispositions and further strengthening support for professional development for educators and a focus on individual children from the system aligns with what our core focus as a school has been for some time and will absolutely support us in continuing to strengthen and improve outcomes for our students. The broad areas of focus from the newly released Public Education Action Plan are;

- *Giving our children a head start*
- *A focus on literacy and numeracy to put the basics first*
- *Educating students for the jobs of tomorrow*
- *Help every student to achieve their best*
- *Supporting our teachers to deliver great results*

We will keep you updated through our newsletter and school Facebook page, alternatively

### 2018 Enrolments – PLEASE HELP US WITH OUR PLANNING

We are starting the processes where we look at numbers of children for 2018 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.) could you 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.

**We have had several enquiries in regards to Year 7's and whether or not we will be continuing to have Year 7 students at our school. Some parents are choosing secondary schools with a Year 7 option and are being encouraged to enrol their children by these schools, however, as a DECD school, we will absolutely be having Year 7 students. We are confident in the program we offer our Year 7's in terms of setting them up for senior secondary school both academically and with leadership development. If you do want to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to see either Voula or Ilia.**



## Staffing

Mrs Gayle Crompton (Mon – Thurs) and Ms Cristina Pisanelli (Fri) have replaced Mr Porublev in Room 11. Mrs Leanne Winning will be taking Long Service Leave in Weeks 5 & 6 this term. A note will go home to those families informing them of her replacement shortly.

We recently advertised state-wide for a permanent Middle Primary teaching position. I am pleased to say the successful applicant from a very large and competitive field was Ms Belinda Haley. Ms Haley has many years teaching experience and is currently teaching at Lockleys North Primary School. We know she will bring a wealth of expertise and experience with her in 2018.

I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Ms Leanne Winning who won a position at Hendon Primary School. Unfortunately this means she won't be with us next year. Virginia's loss is most certainly Hendon's gain.

## Parent Insights

This week's edition will focus on a really interesting topic, **"Raising G-rated kids in an R-rated world"**. 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.

## Swimming

We have had all four seasons in one this week. Thank you to parents for your support in making swimming week as seamless as possible. We have had some people ask about how swimming weeks are booked. Unfortunately, with so many schools in the North booking swimming in, and with the unpredictability of the weather it is hard to gauge when we will get the perfect week one year in advance. We have successfully ensured our swimming week is always in term 4 (some schools have to take the winter months). We will include some snapshots of the week in our next newsletter.

## Fund My Neighbourhood – "Imagination Playground Virginia – STEM & Literacy through play"

We are wanting to bring "Imagination Playground" to Virginia Primary/ Preschool and Playgroup.

With Virginia Grove rapidly growing, providing an 'open' experience to families with children to connect with the local school (Virginia Primary School) prior to formal education through 'imagination playground' during playgroup on Fridays. The resource will also be used daily for students during recess, lunch, OSHC and Vacation Care.

### Expected learning outcomes;

- To support children with collaboration, executive functioning (stop, think, do), problem solving, and communication skills.
- Promoting reasoning, communication and problem solving skills through play

- To support the development of gross motor skills
- To promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics through incorporating the 'imagination playground' app to design and construct playgrounds in a literacy rich environment.



### SPREAD THE WORD!!!!!!

Please help us by logging in to vote for our idea and spreading with others to do so too.

You will need to use an e-mail address and a phone number.

### You can vote by following these easy steps..

- 1/ log into <https://fundmyneighbourhood.yoursay.sa.gov.au/>
- 2/ Create an account with 'Fund my Neighbourhood'
- 3/ Enter your location as Virginia
- 4/ Short-list a minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 ideas (don't forget our project)
- 5/ Press vote

### DON'T FORGET TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO VOTE TOO!!!!!!

## More special options places for students with disability

A further 154 places in special options (disability units/special classes) will be created for children and young people with disability over the next 2 years. A consultation process is underway to select the preschools and schools that will offer these options. The placement process and eligibility criteria for placing a child/young person in a special option has not changed. If you need more information, contact your local school or preschool. The state government is also introducing a new \$3.2m statewide service available to all school sectors to manage complex and challenging behaviours through consultation and intervention, with health support planning for families. The initiative is part of the state government's new Public Education Action Plan: Your Child, Their School, Our Future.

## Changes to school card eligibility

The state government is raising the school card income threshold from next year to help families with the cost of living. This means that families with 1 child and a gross income of \$57,870 in the 2016-17 financial year will be able to apply for a school card. Application forms for 2018 will be available from schools or [www.sa.gov.au](http://www.sa.gov.au) by the end of the 2017 school year.

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
DATES	16/10/2017	17/10/2017	18/10/2017	19/10/2017	20/10/2017
1	Yr 6/7 Footsteps		Staff meeting		
	23/10/2017	24/10/2017	25/10/2017	26/10/2017	27/10/2017
2	Yr 6/7 Footsteps Swimming		Universal Children's Day		
	30/10/2017	31/10/2017	1/11/2017	2/11/2017	3/11/2017
3	Yr 6/7 Footsteps Universal Children's Week		True North Theatre 1:30pm (Arts program) Governing Council		ASSEMBLY Room 12 Playgroup Day for Daniel (wear red)
	6/11/2017	7/11/2017	8/11/2017	9/11/2017	10/11/2017
4	Acquatics Yr 6/7		True North Theatre 1:30pm (Arts program) Rm 14 Bird San Excurs		Remembrance Day Playgroup
	13/11/2017	14/11/2017	15/11/2017	16/11/2017	17/11/2017
5	Yr 6/7 Footsteps		Casual Clothes Day Kids Against Poverty True North Theatre 1:30pm (Arts program)		ASSEMBLY ROOM 2 & 10 Volunteer morning tea Preschool Transition Visits
	20/11/2017	21/11/2017	22/11/2017	23/11/2017	24/11/2017
6	Yr 6/7 Footsteps REC Zoo Excursion	Reception Transition Visits	Reception Transition Visits  Staff Vs Students netball True North Theatre 1:30pm (Arts program) Staff meeting		Playgroup
	27/11/2017	28/11/2017	29/11/2017	30/11/2017	1/12/2017
7	Reception Transition Visits	Reception Transition Visits	True North Theatre 1:30pm (Arts program)  Staff meeting		ANNUAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS – PUPIL FREE DAY
	4/12/2017	5/12/2017	6/12/2017	7/12/2017	8/12/2017
8	International Volunteer Day (5/12)		Governing Council  Staff meeting	International Day of People with Disability	Playgroup End of Year Concert
	11/12/2017	12/12/2017	13/12/2017	14/12/2017	15/12/2017
9		Yr 7 Farewell assembly	Staff meeting	Yr 7 Graduation	2018 class visits (students meet their new class and teacher)

# Parenting *ideas*

## INSIGHTS

### *Building parent-school partnerships*

WORDS Michael Grose



## Raising G-rated kids in an R-rated world

Kids today are exposed to too much adult-oriented content too early. In some ways today's children remind me of slum children in Victorian England, who saw too much but experienced very little.

Effective parenting involves good character development, that is, raising kids who have a sense of 'other' rather than a sense of entitlement. It also means raising kids with a moral compass that helps them work out right from wrong. Kids usually pick up this moral compass from their parents, however parental influence is easily diluted by the huge array of messages they hear from the media, music, peers and online.

Kids today are exposed to too much adult-oriented content too early. In some ways today's children remind me of slum children in Victorian England, who saw too much but experienced very little. They see things in the media that they don't understand and they may not have had enough adventure experiences that develop real independence and problem-solving skills.

The following four simple processes will provide the means for you to help develop a moral compass in your children and ensure that you stay in the game as your kids move into adolescence.

- 1 Make bedrooms screen-free places**  
Kids these days can disappear into their bedrooms for hours at a time watching

television or engaging in online activities. This not only limits your supervision and monitoring options but removes the chance for children to easily speak to you regarding content or activities that they are not sure about. As much as possible encourage kids to watch television, and use computers and mobile applications in public spaces and places.

- 2 Have regular meals together**  
Sounds deceptively simple but mealtimes are tremendous opportunities for parents and children to talk. Let your kids be heard but also be heard yourself. The free interchange of ideas and information that a vibrant meal-time provides is one of the best forms of adult/child/young person interaction there is. That is not to say every mealtime will provide opportunities for brilliant conversations. However even if the conversation flows once in every three mealtimes, that is a great hit rate and better than not at all.
- 3 Read good literature to children**  
Good children's books and novels generally have messages that revolve around a diverse array of positive values such as tolerance,

persistence and courage. Just ten minutes a night spent reading to your children will help them develop a love of reading, but also expose them to ideas that are generally constructed with the relevant age group in mind. Kids are hard-wired to learn from stories so expose your kids to good ideas through the written word.

- 4 Share uplifting stories with kids**  
Look beyond the bad news that seems to crowd the media for the stories of hope, resilience and inspiration that you can share with your kids. The recent Cadel Evans Tour de France triumph is one such story that kids should know about. On one level it may be a sporting story, but it's also a story of grit, determination and focus that's worthwhile unpacking with your kids.

The best interactions with kids happen when no one is working at it. However, in this noisy world parents need to be proactive and make sure they engineer situations where they can maximise their well-intentioned influence on the children they are raising. Lecturing and moralising doesn't work these days with kids, but parent influence still does.



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](http://parentingideasclub.com.au). You'll be so glad you did.

