



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 17, 2017

13th December

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 9

Thurs 14th December
Year 6/7 Graduation

Graduation Ceremony
6:00 – 8:00pm

Year 6/7 Graduation Disco
8:00 – 10:00pm

Friday 15th of December
Students visit new classrooms
Last Day of School, Early Dismissal
2:15pm

2018 Term 1, Week 1
Monday 29th January
First day back for 2018

*We hope you have a wonderful
break with your loved ones, stay
safe and we look forward to seeing
you in 2018!*

Good luck in High School year 7's



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



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Thank you!

This is the final newsletter for the school year and we wanted to begin by thanking everyone for their support over the year. As a school we highly value the important role you play as the primary educators in your children's lives.

It was great to catch up with many families at our concert. It was a fantastic night and one our students look forward to throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who attended. It takes a huge amount of work in the lead up to and on the night when having such an event. Once everyone has left, pack up continues well into the night. Thank you to all who volunteered and gave up their time to make the night happen and provide such a great opportunity for our children to perform.

On behalf of Voula and myself, we would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas break. Whilst we are busy celebrating this year, behind the scenes for over a term now we have been busily planning for next year. Our school is built upon the foundations of continuous improvement and being uncompromising in aiming to provide the very best level of education and care for all of our students.

Welcome back – thank you and farewell!

I'm pleased to announce that we will have Jason Coleman, Krystal Butler, Gayle Crompton and Christina Tsonis back with us again in 2018. We are also looking forward to having Halena Mudge, Belinda Haley from Lockleys North Primary, Jenny Gordon from Port Wakefield Primary, Rachel De Fazio from The Heights School, Elliana Valente from Risdon Park Primary and Laura Alchin from Marton Public School in NSW joining us in 2018. We are also excited to announce that Jess Dendy will be returning on a part time basis next year. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming them to VPS. As I am writing this newsletter, it is fantastic that we have been able to announce all contract appointments before the end of the school year.

I would also like to farewell, acknowledge and thank staff who will be leaving us at the end of the year. Thank you to Leanne Winning who leaves us to take up a permanent role at Hendon Primary, Lia Di Giglio who is heading to Grange Primary, Jenny Timperio who will be at Hewett Primary, Bec Elvy who will be at Elizabeth North and Shaun Hughes. Your contributions, whether you have been here for a long or short-time have made our school a better place.

To all staff, I'd like to thank you for all of your work throughout this year. The level of professionalism, commitment and passion our staff display to the craft of teaching and the care of each child allows our students at Virginia to flourish.

To everyone involved in our school, students, staff and parents, it is a privilege to be Principal of such a great school that is Virginia Primary. I am very much excited about next year and look forward to working with you all again in 2018.



Graduating Year 7's

There are certain well-celebrated milestones in one's life; birthdays, graduating from High School, 18th and 21st birthdays and the list goes on. Our Year 7 students are about to embark on another major milestone in their lives. They will be farewelling us and moving onto high school. They have spent the best part of their lives at Primary School honing their academic and social skills and growing into the fine young individuals they are today. I am, and as a school are very proud of our graduating Year 7s and we wish them all the best as they move into the next very important phase of their lives.

Good luck Year 7's, persist when things aren't easy, find humour in the lighter side of life and work interdependently (work in teams). Follow your dreams, but also know that hard-work makes dreams come true – work hard! Make the most of all opportunities available to you as you move on with your education, as a school we look forward to hearing of your successes in the future!

Class Structures

Next year we will be running with 13 classrooms. As mentioned, this year we are in a fortunate enough position to be able to announce all of our contract positions. Classrooms for next year are as written below;

Preschool		Jess Dendy/ Halena Mudge
R/1	(Room 1)	Krystal Butler
R/1	(Room 2)	Anita Matricciani
Yr 1	(Room 4)	Jenny Gordon (3)/ Christina Tsonis (2)
Yr 1/2	(Room 5)	Katrina Kontos
Yr 1/2	(Room 6)	Mary Spencer (3)/ Gayle Crompton (2)
Yr 3/4	(Room 9)	Jessica Luckman
Yr 3/4	(Room 10)	Sabrina De Silva
Yr 4/5	(Room 7)	Belinda Haley
Yr 4/5	(Room 8)	Rachele De Fazio
Yr 4/5	(Room 11)	Eliana Valente
Yr 6/7	(Room 12)	Laura Alchin
Yr 6/7	(Room 13)	Jason Coleman
Yr 6/7	(Room 14)	Cathy Lock

Reports/ Classroom notification & visits

Reports will come home tomorrow (Thursday the 14th of December). Within the report will be a slip notifying families of which class their child will be in during 2018. Children will visit their new classrooms on Friday to meet their teacher and classmates. We believe that preparing children to be ready for the new year will allow us to "hit the ground running".

2018 Enrolments – Will you be at VPS in 2018..?

Class placements have now been finalised. As it currently stands, our enrolments will again increase next year as they have been for the previous few.

It would help our planning if you know of any changes for next year (if you are moving etc.) could you please 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.

Parent Insights

This week's Parent Insights focuses on *'Reading your child's report.'*

We hope you have found the Parenting Insights series useful throughout the year.

parentingideas.com.au

Premier's Reading and Be Active Challenge

Nearly 98% of our students received Premier's Reading and Be Active Challenge medals. Our school was again one of the top 50 high achieving schools for the Be Active Challenge and as a result have won \$1000. On Thursday children will receive their medals with their reports. I would also like to congratulate all of our students for all their efforts throughout the year in keeping active and practising their reading!



Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Reading your child's report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder... always does her best... lacks concentration... easily distracted... a pleasure to teach... Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1 Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child's abilities. A quick check of your child's last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2 Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so

avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends' children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3 Are you willing to safeguard your child's self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child's progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child's report:

- **Focus on strengths.** Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.
- **Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning.** If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

- **Broaden your focus away** from academic performance to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don't dismiss these as unimportant.
- **Take note of student self-assessment.** Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.
- **Discuss the report with your son or daughter** talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child's efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

Michael Grose 



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.



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