



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 2, 2018

14th February

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 3

Friday 16th February

Chinese New Year

Whole School Assembly

Community Centre

9:15am

Week 4

Wednesday 21st February

Annual General Meeting

(All parents welcome)

6:30pm Library

Week 5

Friday 2nd March

Casual Clothes Day

'Kids helping Kids'

School clean-up day

Week 6

Friday 9th March

Whole School Assembly

Community Centre

9:15am

Week 7

Monday 12th March

Public Holiday

Adelaide Cup

NO SCHOOL OR OSHC



Principal: Ilia Tsoutouras

Deputy Principal: Voula Pounendis

Gov. Council Chairperson: Anita Trenwith

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Download our school app



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

Habits of Mind at Virginia

In order for our children to be successful for years to come, we need to support them with problem solving, reasoning, critical thinking, communicating, organisational and creative thinking skills. Our world is constantly changing, for example the iPad was only introduced in 2010 and it is predicted that by 2020 there will be 37 billion new things connected to the internet. I have talked to many families and at conferences about how we must prepare our children to know how to act when they are faced with situations for which they were not specifically prepared for. This is critical as many of the jobs (and therefore skills that are needed) that exist today will be obsolete by the time our children are in the workforce. At Virginia Primary we want our children to not only be learners at school, but powerful lifelong learners.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, our school has a strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy through our 'Teaching (intentional, quality formative assessments techniques) & Learning (fostering positive dispositions to learning using Habits of Mind). The Habits of Mind are a set of dispositions (habits) researchers Art Costa and Bena Kallick identified the most of successful people. In doing so they came up with "an identified set of 16 problem solving, life related skills, necessary to operate in society and promote strategic reasoning, insightfulness, perseverance, creativity and craftsmanship." (After Arthur L. Costa and Bena Kallick, Habits of Mind: A Developmental Series)

That fact they have been named "habits" indicates they can be learnt (and therefore taught) but need constant, repeated practise so they become a habitual way of working towards more thoughtful, intelligent action. Because of this, the Habits need to be constantly modelled and reinforced in school and at home so that they can become internalised.

Included with this newsletter is a page with the 16 Habits for your information. We continue to reinforce these Habits across the whole school in classes and in the yard. In the next newsletter we will introduce and provide more information on a habit commonly referred to, persistence and one not so commonly referred to but just as important, Managing Impulsivity. We will also include how you could focus on the Habit with your child/ren at home



High Expectations

"You are what you repeatedly do, therefore excellence better be a habit, not an act." Will Durant

At Virginia we expect excellence in learning and the way we treat each other whilst acknowledging that mistakes are a part of learning. This week I spoke to some students and parents about the difference between 'telling' and 'reporting'. If we allow 'small' behaviours that are 'poor' or 'silly' choices to creep in, what we are really saying is we aren't serious about excellence. Another great quote that sums this up perfectly is as follows.. *"I won't have a problem if you aim high and miss. But I'm gonna have a real issue if you aim low and hit"*. Let's make sure we aim high, at times, as in all schools there will be disagreements and incidents where someone has made a poor choice, but what we will expect is that we learn from 'B' choices. The Habit of Mind we are trying to further develop in students in this instance is "Managing Impulsivity", commonly referred to as (STOP, THINK, DO).

This year Voula and I have noticed that by far the expectations have been higher than ever and the response from students has been that they have raised the bar and are 'stepping up to the plate'.

Gratitude – Resilience – Self belief Year 6/7 Leadership Day Inspirational Speaker – Lachlan Mullen

On Monday the 5th of February we held our annual year 6/7 Leadership Conference in the performing arts room. The purpose of the conference was to encourage our students to show leadership at school and into the future. We talked about the qualities of leaders and the importance of making good choices.

In the conference setting, our students listened to our interesting guest speaker Lachlan Mullen who shared his inspiring story about his battle with cancer and the importance of self-belief, resilience and gratitude. This was Lachlan's third visit to Virginia as he has previously already spoken to a past group of Year 6/7s and our staff earlier this year. We would like to thank Lachlan for giving up his time.

All students are to be congratulated for their respectful and mature behaviour during the day. Our guest speaker and staff were impressed with the students' interest, behaviour and thinking.



Annual General Meeting – Governing Council of 2017 (Week 4)

Our Annual General Meeting will be on **Wednesday the 21st of February at 6:30pm**. I would strongly encourage anyone who has questions or is thinking about joining Governing Council to speak to Voula or Ilia.

MORNING YARD DUTY SUPERVISION TIMES

Please note that children are supervised in the yard by school staff from 8.30 am and so children are NOT to arrive at school before this without parent supervision UNLESS they are booked into OSHC Before School Care.

Before School Care runs from 6.30 – 8.30 am. Children need to be booked into these sessions as parents are required to pay for this service/ Centre Care benefit linked.

During this time children are supervised by OSHC staff and a set strict ratio of children to staff needs to be maintained.

We have an increasing number of students who are arriving at school between 8.00 – 8.30 am and are not booking into OSHC School Care.

Any students arriving early who are not booked into OSHC School Care will be required to sit on the bench outside the staff room in the interim. They will not be able to play in the yard. Parents will be notified if early arrival continues. (We are requiring 'just right' time of arrival between 8.30 – 8.55 for students not in OSHC, as we also don't want students to be late!)

Toys at school

A reminder that students are requested to leave their toys at home and not bring them to school as teachers are not able to take responsibility for damage to them or keep track of them.

Students have access to class sports equipment and sand pit toys. Younger children also have access to the equipment in the junior primary play shed

Breakfast Program – Kickstart for kids

Kickstart for kids is a not for profit charity that helps children in South Australia. They provide breakfast, lunch and mentoring programmes. Research tells us that one in four children in Australia skip breakfast. At school, a hungry child can lose concentration in class, have no energy for playtime and snack on unhealthy foods, such as chips or biscuits. A calm and healthy breakfast every day is the best defense against this happening. It also helps children to get into good habits that they can carry through life. Our children will be able to have toast, yoghurt or fruit to kick start their day when they arrive at school if they haven't already had a nutritious breakfast at home.

Virginia United

Is your child interested in soccer for 2018?

As a school we enter teams into SAPSASA competitions in athletics, football, netball, soccer and swimming. We don't however have weekend sports teams as we support our local teams. If your child is interested in weekend soccer, please see the details below.

2018 Registrations



**For New And Existing Players
Boys and Girls
Ages 4 and up welcome**

7th February, 14th February, 21st February
4:30pm-6pm

virginiaunitedsc@gmail.com
 [virginiaunitedsc](https://www.facebook.com/virginiaunitedsc)

Ph Vince: 0425 156 363

Virginia United Soccer Club (SA), Park Road, Virginia

2018 GHI DANH BÓNG ĐÁ

Trẻ Em Trai và Gái từ 4 Tuổi trở lên
4:30pm-6pm, Thứ Tư 7, 14 và 21 Tháng Hai

Ghi danh với anh Vince: 0425 156 363

Email: virginiauniteddsc@gmail.com
FB: [Virginiaunitedsc](https://www.facebook.com/virginiaunitedsc)

Câu Lạc Bộ Đá Banh Virginia United (Nam Úc),
Park Road, Virginia

Zoo Snooze

Our Year 6/7's attended zoo snooze last week. I'm sure you will hear more about their trip to the zoo in pretty tough conditions in the coming weeks.

We had some fantastic feedback from Zoo Directors about the way in which our students conducted themselves.



Parenting Brochures

We have an extensive range of Parenting SA brochures available in our front office covering topics ranging from;

- Being a parent
- Living with toddlers
- Second baby
- Toilet training
- Tantrums
- Being a dad
- Children biting
- Sleep
- Starting school
- Discipline
- Lies & fibs
- Greif & loss
- Television
- Pocket money
- Bedwetting
- Sibling rivalry
- Children's mental health
- Dealing with a crisis
- Single parenting
- Family violence
- Family break-up
- Families that work well



These are just some of the topics that may be of interest. Feel free to come into the office and take a brochure if it is something you are interested in finding more out about.

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:

Habits of Mind

Getting to know all 16 Habits of Mind

Persisting



Persevering in task through to completion; remaining focused. Looking for ways to reach your goal when stuck. Not giving up.

Managing Impulsivity



Take your time! Thinking before acting; remaining calm, thoughtful and deliberate.

Listening with Understanding and Empathy



Understand others! Devoting mental energy to another person's thought and ideas. Make an effort to perceive another's point of view and emotions.

Thinking Flexibly



Look at it another way! Being able to change perspectives, generate alternatives, consider options.

Thinking About your Thinking



Know your knowing! Being aware of your own thoughts, strategies, feelings and actions and their effects on others.

Striving for Accuracy



Check it again! Always doing your best. Setting high standards. Checking and finding ways to improve constantly.

Questioning and Problem Posing



How do you know? Having a question attitude; knowing what data are needed and developing questioning strategies to produce data. Finding problems to solve.

Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations



Use what you learn! Accessing prior knowledge; transferring knowledge beyond the situation in which it was learned.

Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision



Be clear! Striving for accurate communication in both written and oral form; avoiding over generalisations, distortions, deletions and exaggerations.

Gather Data Through all Senses



Use your natural pathways! Pay attention to the world around you. Gather data through all the senses (taste, touch, smell, hearing and sight)

Creating, Imagining and Innovating



Try a different way! Generating new and novel ideas, fluency and originality

Responding with Wonderment and Awe



Have fun figuring it out! Finding the world awesome, mysterious and being intrigued with phenomena and beauty.

Taking Responsible Risks



Venture out! Being adventuresome; living on the edge of one's competence. Try new things constantly.

Finding Humour



Laugh a little! Finding the whimsical, incongruous and unexpected. Being able to laugh at oneself.

Thinking Interdependently



Work together! Being able to work in and learn from others in reciprocal situations. Team work!

Remaining Open to Continuous Learning



I have so much more to learn! Having humility and pride when admitting we don't know; resisting complacency.

Free parenting seminar Raising brilliantly behaved children



Are you the parent of a 5 - 12 year old?
Want fewer behaviour dramas at home?

Hear psychologist, parenting author and commentator
Jodie Benveniste talk about:

- dealing with challenging behaviour in ways that bring out your child's strengths and true character
- alternatives to discipline and punishment
- encouraging cooperation rather than conflict.

Wednesday 21 March

When: 7.00 - 9.00pm

Where: Adelaide Convention Centre
North Terrace, Adelaide
Riverbank Room 7 & 8
(easy access via West entrance)

Register to attend in person or view the live webcast at:

Online: <http://parentingsa.eventbrite.com.au>

Phone: 8303 1660

Email: health.parentingsa@sa.gov.au

Presented by Parenting SA.
For more information about raising
children visit
www.parentingsa.gov.au or
www.cyh.com

For the benefit of all participants we request no babies and young children.

Helping parents be their best



Government of
South Australia

UPDATED 13/02/2018

Term 1 WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	29/01/2018	30/01/2018	31/01/2018	1/02/2018	2/02/2018
1	Assembly on asphalt if weather permits straight after recess All staff in yard from 8:35am				Voula touring with new students (Year 1 – 7) Whole school Health Hustle 9:15am
	5/02/2018	6/02/2018	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	9/02/2018
2	1 st Buddy Class activity prior to picnic Year 6/7 Leadership Day	Safer Internet Day Classes to re-visit internet safety Zoo snooze Rm 12	Late night Acquaintance Meetings Zoo snooze Rm 13	Buddy class picnic (area of choice) 12:30 – 12:50 Zoo snooze Rm 14	
	12/02/2018	13/02/2018	14/02/2018	15/02/2018	16/02/2018
3					Assembly Community Centre 9:15am Chinese New Year
	19/02/2018	20/02/2018	21/02/2018	22/02/2018	23/02/2018
4			Governing Council AGM 6:30 – 8:30		
	26/02/2018	27/02/2018	28/02/2018	1/03/2018	2/03/2018
5					Schools clean-up day Casual Clothes day Kids Helping Kids
	5/03/2018	6/03/2018	7/03/2018	8/03/2018	9/03/2018
6				International Women's Day	Assembly Community Centre 9:15am Rm 9/10 Stardome Incursion Community Centre
	12/03/2018	13/03/2018	14/03/2018	15/03/2018	16/03/2018
7	Public Holiday Adelaide Cup			Day of Action against bullying & violence	
	19/03/2018	20/03/2018	21/03/2018	22/03/2018	23/03/2018
8	Cultural Diversity Week HARMONY DAY		World Harmony Day HARMONY CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK GC meeting 7pm		
	26/03/2018	27/03/2018	28/03/2018	29/03/2018	30/03/2018
9					GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	2/04/2018	3/04/2018	4/04/2018	5/04/2018	6/04/2018
10	EASTER MONDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY				Assembly Community Centre 9:15am
	9/04/2018	10/04/2018	11/04/2018	12/04/2018	13/04/2018
11			Sports day tm mtg. 3:00pm		SPORTS DAY World Book Day (23/4)