



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 4, 2018

19th March

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 8

Thursday 22nd March

Roald Dahl

"The Aunty Peach"

Friday 23rd March

Whole School Assembly

Community Centre

9:15am

After assembly Harmony Day Morning Tea on asphalt

FAMILIES WELCOME

Week 9

Friday 30th March

GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

NO SCHOOL OR OSHC

Week 10

Monday 2nd April

EASTER MONDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

NO SCHOOL OR OSHC

Week 11

Friday 13th April

Sports Day

LAST DAY OF TERM

Early Dismissal 2:15pm

SPORTS DAY!



Principal: Iliia Tsoutouras

Deputy Principal: Voula Pounendis

Gov. Council Chairperson: Colleen Sheedy

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Download our school app



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Positive NAPLAN results and ACARA acknowledgement

46 SA schools make significant gains in NAPLAN test results

Great news!

You may have noticed an article in the Advertiser last week, '46 SA schools make significant gains in NAPLAN test results'.

Whilst our school wasn't named in this article, we have again this year been identified by Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) as one of the forty six South Australian, and one of just over three hundred schools nationally that has demonstrated substantially above average gain in reading and/or numeracy achievement as measured by NAPLAN. This is the second year in a row, and third time in four years our school has received this acknowledgement.

As a school community we can be proud of such results as it highlights that the systems, structures, processes and supports in place are working. By no means does this mean 'the work is done', Virginia Primary is committed to continuous improvement, be rest assured we are, and will continue to look at ways to further refine our work to achieve even greater outcomes for our students. Actions do speak louder than words, however I am confident that with the continued improvement priorities in place we will continue to achieve such results. *Thank you to our community for your support of our school.*

Harmony Day 21st of March (Whole School Event Friday 23rd of March)



Harmony Day is a day to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, based on the successful integration of migrants into our community. Australia is the most successful multicultural country on earth and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it.

Harmony Day is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values. Held every year on 21 March. The Day coincides with

the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Since 1999, more than 70,000 Harmony Day events have been held in childcare centres, schools, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies across Australia.

Our school will be celebrating on Friday the 23rd of March (Week 8). We will begin with a whole school assembly in the community centre from 9:15am followed by Morning Tea on the asphalt. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to parents/ caregivers.



Managing Impulsivity

(Habit of Mind)

Late last week my wife who lectures at UniSA asked me what I knew about a 'Growth Mindset'. She was looking for an easy answer, long story short, I explained to her that developing a Growth Mindset is closely linked to habits. We all have habits, good and bad. The ability to break a habit can be really tough, there is some really clear research around Executive Functioning skills, or 'Managing Impulsivity' being a crucial skill to fostering positive habits.

In issue 13 of our 2013 newsletter I wrote an article on Executive functioning skills. This article is still as relevant today as it was when I wrote it as it unpacks the Habit of Mind, Managing Impulsivity. I have included it below, I hope you enjoy...

Executive Function – STOP, THINK, DO (VPS Newsletter, Issue 13, 2013)

In some of my spare time I particularly enjoy reading educational research. An area I firmly believe in is supporting children with their meta-cognitive skills (learning to learn). I have been fortunate enough at a recent leader's day to have attended sessions run by Professor Martin Westwell, a leading researcher at Flinders University. Professor Westwell shared with all Principals in Northern Adelaide some information and research about the correlation between a child's ability to STOP, THINK and DO and success later on in life. In academic terms, this is referred to as their executive functioning skills. It may sound simple, but for some children, particularly boys at a young age, it can be quite challenging. Typically, our ability to Stop, Think and Do increases as we age. The three key components to someone's executive functioning skills are;

- 1/ **Inhibiting impulses** - (this is the **STOP** bit)
- 2/ **Working memory** - (the ability to hold onto a thought whilst you do something with it, building an idea; this is the **THINK** bit)
- 3/ **Cognitive Flexibility** - (change perspectives/ approaches to see how others would come at it; this is the **DO** bit)

At school we work to support children with these skills in a variety of different ways. These skills are not only important life skills but also important in supporting a child's academic learning. A classic example would be a child's willingness to persevere and use their past knowledge/ understandings in a new situation to solve a problem. If they can STOP (before giving up) to THINK, rather than just dismissing the problem as being too hard, they naturally have a better chance at working their way through the problem. At school we try to support students with different strategies to be able to work their way through challenging work.

STOP

THINK

DO

You can relate Managing Impulsivity (Stop, Think, Do) to just about everything we do at home whether it be to praise the many good things that happen or to problem solve your way through issues.

Interschool Gymkhana

On Friday 2nd March, one of our Year 2 students, Caitlyn represented our school in the Interschool Gymkhana. Caitlyn is an avid horse-rider and approached me with her mum earlier in the term. Caitlyn faced some tough competition with very large classes. She received 5th out of 26 competitors for Child Handler and 5th out of 9 for most suitable mount under 9 years.

On behalf of Virginia Primary School we would like to congratulate Caitlyn on her achievements. Well Done



SAPSASA Swimming

On Friday of week 4, 14 students from years 4-7 participated in the Playford District SAPSASA Swimming Carnival at the Aquadome. Students swam in a number of events including Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke, Butterfly and a Freestyle Relay. The students swam extremely well, with a number of students achieving some impressive times!

We also have three students that have made the Playford District Swimming team that will participate at the State championships on March 22nd at Marion Aquatic Centre.

Congratulations to Jayla Slack 12 year old girls 50M Breaststroke, 50M Freestyle & Relay team, Ashlee McSeveney 12 year old girls 50M Freestyle, 100M Freestyle, 50M Butterfly & Relay Team and Benjamin Mettke for 13 year old boys 50M Freestyle.

Well done to all students that participated on the day it was a tremendous success and thanks to all the parents who came to help and support the kids. It was a fantastic day!



Sleepers (safety concern)

A reminder to all families with regard to earrings. For safety reasons we ask that children with pierced ears wear studs or sleepers rather than hooped and other hanging/dangling earrings. The following is a statement from our uniform policy that is on our website and handed out with every enrolment pack;

JEWELLERY/ MAKE-UP

Again in the interests of student safety jewellery must be kept to a minimum, eg small sleepers, studs. Necklaces/bracelets should not be worn (medical or religious/cultural necklaces are exempt but must be kept tucked under tops where appropriate) Coloured nail polish and make-up of any sort is also not appropriate.

Again – we thank you in advance for your support with this. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the front office.

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!)

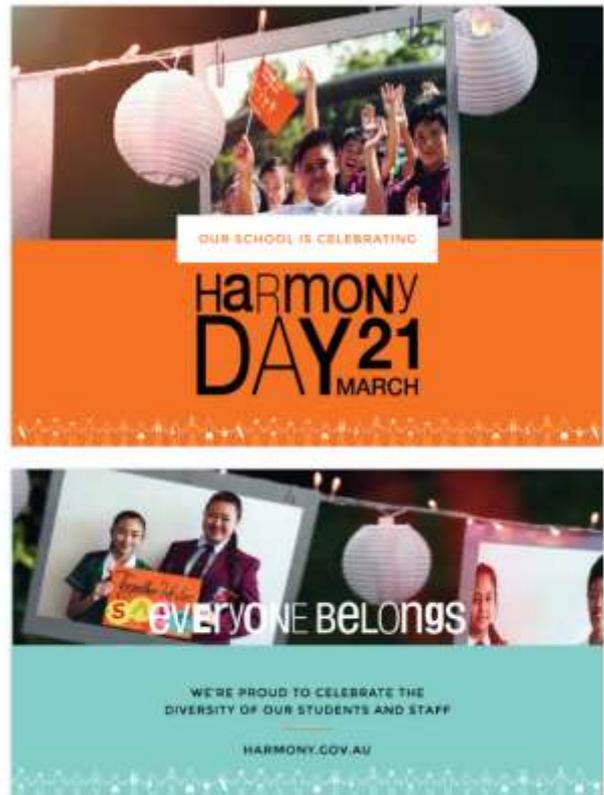
ADVANCED NOTICE - Term 2 Pupil Free Days

Next term we will be having two Pupil Free days

Friday Week 3 (18/5/2018) – Scaling writing

Friday Week 5 (1/6/2018) – Guided Reading

We know that having Pupil Free days coincide with public holidays is always advantageous, however, to secure the people we want to be able to work with us, this wasn't possible. We trust that this will be enough notice for families. As with all Pupil Free Days, OSHC will be available, booking information will come for this early next term.



Newsletters on Facebook page!



Our newsletters are now attached to our facebook page. We are trying to cut down on paper usage. If you are happy to read our newsletters via facebook 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:

The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know.
The MORE that you
Learn,
the MORE places you'll go.



How can I encourage my child to read?

Talk with your child. Speaking and listening provides your child with different ways to learn and think about the world.

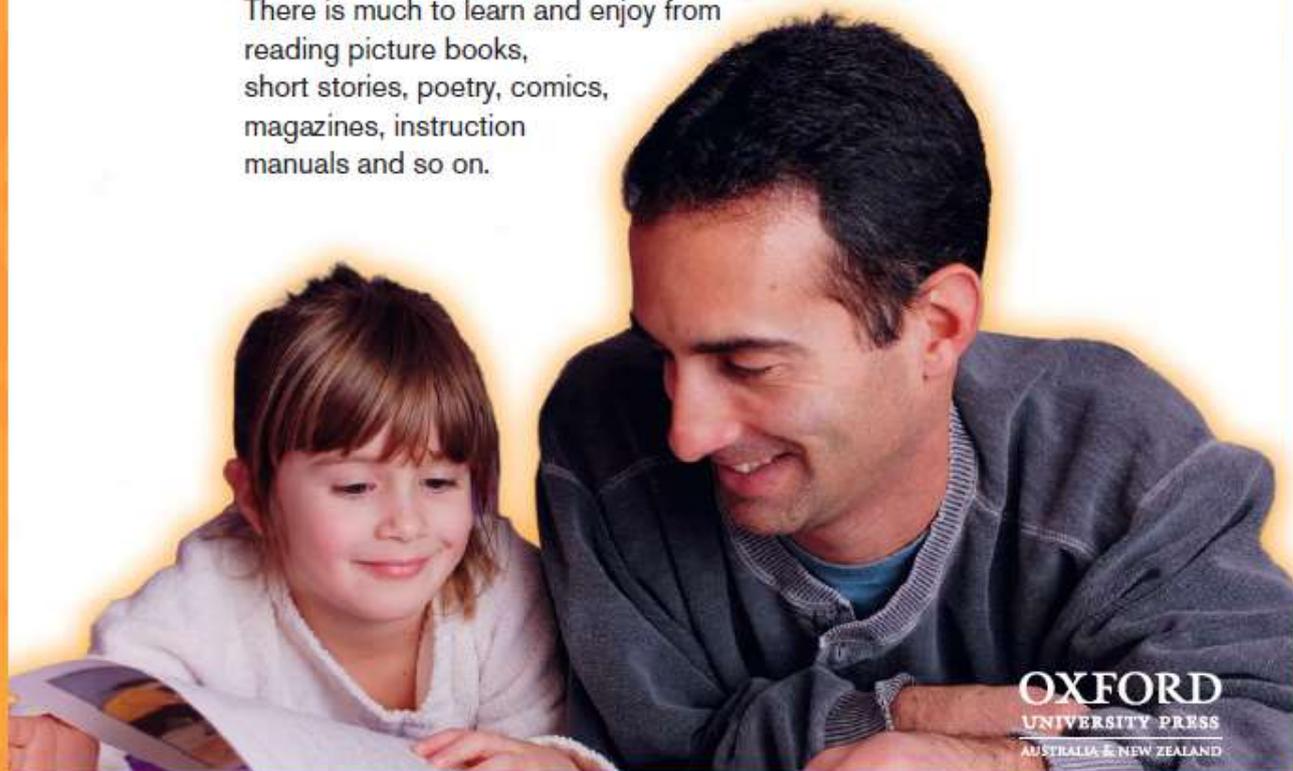
Provide a positive role model. Chat about what you are reading in books, newspapers and magazines, or viewing on screens.

Read to your child every day. This is not always possible but it may be that you point out words when you are travelling, read something aloud from a newspaper, magazine or book, or point out something interesting on screen.

Listen to your child read. All children like to receive positive feedback and listening to your child read is a great opportunity to congratulate him or her on what has been achieved.

Encourage your child to read from a wide range of sources.

There is much to learn and enjoy from reading picture books, short stories, poetry, comics, magazines, instruction manuals and so on.



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