



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 6, 2018

4th May

DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 2

Week 1

Friday 4th May

SAPSASA Cross Country

Week 2

Wednesday 9th – Thursday 10th May

Mother's Day Stall

Week 3

Tuesday 15th – Thursday 17th May

NAPLAN testing Year 3, 5 and 7

Wednesday 16th May

Governing Council Meeting 7pm

Friday 18th May

Pupil Free Day

OSHC available

Week 4

Friday 25th May

Walk Safely to School Day

Whole School Assembly

Week 5

Friday 1st June

Pupil Free Day

OSHC available



Entertainment Books and app available at
Virginia Primary



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Download our school app



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Welcome back to Term 2!

Sports Day

Thank you to everyone who attended our sports day. It was by far the largest attendance to a sports day in the school's recent history. It was also one of the smoothest sports days we have had, largely due to the great support we received on and before the day with donations of sausages and onions for the BBQ, help setting up and packing up and also some subtle, but useful programming changes as a result of feedback from last year. It was also fantastic to be joined on the day by Lieutenant Kasey and Mr Ken Duthie who helped us with our ANZAC day commemorations. The 'Little Johnny' coffee van was also a big hit, thank you Debbie for organising this. We have added a collage of photos from the day at the back of this newsletter for you to enjoy.

Major School Fundraiser



We're excited to be participating in the CUA School Fun-Run this year! Our Fun-Run date will be held in week 6, **Friday the 8th of June.**

Information on this event should have come home with your children this week. We hope you'll support our school and students in fundraising for our Kitchen Garden Program and Fountas and Pinnell Classroom reading kits. If you have any further questions about the event, please come to the front office.

Entertainment Books and app (school fundraising)

Spread the word and support our fundraising by purchasing the Entertainment Book or Digital app through our school. Any memberships ordered between now and April 16th will also receive bonus Early Bird vouchers, subject to availability. Memberships are \$70, 20% of this goes back to our fundraising needs!

Books will be available to purchase from the front office in the coming days (we will send out an alert when they arrive, if you would like one to be placed on hold, please do not hesitate to let us know), alternatively you can order the app online now using the link below!

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/162562>



WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY – FRIDAY 25th May



Now in its 19th year, National Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual event when all Primary School children will be encouraged to walk and

commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment. Whilst nationally this will be held on the 18th of May, as we have a Pupil Free day on this date we will be holding it the week after on the 25th of May.

The objectives of WSTSD are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- To promote the use of Public Transport.
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.
- To reduce the level of traffic congestion.

Our school will be participating by meeting at Woolworths at 8:25am and will be walking together to school at 8:30am.

2018 Public Education Awards



Nominate, celebrate and recognise an outstanding educator in the 2018 Public Education Awards.

Get involved and say thank you to a principal, teacher or support staff member making a significant difference to the lives of their students and their communities.

An educator's influence continues beyond the classroom and supports children and young people to reach their full potential in life. We all remember a teacher who inspired and motivated us to enjoy learning, and the awards honour the dedication and passion of individuals who deliver the best possible outcomes for young people and their families.

The Public Education Awards are entering their 8th year and we're excited to share excellence in South Australian public education and invite you to celebrate and recognise an educator who makes a positive impact every day.

The Public Education Awards recognise excellence in South Australian public education, and nominations are open 1 to 31 May. **Visit**

www.education.sa.gov.au/awards to nominate and find out more about the awards.

Term 2 Pupil Free Days

This 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

As with all Pupil Free Days, OSHC will be available.

Grounds & Facilities upgrades

Our school received grants in 2017 to further support our school initiated upgrades that have taken place over the past few years. Within the grant, we have received support for floor coverings, LED lighting, painting and some paving. It will be a busy place over the coming term

Floor coverings

Our school is in the process of having floor coverings replaced (lino and carpet). The lino was completed in the holidays, unfortunately the new carpet has been delayed but will happen sometime in the coming months.

Lighting

We are looking forward to being given 'the green light' to go ahead and have all of our old fluoro lighting replaced with LED lighting. We are hopeful this will happen sometime in the coming months.

Painting

Painting to the exterior of the yellow unit and foyer of the red unit will begin next week (Week 2).

Can you help?

There is plenty more that needs to be done, if you have skills in any of the following areas and are able to support/ donate your time and skills for the following it would be greatly appreciated;

Paver benches

These are in need of sanding and lacquering. We have the lacquer but would love any potential volunteers who are able to sand them back and apply the lacquer. If you think you can help, please do let us know!

Running Record Reading levels

In our Week 5 edition of the newsletter, we had a section devoted to reading and informed families that they could potentially notice a difference with reading levels this term. Whilst on my morning and afternoon duties, I have spoken to several parents who have indeed noticed this. I thought it would be timely to re-run the article written to refresh your memory on what it is we are doing and why.

There will be more information coming out over the term for families with regard to reading and how to

support your children with reading. Each child will also have their own personal set of reading goals.

Reading Levels (from Term 1, Week 5 newsletter)

When investigating the use of the above programs last year, our Literacy Improvement team also visited several other schools and investigated different tools for the deeper assessment of reading. Whilst we have achieved some fantastic growth and results, we believe and are aiming for further improved results in one of life's most important skills, reading!

After considering several options, we have made the decision to change the assessment kits we use for Running Records to track reading levels.

Whilst the process is largely the same, there is a significant difference in the 'comprehension conversation' with children from the old kits to the new.

Children are required to have a much deeper understanding of the text, and text type to move through levels. The other added difference is that the new assessment kits allow us to assign a level to **ALL** children, Reception – Year 7 (in fact, they are designed to assess up to Year 8). Children are levelled right up to level 35 and we have found through early testing that we have scaled children back.

Within the Running Record testing process there are several key elements we are looking for;

- a) The accuracy in which a child technically reads the text
- b) The fluency in which a child reads
- c) The child's comprehension (within, beyond and about the text).

From Term 2 onwards, ALL of our children R-7 will have a running record taken and you may find that your child's reading level will be different.

Please don't be alarmed or concerned by this, we are doing this intentionally. We have purchased a significant amount of reading material that is levelled, and developmentally appropriate to all year levels to ensure they are engaging. This will be somewhat of a change as we will see our Middle and Upper Primary children with levelled texts. The Lexile system currently in place will remain to support children with borrowing good fit books.

Throughout the testing period we will be assigning children with two levels.

1/ an independent level (this is a level in which they can read with accuracy, fluency and good comprehension). These are the types of texts we will be encouraging children to read at home.

and...

2/ an instructional (this is a level we are actively 'teaching' new skills with.

In the past, I have had parents ask why their child is taking home level 13 readers when they are at a level 15, the simple answer is that this is an independent level and is far more appropriate for them in terms of continuing to build an enjoyment of reading and to further develop the key elements of reading mentioned earlier.

During the school day, children will be using instructional levels with their teacher and in 'guided' small group reading lessons.

Each child will have a specific reading goal that will be shared with students and with you at home to support with their reading development.

In addition to this, sometimes parents of Reception children become concerned when they don't see levelled readers come home at the beginning of the year. This is an intentional move on behalf of our teachers as they are still teaching children 'the code' to reading. Sending home a levelled reader before children can use 'the code' can most often have a detrimental effect as you are teaching strategies that will help in the early levels, but will cause issues in the later levels. Teaching 'the code' is a 'go fast, slowly' approach. Children, whilst often appearing to be behind those who aren't using this approach will quickly 'take-over'. For those of you with children in Reception, the program our teachers are using is called Speech Sounds Pics (SSP). The first part of the systematic teaching of 'the code' starts at the green level where children learn *s,a,t,p,i,n*. An approach such as this is an evidence-based approach to reading development. When children do have enough elements of 'the code' they will begin bringing 'decodeable readers' home, these are readers with words that can be sounded out.

Interested in becoming a volunteer?



There are many areas in our school that could do with your help. Assist students with reading, lend a hand on an excursion, share your

knowledge of gardening and cooking, or help out in the canteen or library.

It is easy to volunteer. Just contact us and let us know that you are interested and what area you would like to assist in.

At Virginia primary we are always looking for new volunteers. We will be running a Volunteer Induction session this term. Further details and information to follow but in the meantime, please familiarise yourself with the 'Would you like to volunteer' handout attached to this newsletter. If you have any further questions or are unsure about volunteering, please don't hesitate to organise a time to see Voula.

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	30/04/2018	1/05/2018	2/05/2018	3/05/2018	4/05/2018
1	World Book Day (23/4)				SAPSASA Cross Country
	7/05/2018	8/05/2018	9/05/2018	10/05/2018	11/05/2018
2			Mother's Day Stall	Mother's Day Stall	
	14/05/2018	15/05/2018	16/05/2018	17/05/2018	18/05/2018
3		NAPLAN	NAPLAN GC meeting 7pm Staff meeting	NAPLAN	Pupil Free Day OSHC available
	21/05/2018	22/05/2018	23/05/2018	24/05/2018	25/05/2018
4					National Sorry Day (SATURDAY) ASSEMBLY WALK TO SCHOOL SAFELY
	28/05/2018	29/05/2018	30/05/2018	31/05/2018	1/06/2018
5	Reconciliation week				PUPIL FREE DAY OSHC available
	4/06/2018	5/06/2018	6/06/2018	7/06/2018	8/06/2018
6					FUN RUN Casual Clothes Day Kids Helping Our School ASSEMBLY
	11/06/2018	12/06/2018	13/06/2018	14/06/2018	15/06/2018
7	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday				
	18/06/2018	19/06/2018	20/06/2018	21/06/2018	22/06/2018
8	Refugee week		Governing Council Meeting		
	25/06/2018	26/06/2018	27/06/2018	28/06/2018	29/06/2018
9					ASSEMBLY
	2/07/2018	3/07/2018	4/07/2018	5/07/2018	6/07/2018
10	NAIDOC WEEK			Progress Reports sent home	Whole School Assembly