



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 16, 2018

24th October

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 2

Friday 26th October

Day for Daniel

Week 3

Monday 29th October

Footsteps for Year 6/7 Students

Wednesday 31st October

Governing Council Meeting

Week 4

Swimming Week

Week 5

Monday 12th November

Footsteps for Year 6/7 Students

Friday 16th November

Casual Clothes Day

Week 6

Friday 23rd November

Staff Vs Students Netball

Week 7

Friday 30th November

FINAL PUPIL FREE DAY

OSHC AVAILABLE

Principal: Ilia Tsoutouras

Deputy Principal: Voula Pounendis

Gov. Council Chairperson: Colleen Sheedy

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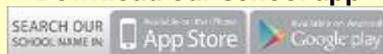
Email

dl.0455.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Visit our web site

www.virginiaps.sa.edu.au

Download our school app



Staffing

This term we welcome back Ms Danh who was on leave all of term 4. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ms Thuy who backfilled her last term. Mr Yates will be on leave in Weeks 4 and 5. He is marrying his long-time partner Crystal. On behalf of all at VPS, we would like to wish James and Crystal all the best for their big day. Ms De Fazio will be returning in Week 3. Ms Pauline has done a fantastic job backfilling Ms DeFazio and luckily for us will also backfill Mr Yates along with Mrs Crompton whilst he is away.

We recently advertised state-wide for a permanent Junior Primary teaching position. I am pleased to say the successful applicant from a very large and competitive field was Ms Krystal Butler (or better known as Ms Krystal). We are thrilled to now have her as a permanent teacher at our school.

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

Day for Daniel



This week our school is highlighting and taking part in "Day for Daniel."

The aim of the Daniel Morcombe foundation is to educate children on keeping safe through

key child protection and safety messages. Among many things, we will again be highlighting the 3 R's throughout the week with our children and encourage you to do so at home too.

Recognise **R**eact **R**eport

Teachers will also work with students on recognizing their body clues and identifying their Safety Network.

This was well-received in previous years, as we take the safety and well-being of our children very seriously, we will further highlight the important of staying safe by encouraging children to wear red on Friday. This isn't a casual clothes day, if you can't find red then school uniform is required. We **WILL NOT** be asking for a coin donation as we do on casual clothes days, however this term's casual clothes money will be going towards the Daniel Morecombe foundation.

World Teachers' Day



Friday the 26th of October is *World Teachers' Day*. We are lucky at Virginia, and I feel privileged to work with such a fantastic teaching team and staff. Teaching

is a huge job. It is a common misconception that teachers work from the hours of 8:30am – 4:00pm and get huge amounts of holidays. In reality, if you come see the car park at our school and others you will quickly realise that the dedication, commitment and work behind the scenes spreads far beyond those hours. The biggest thank you for a teacher is seeing children thrive and learning to their full potential, but it might be nice if you see a teacher over the next few days to say thanks!



2019 Enrolments

We have begun looking at class structures for 2019.

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.

Thank you for your help

Class Placement Notification 2019

We will use the same process we have used the past few years whereby families are notified of their child's class in the last week of school so that students can visit their new classrooms. As mentioned above, we are working through the process of class structures/ placements for next year. If you have anything you would like us to consider when placing your child/ren for next year I would encourage you to either book a time with myself or our Deputy Principal Voula Pounendis, alternatively, please send your request in writing to the front office.

Swimming



Swimming will take place in Week 4 of this term. We have absorbed any extra costs as a school so we can maintain last year's prices for families. Junior Primary (R-2) will be \$30, Middle Primary (3-5) will be \$32. Swimming is a required part of the curriculum. If you have any questions in regards to swimming,

please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher or the front office.

Library volunteers

The library is looking for parents who would like to visit and help with sorting and shelving books on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and/ or Thursdays.

This request would suit those who can spare an hour or so either in the morning, after taking your child(ren) to class, or in the afternoon prior to collecting them from class.

You may be interested to do this with another parent or on your own.

Please feel free to come and have a chat with me in the library and see what we can arrange together. (Leonie Watts)

Did you know...?

Being late for just 10 minutes each day across a child's years at school equates to a whole term of lost learning. That's right, 50 days of lost learning. This doesn't take into account days sick or any other family related reasons that children can at times be away for. Not only does it mean lost learning time, it also makes it hard for your child to settle into the morning learning routine. Over the coming weeks we would like to support in any way we can to ensure we get our children **in class and ready to learn by 8:55am**. We will be contacting families over the coming weeks to see if there is any way we can provide any support to those who have been arriving late.

Attendance at school is a DECD requirement and it is expected that **ALL** students will have an attendance rate of 93% or higher for the school year.

"The Education Act 1972 requires that children of compulsory school age be enrolled at school. A condition of that enrolment is that a student is required to fully participate in the education program arranged and approved by the enrolling school. Such participation is to include engagement and attendance as required by the program.

Children and students need to maximise attendance at school to gain optimum benefit from education. Ensuring regular attendance at school is a shared responsibility between parents/caregivers, and the school. Research shows that success in learning is directly proportional to regular attendance and participation in education programs".

As a school we have started the school year working hard to keep our attendance rate as high as possible. We understand that at times your child will have a day away from school when they are unwell or for other reasons. If this is the case, can you please ensure you contact us so we are aware of why they have been absent.

To notify the school you can use any of the following forms of communication:

- Provide a note in your child's communication book/ diary
- Phone the school on 8380 9292
- Use the Skoolbag app

Our classrooms open from the first bell at 8:50am and your child's learning commences at 8:55am so it is expected that your child is here prior to this time ready to commence their learning. A teachers is on duty from 8:30am supervising the asphalt.

Grounds & Facilities

Over the last few weeks and moving toward Christmas there will be more grounds and facilities work taking place. The OSHC room will be re-floored, we will be installing fake turf outside the library as despite our best efforts, grass just wont grow and our imagination playground is a high traffic area. We are also installing new bike/ scooter racks as well as preparing for an extra classroom.

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

Virginia & Districts
Bendigo Community
Bank Movie Night

GREAT NIGHT OF FAMILY FUN

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (PG)

2ND NOVEMBER 2018 AT 6PM

MOVIE SCREENS AT 8.30PM

JUMPING CASTLE - SAUSAGE SIZZLE

MOVIE TREATS

VIRGINIA COMMUNITY CENTRE

🍞 ENTRY : GOLD COIN DONATION 🍞

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE V.R.A.G.
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
VIRGINIA UNITED SOCCER CLUB
& VIRGINIA C.F.S.

 Bendigo Bank



VPS Term Planner (Term 4, 2018)

****Please note, times are subject to change, any changes will be communicated ASAP**

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	22/10/2018	23/10/2018	24/10/2018	25/10/2018	26/10/2018
2	Universal Children's Week Footsteps				DAY FOR DANIEL
	29/10/2018	30/10/2018	31/10/2018	1/11/2018	2/11/2018
3	Footsteps		Governing Council		ASSEMBLY
	5/11/2018	6/11/2018	7/11/2018	8/11/2018	9/11/2018
4	Swimming	Swimming	Swimming	Swimming	Swimming Remembrance Day
	12/11/2018	13/11/2018	14/11/2018	15/11/2018	16/11/2018
5	Footsteps		STUDENT YARD SURVEYS (these are to track how students have felt their playtime in the yard has been)		ASSEMBLY Casual Clothes Day Kids Against Poverty
	19/11/2018	20/11/2018	21/11/2018	22/11/2018	23/11/2018
6	Footsteps				Staff Vs Students Netball
	26/11/2018	27/11/2018	28/11/2018	29/11/2018	30/11/2018
7					Annual School Improvement Process Pupil Free Day
	3/12/2018	4/12/2018	5/12/2018	6/12/2018	7/12/2018
8	International Day of People with Disability		International Volunteer Day (5/12) Governing Council		End of Year Concert
	10/12/2018	11/12/2018	12/12/2018	13/12/2018	14/12/2018
9		Yr 7 Farewell assembly		Yr 7 Graduation	

insights



How to stop your children from swearing

by Michael Grose

If you're like me, you feel decidedly uncomfortable when kids of any age turn the air blue with profanities. Swearing shows lack of respect for others, and also a lack of awareness for their surroundings.

Teaching kids to use appropriate language is trickier now than in the past. For a start, standards have changed where many words – such as the 'F' word – that were deemed inappropriate in the past are often heard on radio and seen in mainstream newspapers. Words that everyone agrees are inappropriate are frequently used in public forums, to the point that the boundaries of appropriateness have become blurred.

Standards may change, but the job of parents hasn't altered. That is, **to teach kids to use language that doesn't offend others**. Whether it's teasing or swearing – it's all the same. If a word or words are offensive, then choose other words or say nothing at all. That is the message to get across to the next generation.

Socially smart kids alter their language

Socially skilled kids of all ages will adjust their language to suit the situation they are in. They may speak one way with their friends but use a completely different vocabulary when they are with adults. They are aware that what works with their best friend just won't cut it when they are in Grandma's company. This awareness shows social acuity and the flexibility to adjust to different environments. It needs to be extended to all sorts of situations including where adults and younger children are present. Kids who constantly swear limit their social possibilities.

They didn't hear that from me!

What do you do when you know your children swear despite your best intentions? Don't over react. Try to work out its purpose. Children swear for many reasons, including: to experiment with language; to attract your attention; to make themselves appear bigger or older than they are; and even as a challenge or expression of personal power.

Inappropriate language can also simply be a reflection of your children's peer groups. *"Everyone else swears so there's nothing wrong with it"* is a common attitude of many children and young people.

Teach them that while swearing may be appropriate in one context or be accepted by one group, it is not acceptable in every situation. While not condoning swearing, get across to children that they need to learn to control their use of language and adjust it to suit the situation they are in.

When swearing becomes a habit

If swearing has become a habit for kids, make up alternative words to replace the swear words. One family I know had replaced certain words with fruit. They had a fruit for every situation!

Alternatively, use a penalty or fine system to make kids aware of their poor language. When you hear a family member swear, fine them an agree amount. At the end of the week or month give the money collected to a worthy cause. Of course, this strategy is easier to implement when parents join in as well.

Take a long, hard look at, er yourself!

It's also helpful to examine your own choice of language to judge if it is an acceptable model for your children. Yep, sometimes kids will pick up their parents' language and repeat it at the worst possible time, such as when relatives are over.

The job of adults is to develop a sense of social awareness in the next generation so they can easily navigate a variety of different groups and social situations. Teaching appropriate language use is at the very heart of teaching kids to be socially skilled. That's something we all should swear by!

Things to remember when kids swear:

1. Avoid over-reacting when your kids swear. Look for the reason.
2. Discuss with older children the concept of matching their language with the audience.
3. Nip it in the bud before it becomes habit forming.
4. Use a penalty or fine system when kids swear in front of you.
5. Model the language you want your kids to use.

A last word

Standards may change, but the job of parents hasn't altered. That is, to teach kids to use language that doesn't offend others. If it's offensive then encourage them to choose other words, or say nothing at all. That's the approach that socially smart kids follow.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including *Thriving!* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World* and *Last Borns Want to Change It*, and his latest release *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children*.