



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning Together, Learning for our Future

CARING, RESPECT, FAIRNESS, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY

Issue 3, 2019

27th February

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 5

Friday 1st March

Casual Clothes Day
'Kids helping Kids'
School clean-up day

Week 6

Friday 8th of March

Whole School Assembly
Community Centre
9:15am

Year 4/5's Kitchen Garden

Week 7

Monday 11th of March

Public Holiday
Adelaide Cup
No School or OSHC

Friday 15th of March

Day of Action against bullying & violence

Week 8

Thursday 21st of March

Harmony Day

Friday 21st of March

Kitchen Garden

Week 9

Friday 29th of March

Whole School Assembly
Community Centre 9:15am
Families welcome!

Principal: Ilia Tsoutouras

Deputy Principal: Voula Pounendis

Gov. Council Chairperson: Colleen Sheedy-
Palethorpe

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Download our school app



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

How was your day...?

This is the most commonly asked question I hear from parents/ caregivers. Whilst a great question, I'm betting that more than 80% of the time you are lucky to get a three word answer such as "It was OK", "It was good", and so forth. How about you try asking the question, "Tell me one thing you learnt today?" This at least gets children to think and might even help open up a fantastic discussion.

Year 6/7 Leadership Day



Each year our Senior Students are involved in a leadership day. Throughout the day students are involved in a range of activities focussed on developing team-work. One of the highlights is having guest speakers attend. This year we were fortunate enough to have former student Chelsea Jaensch, whose dream of becoming an Olympian began here at Virginia Primary. She shared that at her leadership day she was fortunate enough to take a photo with an Olympian and also brought along one of her scrapbooks from when she was a student here. How special for our students to be afforded the same opportunity with Chelsea.

We also had the pleasure of also having former student Con Markou. He talked about successes in business and how sometimes our pathways and dreams as adults change.

A sincere thank you to both of our visitors who helped to make for a very special day!



Congratulations Caitlyn

Caitlyn is passionate about horses. With very little support from the school, she is now representing Virginia Primary School in the Interschool Dressage competition at The South Australian Dressage Association (SADA). She recently won her Prep C test and came 2nd in the Prep E test with great scores in both tests (61.25% in Prep C and 66.95% in the Prep E).

Congratulations on all your achievements Caitlyn. Please keep us up to date with your progress. Below you will see Caitlyn with the horse she rides, Victor.



If like Caitlyn you have a sport that you compete in and we can support you as a school, please do let us know!

Volunteering

Can you help...? We are currently looking for volunteers for a range of different activities.

It has been a Department for Education (DfE) requirement that all parents and other volunteers who work with or in close proximity to children have Criminal History Check pursuant to section 8B of the *Children's Protection Act 1993*.

Last year the Department for Education updated its screening policy to make it easier for parents and guardians to volunteer their time.

Parents and guardians volunteering in schools and preschools to support their own child's education no longer need to undertake relevant history screening.

Screening is still required for any parents/ volunteers attending any overnight camps or supporting other children within the school. Should you wish to obtain a Criminal History Screening we are able to assist you. This process can be started by collecting a screening application from Deb Smith at the school office.

Each Criminal History Clearance lasts for three years so it is important that any expired ones are updated. Please see Deb Smith at the front office to start this process which is now an online application. We will also be holding a volunteer induction session this term for all volunteers.

We have attached accompanying forms to the back of this newsletter that you can fill in if you are willing to volunteer within our school.

New Playground *(to be installed Term 2 holidays)*

Unfortunately our much loved playground is nearing the very end of its lifecycle. Our Principal and Deputy Principal worked with a group of students and staff last year to organise a range of options from playground companies to present to all students. Earlier this term they wrote to students to get their perspective and thinking.

We thought you might be interested in what they wrote and what students had decided upon.

"Dear Students,

Your safety, learning and happiness is of the utmost importance to our staff here at Virginia. As you will know, your voice is powerful in terms of what happens here at our school. When we are all working together to continuously improve our school, just like your learning, we can only get better.

In the past, students have had a major impact on many facets of our school, some that spring to mind are;

- *The establishment of the Kitchen Garden*
- *Mosaics around the school*
- *Going wireless with internet*
- *The introduction of laptops*
- *Updating our uniform*
- *Imagination Playground and other lunchtime activities being introduced*
- *The updated entrance to our school*
- *The updated grass area outside of the library*

Our playground is a heavily used area, and this year it is due to be upgraded for a variety of reasons. Our staff have worked through a process with playground companies to see what could safely fit in the area and it is time for you to have a say. There are several options, as a staff we have already had a look, but of course, your opinion is probably the most important now given it is you who will be using it.

It is important when factoring in your votes that you consider that all of our existing playground will need to be removed for safety reasons, this includes the metal bars etc.

There are x4 options for you to consider that fit within the budget we have. We are interested in getting the opinion of all students in our school. Could you please cast your vote on your most preferred playground option so we can get back to the playground company around a possibly installation date.

Kind Regards,



Busy Fridays!!!!

You may have noticed that Fridays are busy and many special events are taking place on a Friday (assembly, kitchen garden, Casual Clothes Day, incursions/ excursions where possible, choir etc.). This has been done intentionally, as we are minimising any potential distractions from Monday – Thursday when there is huge levels of support in classrooms for Numeracy and Literacy learning.

It certainly isn't that we don't value those extra-curricular learning opportunities. We absolutely are proud of the programs we have established in the last few years, however, to continue to build upon our recent academic successes, we want to ensure that those opportunities don't become distractions.

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.

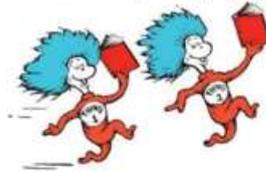
Before School Care runs from 6.30 – 8.30 am. Children need to be booked into these sessions as parents are required to pay for this service/ Centre Care benefit linked.

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!)

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



Donations for sandpit play

New sandpit equipment has been purchased and students are enjoying the many new items. One fun activity in the sandpit is for the children to pretend they are cooking. If you have any items such as cake pans or other kitchen items we would appreciate your donations to be taken to the front office. Please make sure they are safe for use by students. Thanks for your help.

Feedback

As a school we pride ourselves on continuous improvement. As educators we highly value you as parents and caregivers as the most important educators in your children's' lives. In classrooms, teachers constantly receive feedback both directly and indirectly (through student reflection and achievements) and alter their programs to tailor it to students' needs. As a school one of the ways we can continue to improve is by seeking feedback from you. There are several ways you can provide us with feedback, personally, through our website or school app. You may want to highlight an area for possible consideration for improvement or something you particularly like about the school so that we can ensure we continue that practice.

Term 1 WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	28/01/2019	29/01/2019	30/01/2019	31/01/2019	1/02/2019
1	Australia Day holiday				Whole school Health Hustle 9:15am
	4/02/2019	5/02/2019	6/02/2019	7/02/2019	8/02/2019
2		Safer Internet Day Classes to re-visit internet safety Chinese New Year	Late night Acquaintance Meetings		Whole School Assembly Assembly
	11/02/2019	12/02/2019	13/02/2019	14/02/2019	15/02/2019
3	Year 6/7 leadership day				PUPIL FREE DAY NO SCHOOL OSHC AVAILABLE
	18/02/2019	19/02/2019	20/02/2019	21/02/2019	22/02/2019
4	Year 6/7 camp	Year 6/7 camp	Year 6/7 camp Governing Council AGM 6:30 – 8:30		R-2 'Wish' performance incursion
	25/02/2019	26/02/2019	27/02/2019	28/02/2019	1/03/2019
5	Maths Financial Incursion	Maths Financial Incursion	Windmill Theatre (Ongoing Arts project)		Schools clean-up day Casual Clothes day Kids Helping Kids
	4/03/2019	5/03/2019	6/03/2019	7/03/2019	8/03/2019
6					Kitchen Garden Assembly Rm 13 International Women's Day
	11/03/2019	12/03/2019	13/03/2019	14/03/2019	15/03/2019
7	Public Holiday Adelaide Cup NO SCHOOL OR OSHC				Day of Action against bullying & violence
	18/03/2019	19/03/2019	20/03/2019	21/03/2019	22/03/2019
8	Cultural Diversity Week		HARMONY CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK GC meeting 7pm	HARMONY DAY	Kitchen Garden
	25/03/2019	26/03/2019	27/03/2019	28/03/2019	29/03/2019
9					Assembly Rm 9 & 10
	1/04/2019	2/04/2019	3/04/2019	4/04/2019	5/04/2019
10					Athletics Carnival
	8/04/2019	9/04/2019	10/04/2019	11/04/2019	12/04/2019
11			Sports day tm mtg. 3:00pm		SPORTS DAY World Book Day (23/4)



VIRGINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

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RESPECT CARING FAIRNESS DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT

Would you like to Volunteer?

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We believe that voluntary workers can make a significant contribution to the school community by giving their time and sharing their skills and expertise with others. Volunteers may have a wide range of interests and abilities that complement school programs, thus providing a wider range of interactions and experiences for students.

Volunteers are an integral part of schools and at Virginia, we are keen to further this. Your participation in the work of the school is greatly appreciated and valued. We acknowledge that we have many parents who are able to volunteer their time and support in many different areas. Thus, we believe that it is important to utilise the different skills of people we have in our community.

While the welfare of our students is our highest priority, we want to do everything possible to ensure your involvement is a rewarding experience. As you many have read in newsletters this year, we are required to implement a number of changes to ensure the safety of each and every student. We had many parents who attended our 'Volunteer Induction Training', however we will be running a couple more sessions as well, so it's not too late!

If you are interested and are able to help out in our school, we would love to hear from you. Whether it be helping in classrooms, preparing special dishes/lunches in the canteen, assisting in the library to organising school fundraising events. *To best utilise our wonderful volunteers, we ask you to please fill in the survey so our staff can seek out the best person to support our students.*

We appreciate your commitment to this. Once we collate the information from this survey you will be contacted.

Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any further questions or send me an email.

Looking forward to working with you!

Kind Regards,

Voula Pounendis (voula.pounendis519@schools.sa.edu.au)
Deputy Principal

Volunteers Survey

Name: _____

Ph: _____

What are your areas of interests? (you can tick more than one option)

- Listen to students read
- Help with small groups in the classroom
- Cooking - Kitchen/Garden Program (helping groups of students with cooking on Fridays)
- Gardening - Kitchen/Garden Program (helping groups of students and Sam in the garden every Friday)
- Arts – music, visual, dance, drama
- Numeracy
- Student Intervention Support
- Day excursions
- Camps
- Lunch time activities
- Craft – knitting, scrapbooking etc
- Sports – PE lessons, after school sports
- Help out in the library
- Help in the canteen (serving, preparing home cooked meals on selected days)
- Others.....

What age group would you like to work with? (you can tick more than one option)

- R/1/2
- 3/4/5
- 6/7
- Any ages

What days suit you to volunteer? (you can tick more than one option)

- Mondays
- Tuesdays
- Wednesdays
- Thursdays
- Fridays

What times suit you to volunteer? (you can tick more than one option)

- Mornings
- Afternoons
- Either

How often would you like to volunteer? (you can tick more than one option)

- Daily
- Weekly
- Fortnightly
- On a casual basis

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

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