

NUMBER 23

20th August 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

VISION To provide a positive school environment that allows every individual the opportunity to flourish.

REMOTE LEARNING TIPS FOR SEESAW ACTIVITIES

- Please encourage your child to read/view/listen to all of the instructions connected to the Seesaw activity before they begin the task.
- Most activities will have written instructions and/or video instructions and/or verbal instructions. Students need to access these before beginning the task.
- Paul Noble from Kimberley's School of the Air delivers lessons to primary-school students across Kimberley cattle stations via satellite. He says that limited attention spans are a challenge for teachers everywhere. 'With younger kids, if you can get a good solid two hours in and get that right you're doing well. Break it up. Maybe you'll only get 40 minutes out of them, so go do some skipping and measure their heart rate, or have an apple and a bit of a wander around and back we come. Or maybe just do a stretch and touch your toes then okay, let's get back on with it now.'

FLOURISHING FRIDAY

The following activities will be set for the students to engage with tomorrow;

- Read to self
- Gratitude – We are encouraging the students to recognise the positive moments in their day.
- Exercise – We all need to set aside a part of our day for strenuous movement.
- Appreciation of Beauty & Excellence – I am challenging the students to recognise the beauty that they encounter everyday but may overlook.
- Listening to a Book - I invite the students to listen to a reading of a picture story book and to respond.
- 'Passion' Time – I would like the students to spend at least one hour doing what they love.

KINDNESS CHALLENGE

Do you like a challenge? What about a kindness Challenge? There are two parts to this challenge. Firstly here are some ways your family could show kindness:

1. Make a face mask for someone – sew a face-mask for a family member who lives away and mail it to them; lots of charities are asking for extra face-masks to share with people who don't have them, so sew a face-mask for a local charity.
2. Offer to do the grocery shopping for an elderly neighbour.
3. Pick a lovely bunch of flowers from your garden and leave them on your neighbour's doorstep as a surprise that will brighten their day.

Second part of the challenge is to come up with other ideas on how we can show kindness while observing the current stage 3 lockdown rules.

Feel free to email me your ideas or pictures of your kindness acts.

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CURRICULUM DAY – Friday September 4th

There will be no school on this day. All staff will be involved in an on-line curriculum day involving all of the Portland schools. The purpose of the day is as follows;

To enhance our Gunditjmarra cultural understanding and knowledge of Dhauwurd Wurrung language curriculum.

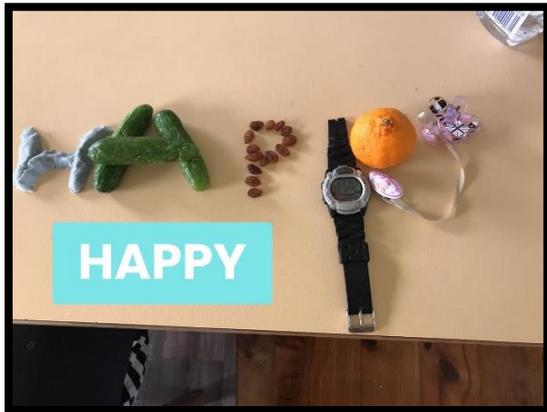
Because of our curriculum day 'Flourishing Friday' will become 'Thriving Thursday' that week.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Hunter Jennings who turns 6 tomorrow. Scarlett Clark turns 10 on Saturday and Timmy Trigger turns 12 next Thursday.

ON-LINE LEARNING

- Grade 2/3C students were asked to spell out how they felt with the strangest things you could find.

Charlotte Calderwood



Nathan Rethus



Ava Jacobson



Grade 4/5/6 were asked to find reflections around their house.



Henry Stirling

Lou Impey



Chaplain's Corner – The positives of the pandemic

How's it all happening at your place? The new routines. Doing things differently. Not because we want to but because we have to. Let's get this much straight – there's no joy in any form of the Lockdown. Our Version #3 is much friendlier than Version #4. So, it will seem pretty strange to suggest that this unwelcome virus may help us. Albeit in unexpected ways.

When life is difficult and we are forced into ways and means which are not usual for us, our immediate reaction, understandable by the way, is to resent these enforced behaviours. May be even look for ways to work around them. Like it or not, we are living without our usual freedoms. And these are greatly missed. So, how might this totally annoying pandemic help us? Consider for a moment....

- **Take note of our current frustrations and inconvenience** – Let's not trick ourselves. There's nothing but heartache with the loss of jobs, income and security. Add to this online schooling. A big challenge for teachers and students. Our lives have changed dramatically.
- **But try to do more than list the negatives** – This will be a long list for most of us. Our kids have lost their regular sporting outlets. Trying to manage home education is no easy pushover. Hard for many parents and their children. On and on the list could go.
- **The big assignment is to dig around for the positives** – You mean this pandemic may have some benefits? Well, yes, if it actually curbs the virus. But there's more on offer than just limiting infections. It will require effort but try looking for some good effects.
- **Here are some positives** – All provided by locked down families: we're spending more time with each other; we're listening more these days; we're kicking the footy more; we're shooting more baskets too; we're walking more.
- **Keep adding to your list** – Think about the absolutely new things that are happening. Like discovering the fun of jigsaws, or getting around to doing those odd jobs that have been staring you in the face for years may be. It's great to tick these boxes.
- **But there's still more** – The quiet types are blessed to be able to stay around the house and do their own thing. The actual speed of life has dropped down. We've left the fast lane and are quite thankful that the stresses of normal days and routines are not hunting for us.
- **The crafty types are in their own heaven** – Driving their sewing machines like never before. There's a whole crowd out there who've worked out how to make masks. So, they're churning them out for family and friends with great delight. And taking on other projects.
- **Many have met the lockdown head on** – Parents and kids have rearranged their ways. They have adjusted very effectively to these unwelcome demands. Of course, it's not easy. But their efforts are rewarded. So, hold tight. Don't give up. Give change a warm welcome.
- **Family feedback confirms our inbuilt resilience** – The lessons learnt from the earlier shutdown of school have been a preparation for the present lockdown. Families have simply gone back to the earlier routines with little effort. There's a bonus right there.

Does this mean that everything is hunky dory? Definitely not! These are not easy days so we need to be on call for each other. And, as much as we can, be looking on the bright side.

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