

NUMBER 28

10th September 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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



REMINDERS FOR WEEK TEN: TERM THREE 2020

Friday September 11 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Flourishing Friday' on-line learning
Monday September 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom on-line learning
Tuesday September 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom on-line learning
Wednesday September 16 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom on-line learning School Council 7pm
Thursday September 17 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom on-line learning
Friday September 18 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Flourishing Friday' on-line learning Last Day of Term 3

RETURN TO SCHOOL?

Remote learning will continue for the next 2 weeks of schooling. This being the last week of this term and the first week of Term 4. Week Two of Term 4 will see ...

'All students (from Prep to Year 12) return to full-time on-site schooling by Friday 16 October. Schools can stagger the return of different year levels as appropriate during this week. This decision can be made by individual schools or networks/clusters of schools.' (Latest advice sent to schools)

We will confirm the starting dates of all students as this decision is made.

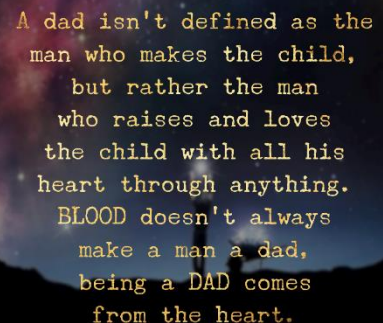
FATHER'S DAY SUPPORT

On Sunday we set aside a day to celebrate the fathers in our lives. Today I reflect on how I can continue being a better father. Dr Bruce Robinson, founder of the fathering project, suggests *saying 'I love you' to your kids;*

- tell your kids you love them, often
- make eye contact and use their names
- surprise them sometimes by telling them when they don't expect it
- don't use empty, repetitive words - think of different ways to tell them you love them, such as 'you are more precious than diamonds' etc
- write it in cards, notes, emails and text messages
- love includes 'being there' for them, no matter what - tell them that you will be
- always try to keep in mind what children **really** need from fathers.

Another tip for fathers from Dr Bruce Robinson on *'Helping kids feel special'*.

- think about specific ways each of your kids are special
- tell them how special those things are
- genuinely seek and value their opinions
- encourage their special creativity
- display their artwork & other creativity
- don't compare any of your kids to any other kids
- create a feeling of a special family eg. special family rituals, stories, trips, meals & festivals



A dad isn't defined as the man who makes the child, but rather the man who raises and loves the child with all his heart through anything. BLOOD doesn't always make a man a dad, being a DAD comes from the heart.

Meet Rocket Rodney Eade next Thursday evening!

All our dads are invited to join Melbourne's Shed Door Community via a Zoom meeting next Thursday 17th September at 7.30pm. As most will know, Rocket is a former Hawthorn great who played 229 games for the Hawks. He is now the Schools Manager for The Fathering Project in Victoria. All details in next week's newsletter.

- teach kids to do things for themselves and not to just rely on you.
- avoid sarcasm - it can destroy confidence
- don't overuse praise -encouragement works better (kids need coaches, not fans)
- create a family celebration for all milestones and successes, eg a special meal
- establish a 'no put down' rule about all things
- encourage reasonable risk

KINDNESS

FEELING BORED?
YOU COULD...

Be a Friend
Make a call
Bake & share
Write a letter

Offer Creative Kindness
Craft CardsForHospitalizedKids.org
Send drawings to ColorASmile.org
Make friendship bracelets

Read Thoughtfully
How would you feel in each character's place?
What would you do differently?
What did you learn from this book?

Explore Nature
Take a hike (& clean up the litter)
Observe a creature
Get dirty, climb something, & have fun!

Do a Good Deed
Leave a big-hearted sidewalk chalk note
Help a neighbor
Do a chore

BIG HEARTED FAMILIES a project of DoingGoodTogether.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Tayli Holmes-Wilson who turns 7 on Saturday, Abby Saunders who turns 11 on Tuesday, Angus Impey who turns 9 on Wednesday and Millie Flannery who turns 12 next Thursday. It is also Andreena's birthday this Saturday.

ON-LINE LEARNING

On Flourishing Friday all students were asked to take a photo of an animal as part of the appreciation of beauty and excellence.

Abby Saunders



Charlee Coates



Claire Munday



Clancy Striling



Elliot Munday



Matilda Smith



Matthew Rethus



Nathan Rethus



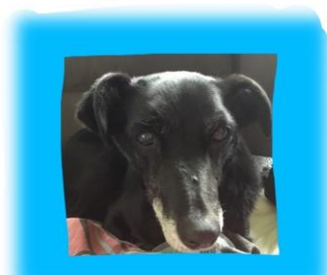
Seth Price



Thomas Menzel



Tom Compton



William Rethus



Chaplains' Corner – When the ducks took over

When it comes to surprises, this one's pretty hard to beat. One of our Melbourne families has a pool in their backyard. Nothing too remarkable about that. But it's now the home address of a duck. Yes, a duck. She's moved in, or may be that should be ducked in. How does the family know her gender? Simple really. She created a nest near the pool and laid ten eggs. The outcome? Mrs Duck now has ten ducklings swimming in the pool. The family has placed a floating mat at the edge of the pool to make entry and exit easy for the new arrivals.

But, as you've probably already worked out, this feathered family who live in the pool has created an interesting problem for the family who live in the house. What happens when Summer arrives, when the pool has to be cleaned, when the kids start jumping in as kids are supposed to do? What then with our duck friends? Well, this difficulty is yet to be addressed. One thing is certain. Mrs Duck and offspring will be treated well. So, what might we learn from this fascinating situation?

- **We all need a surprise or two now and then** – Can you imagine our days passing without any surprises at all? Just doesn't bear thinking about. Sure, life is made up of routines, demands and a heap of other responsibilities. But a surprise short-circuits our to-do lists.
- **A surprise is just that** – We don't plan our surprises. They just arrive. They catch us without any warning. Which is what a surprise is all about. Whatever we are doing a surprise changes our tune, alters our pace, claims our attention. It punches a hole in our plans.
- **There are different kinds of surprises** – So it's wise to be ready. At one end of the surprise scale, there is the cheerful surprise. But at the other end there may be bad news. And we can't dodge either. The cheerful type we happily embrace. The other kind will stop us in our tracks.
- **So, what's the drill here?** – The surprise birthday party is a country mile from the surprise of a serious health issue. The happy surprises are always welcome and become good memories. The unhappy surprises require us to hold on, to be patient, to be enduring while we process them.
- **Be they cheerful or unsettling, surprises will change us** – On the one hand, the cheery kind will be affirming and uplifting. They bring into our lives a fresh colour and interest. Like ducks taking over the family pool without making a formal application or offering any rent.
- **The unsettling surprises also change us** – The loss of a friend, a serious health issue, an accident also rearranges our priorities. We have to make allowances we had never anticipated, or take actions which take us into new, uncharted territory. We have to learn to cope in new and demanding ways.
- **Surprises invite us to exercise our creative juices** – We have all been party to engineering a surprise for a friend or another family. The special meal, the birthday party, the gift that a family member has always wanted are all surprises we can generate. And everyone is blessed by the exercise.
- **Surprises though don't have to be big deal items** – Try phoning up that friend you haven't spoken with for a while, or get the kids to paint a picture for Grandma or Grandpa. Forward on that amusing video you saw on YouTube. Cook up some bikkies for a neighbour or a friend. Have fun doing these.

We can't all hope to be adopted by a family of ducks. But we can bring hope and joy into the lives of others with a surprise or two as often as we can. Get your family on board and make it happen.