

NUMBER 26

27th August 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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



REMINDERS FOR WEEK THREE: TERM THREE 2020

Friday August 28 th	• 'Flourishing Friday' on-line learning
Monday August 31 st	• Classroom on-line learning
Tuesday September 1 st	• Classroom on-line learning
Wednesday September 2 nd	• Classroom on-line learning
Thursday September 3 rd	• 'Thriving Thursday' on-line learning
Friday September 4 th	• Pupil Free Day – no on-line activities

REMOTE LEARNING TIPS FOR SEESAW ACTIVITIES

- Paul Noble from Kimberley's School of the Air – 'So much learning that goes on is not formal – planting some seeds or taking the weeds out or building a tower with Lego. If children think all they're going to be doing is learning they're going to turn off.'
- Keep up the social contact – School is not just a place of learning, it's a place of social contact. Set up a zoom session where your child can talk to their friend/s.

KINDNESS

The character strength of Kindness is described as caring for others with helpful and generous actions without any expectations of reward or recognition. Seeing others in the best possible light. Other words to describe kindness are generosity, care and compassion.

Secretly do as many random acts of kindness as you can. Challenge yourself to do this once a week!

- Offer to help someone without being asked.
- Notice the language you use in texts and e-mails. Could it be 5% kinder?
- Smile at other people! Notice how their response makes you feel. Even with a mask on people can tell a smile.
- Surprise a friend with a kind handwritten note or text.

*I found it is the
 SMALL everyday
 deeds of ORDINARY
 folk that keep
 the DARKNESS at bay...
 Small acts of
 KINDNESS and LOVE.
 Gandalf
 THE HOBBIT*

**FATHER'S DAY STALL – Open Monday August 31st to Thursday September 3rd
 8am to 4pm**

Next week from Monday to Thursday the Music room will be available for students to purchase gifts for Father's Day (Sunday September 6th). The room will be open from 8am to 4:30pm every day. Items will be labelled with prices. Please pay with gold coins. Each child is limited to \$6. One family allowed in the room at a time and only touch what you are purchasing.

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 Gunditjmara 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 Michael Wood who turns 11 on Saturday and Ava Wood turns 8 next Thursday.

ON-LINE LEARNING

Our Prep/1's finding a comfortable spot for their 'Read to Self'.

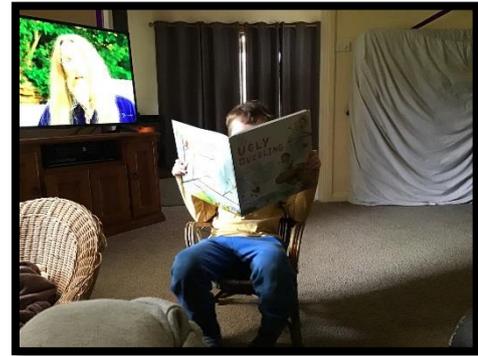
Anna Warrener



Ava Wood



Hunter Jennings



Jack Starick enjoying his 'passion' of drawing on Flourishing Friday



Shantae Keegan is using shadows in her photography.

Alex Jacobson has learned about Auslan this week. Here he sends a message.



Chaplains' Corner – Is your battery charged?

I'm sure it's happened to you. You go to a friend's place. The front door's shut so you push the doorbell. Then you wonder if it has actually made a sound inside. So, with a bit of hesitation, you try again. Nothing. Finally, you tap on the door. A friendly face greets you in no time. You mention that you pressed the button. The usual response? "Oh, we've been meaning to replace the battery." We had exactly that problem at our place. The batteries for the inside chime needed replacement.

Which raises an interesting question. A much more important one. How do we respond to the needs of others? Are we ready to open our doors of listening, encouragement, wisdom, or kindness? Or do we simply miss all the signals and continue on our merry way? Completely unaware of what's going on for our families, our friends, our neighbours or strangers? They try to press the button for our attention but we miss it. So, what might we do about this? Consider....

- **Make no mistake, everyone carries a burden of some sort** – They may need someone like you to hear them out. Not to solve the problem, whatever it may be. Just to listen to them, to feel for them, to let them know that you are concerned for them. Listening has its own calming effect.
- **It's easy to be distracted** – A bit like running the vacuum cleaner inside while someone is pushing the button outside. Nothing wrong with the vacuuming. But it drowns out the person pushing your front doorbell. Our lives are often too full with our own inner noise. We miss their needs.
- **So, how do we find a balance?** – The balance between coping with our own personal issues yet being available to others who are struggling with theirs? It's a toughie. And it requires real effort. Some of us are finely tuned to the pain of others. That's a real gift. But not everyone has that gift.
- **Beware of being self focussed** – It's too easy to fill every moment with our needs and dramas. If we're not careful, even our own families can become intrusions. This inner overload deafens us to what's happening for others, including those close to us. We may even lose our cool with them.
- **There is another way of shaping our days** – This does not mean ignoring what we have to deal with personally. Rather, it's a choice. Of starting each day being committed to listen carefully to what's happening for at least a couple of others, starting with our own family. It's our daily gift to others.
- **This is a life-giving routine** – A seemingly casual call to another may provide the lifeline they're hungering for, the caring heart they've never encountered before, the act of loving concern which paints a dollop of hope on the messy canvas of their broken life. Don't wonder about this, just do it.
- **And there's another angle here too** – The person who rings the doorbell of our lives may be heaven sent. That is, they turn up at the very moment when we are needing support, encouragement, and hope. It's not our listening ear that counts now. Instead, they have arrived to listen to us.
- **But we can so easily miss the opportunity** – The good friend who's arrived unexpectedly, who's always been there for us, who's tuned in to us. If they know us well, they may have already worked out that something is amiss. Be wise. Let them in on at least some of your pain, your struggle.

There's no point acting like you're strong when you're not. That is a foolish charade. That friend who's turned up and tuned in is able to listen, to reflect, to share, to encourage. Accept the gift being offered. Let them come alongside. Remember, the day will come when they may need you to be there for them. So, when someone presses your button, be sure that your inner batteries are fully charged.

John – stay in touch revsimmo@gmail.com 0428 780 421, Andreena 0428 233 082