

NUMBER 27

26<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

### REMINDERS FOR WEEK SIX: TERM THREE 2021

Friday August 27 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote Learning</li> </ul>
Monday August 30 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote Learning</li> </ul>
Tuesday August 31 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote Learning</li> </ul>
Wednesday September 1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote Learning</li> </ul>
Thursday September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote Learning</li> </ul>
Friday September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote Learning?</li> <li>• Return to School?</li> <li>• Arlee's Big Chop?</li> </ul>

### REMOTE LEARNING

We are back into the Remote Learning. It appears, that although this lockdown has been very difficult, families have accepted it and decided to have a optimistic and helpful attitude. This is clearly being reflected in the student's attitudes to their work.

As per previous lockdowns the health and wellbeing of all of our families is paramount. If you or someone in your family is struggling, please reach out for support. Sometimes all we need is someone to listen to our worries.

Today's wise counsel is provided in our Chaplain's Corner, please set aside 5 minutes to read.

### FLOURISHING FRIDAY TERM 3 EXCURSION





**PARENT SURVEY**

The survey remains open until Friday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Thank you to those 19 parents that have already completed the survey.**

**PREP 2022**

Enrolments - We are now taking school tours for 2022 enrolments. If you require an enrolment pack for a sibling, pop into the school office. Due to the current regulations we are unable to conduct school tours for 2022 enrolments.

**All schools in the Portland and District area encourage students to go to their local school. Your local school can be found by visiting <https://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au>**

**LEE GIBBONS.....PRINCIPAL**

## Chaplains' Corner – Making the most of our lockdown world

These lockdown days are anything but easy. As if you didn't already know that! May be it's worth taking a moment or two to figure out the why of it all. What is it about lockdown that makes life hard going? There will be many answers to that question. And probably all of them will be right in one way or another. The reality is that, whoever we are, we all have to cope with these frustrating days.

And there are a few additional realities to throw in for good measure. Like remote learning – and a big “Well done” to our Principal and teachers for their quick response this week. Another reality? There's not much joy being cooped up at home. And one more? Try not being able to catch up with other family members and friends. So, how do we cope with these very difficult times? Consider....

- **Our young ones pay a price** – Our kids miss their friends. A school without all its students has quiet classrooms with not much racket out in the yard. Our school koala comes and goes without the usual amount of attention. And our students miss the give and take of learning together.
- **Our teachers miss out too** – No matter how much effort goes into crafting enjoyable on line activities, they too miss the cheerful noise of a class at work. As creative as they all are, there's no substitute for conversation in a circle, or reading a book together, or swapping ideas.
- **So, the pressing question is about how to cope with lockdown?** – No quick answer here. One possibility is to do a few things you probably don't always do. Take a walk together to tick the exercise box. Or if you're on a quiet road, get the bikes out. Get out of the house for a while.
- **Balance the screen time at your place** – Yes, without our iPads remote learning wouldn't happen. That's time well spent. But monitor how much extra, non learning time is consumed by that same small screen. And are you paying attention to this? Every parent should be.
- **How about projects outside?** – Not every family has a keen gardener. But those who do can engage the crew in learning how to plant and care for the garden. There's a special joy in seeing flowers and vegies responding to our care. Our school garden is proof enough of this. So, get a garden going.
- **How about becoming fixer uppers?** – Every family has something that needs repairing. It's not clever to let the kids loose with power tools. But why not show them how to repair that broken handle, or tighten that screw, or fix the wood box? Pass on some simple skills to your kids.
- **What about a book a day?** – Or just a chapter if it's a longer story? Set some time aside for reading aloud. And get your kids to read to you. Turn the TV off. Set a reading half hour each day. In some families this has become a great tradition, protected from outside interferences.
- **Do you have any budding chefs?** – With the lockdown keeping us at home much of the time, perhaps this is a good time to make the kitchen a joyful learning place. If this might be a new activity, start simply. Monitor wisely. Pick simple recipes to begin with. Then savour the results.
- **Start writing a family history** – Do you have a family tree sorted? If not, how about phoning the grandparents to give you the inside running on your forebears? Work out the dates. Get out the biggest sheet of paper you can find and start the tree. See how far back you can go.

Lockdown is not fun. And it can get the better of us if we're not careful. So let's respond with fresh, simple, low cost ideas and activities. It just requires some imagination, time and energy. Have a go.

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