

NUMBER 34

28th OCTOBER 2021

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

REMINDERS FOR WEEK FIVE: TERM FOUR 2021



Friday October 29 th	•
Monday November 1 st	• Resilience Project 2:30pm
Tuesday November 2 nd	• Melbourne Cup Holiday
Wednesday November 3 rd	•
Thursday November 4 th	•
Friday November 5 th	• Flourishing Friday 2:30pm

RETURN TO SCHOOL

Many of our school activity restrictions will be eased from Monday November 1st.

This means we are currently planning for the following;

- **Grade 5/6 Dunkeld Camp - Monday November 8th to 10th**
- **Grade 2/3 Sleepover - Thursday November 11th (We have decided to include the Grade 3's as they missed their sleepover in 2020)**
- **Whole School Excursion – Friday November 12th**
- **Prep 2022 transition**
- **Grade 6 transition to secondary schools.**

As always please contact me if you have any questions.

FREE LUNCH – DIM SIMS

Our students enjoyed a special lunch last Friday organised by the adults pictured. Melanie, in the foreground, having a special treat on her birthday.



WELCOME BACK TO OUR STUDENTS



Great to have all our students back. They have quickly settled back to the school routine. The yard has been buzzing with lots of positive interactions, and of course the odd issue to be resolved and fixed up.

PREP 2022 – SCHOOL TOURS

From next Monday, November 1st we are able to cater for School Tours. We are now taking 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>

EXTRA-CURRICULA TERM 4 DATES

November	Tuesday	2 nd	-	Melbourne Cup Holiday-no school
	Friday	5 th	-	Flourishing Friday 2:30pm
	Monday	8 th	-	5/6 Dunkeld Camp
	Tuesday	9 th	-	5/6 Dunkeld Camp
	Wednesday	10 th	-	5/6 Dunkeld Camp
	Thursday	11 th	-	Grade 2/3 Sleepover
	Friday	12 th	-	Whole School Excursion
	Friday	19 th	-	Flourishing Friday 2:30pm
	Wednesday	24 th	-	AFL Clinic 9:30am
	Friday	26 th	-	Curriculum Day - Pupil Free Day
December	Wednesday	1 st	-	Parent Forum on Respectful Relationships 6:30pm
	Thursday	2 nd	-	Grade 5/6 students Workshop on Respectful Relationships
	Friday	3 rd	-	Report Writing Day – Pupil Free Day
	Wednesday	8 th	-	School Council 6pm
	Friday	17 th	-	Last Day of Term 4

2021 PUPIL FREE DAYS

Friday, 26th November Friday December 3rd

LEE GIBBONS.....PRINCIPAL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Jackson Warrener who turns 9 next Thursday.

BOOKCLUB ISSUE 7 is due back at school by tomorrow Friday, 29th October.

FRIDAY LUNCHES – Attached are lunch order forms for Spaghetti Bolognaise on Friday, 5th November.

WANTED – ICE CREAM CONTAINERS

Any size clean ice cream containers you do not need, would be most appreciated. Please drop them off at the office.

VIC WIDE FAMILY FUN FAIR – TICKETS TO GIVE AWAY

Carissa Oliver (Asher's mum) has 5 tickets for entry to the Vic Wide Family Fun Fair at Hamilton Showgrounds. Tickets are for this weekend; please see Nicole in the office if you are interested.

“THANK YOU”

Tomorrow, Friday 29 October, our school will celebrate World Teachers' Day and recognise the incredible contributions our teachers make to our community.

World Teachers' Day is an opportunity for our community to say 'thank you'.

On this day, we will recognise the passion our teachers have, and how teaching has extended beyond the classroom to maintain connections through remote learning.

Feel free to let our teachers know you appreciate their resilience, leadership and adaptability throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chaplains' Corner – Keeping the pandemic in perspective

Wow, we're back together again! No more remote learning, no more hassles in planning our days, no more stress in trying to keep everything together for everyone. Such difficult times. It hasn't been easy for any of us. And we've all had different ways of coping. Just because we are all very different.

Top marks to our mums, dads and students who've given the remote option their best shot. And, equally, top marks to our teachers who've invested countless hours in preparation, presentation and follow up. And we are a community once again, when our students can catch up with their friends, when the life and energy of the classroom returns with fresh enthusiasm and optimism. So, what do we do with the pandemic now? How do we help our kids handle this continuing reality?....

- **First up, let's be thankful for each other** – Doing our own thing might be good for a while. It's no fun long term. Talk up community. Remind your crew that we need each other, families and friends. That one of life's best gifts is to be present to each other, to encourage, to support, to listen.
- **Then, help your kids understand limits** – Here in the bush we've been spared some of the very restrictive city lock down measures. But we've had to keep our masks on. And check those QR codes. Limitations are about the greater good, of being sensitive to and caring for each other.
- **And here's a tough one** - There's a growing gap now between those who've had the vaccination and those not planning to. There are nasty putdowns firing up division, especially in the media. Help your kids to be respectful of other families who've made a judgement different from your own.
- **Help your family feel for others doing it tough** – May be the going's hard for you too. Empty shop fronts and eateries around town convey their own sad message. Behind those closed doors are awful mental and financial stresses. Talk with your family about the hidden pain of others.
- **So, what about the future?** – Our families wise up to most things very quickly. They hear your conversations. Our kids have almost certainly worked out that life has changed, that the old ways probably won't show up again. Acceptance of new ways, ongoing care and concern are essential.
- **Hit fear on the head** – The media hasn't helped us much. The fear of how the pandemic will upend us all sooner or later is simply unhelpful. When you talk with your kids, stay with the basic pandemic facts as best you understand them. Let the facts run the conversation, not the fear.
- **And keep the pandemic where it belongs** – Sure, it's headline stuff and will be for a while. But it's not the whole of life thankfully. Not anywhere near it. Our kids are getting back into their sports practice and games. Great. And reconnecting with distant families at long last. It's been too long.
- **Stay tuned in to your student's school life** – With remote learning history, don't switch off taking an active interest in what's happening now at school. The remainder of this term holds some wonderful times for our students. So much to look forward to, at long last. Enjoy what is yet to be.

In all of this, keep your own heart and mind at peace. It's one thing to be caring for your family. It's quite another to be caring for yourself. There's always the danger of losing sight of our own need for life's quiet moments, for recharging, for getting a fresh grip on what's happening inside us. None of us have all the answers, but we do have each other. Yes, let's make sure we value and enjoy our school community – for our kids and ourselves.

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