

NUMBER 31

7th October 2021

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

REMINDERS FOR WEEK TWO: TERM FOUR 2021

Friday October 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep/1/2M at School • 3/4/5/6 Remote Learning
Monday October 11 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep/1/2M at School • 3/4C, 5/6A & 5/6T Remote Learning
Tuesday October 12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep/1/2M & 3/4C at School • 5/6A & 5/6T Remote Learning
Wednesday October 13 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep/1/2M & 3/4C at School • 5/6A & 5/6T Remote Learning
Thursday October 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep/1/2M, 5/6T & 5/6A at School • 3/4C Remote Learning
Friday October 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep/1/2M, 5/6T & 5/6A at School • 3/4C Remote Learning

TERM 4 - Short term planning

Normally we have a whole list of activities planned that students will undertake during the term. The current situation though requires us to be very flexible in our planning and to always expect the unexpected.

We will try and keep everyone informed of any special events that are occurring. Please remember that events may happen at short notice or cancelled at short notice.

Take care everyone!

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

Next Tuesday and Wednesday we welcome back 3/4C for 2 days. They will then attend on the 19th & 20th as well.

Thursday and Friday we welcome back 5/6T and 5/6A. They will then attend on the 26th & 27th as well.

The plan is for all students to be back at school on Tuesday October 26th

ATHLETICS

In a non-covid world Charlie Arnold, Arlee Holmes-Wilson and Paddy Impey would have been competing at the Greater Region Championship that was to be held in Ballarat tomorrow.

We acknowledge their efforts in qualifying for this event.

SWIMMING & CAMPS

- Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel the Grade3/4 camp.
- We are still keeping our hopes alive that we can have the Grade 5/6 camp in November. We understand that this is unlikely but won't cancel until we know for sure, as we understand how important camp is for our students.
- The swimming program has been put on hold due to restrictions. If they lift, we may have a shorter swimming program.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Matilda Smith who turns 8 next Wednesday.

Portland Tigers has a well-established successful women's football department, with pathways from All Girls Auskick to competitive teams for both teenagers and adults. There are opportunities to play AFL for girls and women, and Portland Tigers would love to welcome you to the yellow and black! They'd love the chance to meet new women and girls who enjoy the game (or are interested in trying it) and are willing to have a go. The opportunities are endless. Even if you are just starting out, remember AFLW players like Daisy Pearce, Moana Hope and Tayla Harris had to learn the ropes as well.

To kick start getting more females into footy within our community, Portland Tigers will be holding a 3-week come and try program for girls aged between 10-14 – no skill needed, no boots needed, no ball needed, no payment needed. If playing is not your thing, but you love the game we also have a number of ways you can be involved in and around the club.

COVID-19 capacity restrictions are to be followed, please bring own drink bottle. To register, contact 0492453939 or follow the link <https://form.jotform.com/212723178042854>

PREP 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 – Where's that skip bin?

Ever tried downsizing? Sometimes it just happens. Too much stuff cluttering up the bedrooms, the cupboards, the shed. We have a manic attack and decide it's time to get some order around the place. And, of course if you're moving house, there's no choice. When Judith and I left our home in Melbourne all those years ago, we had a mammoth clean up and throw out. Even had a garage sale which half the neighbourhood rocked up to.

Not sure about you but there was a downside to it all. It was hard to put the sentimental bits and pieces in the skip. They didn't deserve that. But there was no space. We got torpedoed though. Our boys decided that they had things they had to keep. So, into the boxes it went. Where are the boxes now? Untouched in our shed here. Haven't been opened in twenty plus years. Yet, the whole idea of ditching things which surround us is not always a bad thing, depending on what you want to get rid of. Consider....

- **Hard as it might be, getting rid of stuff is not the big deal** – Sure, if we've been hanging on to bits and bobs which simply take up space and for which there is no possible use, giving these the flick is next to painless. Actually, we end up celebrating the fact that their departure has given us usable space at last.
- **The hard stuff to get rid of is not what's in those cupboards or the shed** – It's what's inside us. The internal world of our own lives, our own feelings, our own past, our own pain and disappointment. The heavy load that lingers behind so much of how we feel and what makes us tick.
- **It comes as no surprise then that this kind of load hides really well** – A bit like what's tucked away in the boxes of our boys in our shed that have been there for years. The hurts of mind, body and soul linger quietly in our system making us very easy prey when life becomes tough and tricky.
- **Perhaps we've suffered at the hands of others** – Maybe we have memories that go back into our childhood years. Times when we were consistently put down, criticised, never feeling good enough. Always being held responsible when something went wrong. We know what "abuse" really means.
- **Or maybe we've made some bad calls of our own** – We're all pretty good at this one. There's no one on the face of this earth who hasn't run up some diabolical mistakes in their time. We can't believe we actually behaved as we did. Words, actions and outbursts which have been a huge setback for others.
- **And in our quiet moments we regret these behaviours** – We wish we hadn't said that. Or done that. Or told that lie. Or entered into that deception. We scratch our heads now in a futile effort to figure out how on earth we allowed that situation to go belly up. And that failure sits there laughing at us.
- **There's something we need to do if we have the courage** – And the maturity. We have to look ourselves in the eye and accept that what's happened has happened. And in some situations that we've played a major role in that breakdown, that hurt, that unhappiness.
- **We need to name the demons that chase us** – The events, the setbacks, the upsets that have shaped the way we cope with ourselves and others. There's a window there that delivers fresh light on how we can find better ways forward into our tomorrows. How we can ditch the rubbish that spoils us.

There is a way forward but it's not an easy road. To be able to forgive ourselves is a pretty good place to start. To put our mistakes in the emotional skip bin and see them off. And to have the courage and wisdom to forgive others who've made life difficult, even unbearable for us. To let that pain go into the skip bin too. So, what needs tidying up? Skip bin the heavy stuff and enjoy a new season of life.

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