



'A great place to grow up'

NEWSLETTER

Community Liaison Officer News



Ms Simone Dawson

Term 1 is always a very busy time at our school as the Community Liaison Officer- we develop and put plans in place to support students who need a little bit extra to do well at school. We have been holding Individual Learning Plan meetings to make sure learning and social/emotional needs are investigated. We have met with families and agencies to hold Round Table discussions to see if they may be extra strategies that might help our little people do well at school. We have developed Response Plans for students needing additional behavioural support.

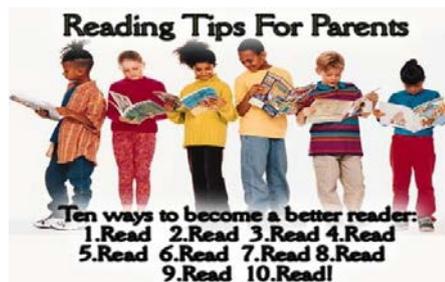
All the plans we put in place to help students who need that little bit extra are developed on the basis that students do the best they can with what they have. It may be that we need to upskill our little people in various areas such as social/emotional learning. We work on the idea that if a child needs extra help in math's we give them extra learning support, if a child needs extra support in literacy we give them extra support and learning strategies in reading and writing- so if a child needs extra support in behaviour we endeavor to support them learn the skills that they need to succeed in our school environment. We work consistently on positive behavior support believing that what we focus on is what we get more of. All of these ideas are best current practice based on research.



We have set up our kitchen and garden space to cater for students who may need extra support during play. The space is open to everyone during breaks and we have lots of games and fun activities. We are also building on our current garden set up. We have Bunnings coming in during week 10 on Monday 9 April from 1:00pm to 1:40pm and Wednesday 11 April from 1:00pm to 1:40pm to help us prepare beds and plant new seedlings ready for our next growing season. It would be great to have some parents come along and join in our planting sessions.

Our teachers have been attending professional learning sessions targeting literacy learning. There are lots of new ideas which will be exciting to see embedded across at school. One of the things that came up was the need for each child to read for 20 minutes every day and the lifelong outcomes that this provides. We are using practices that encourage a lifelong love of reading and writing and your part at home is vital as well. Research shows that it is imperative for students to be reading for 20 minutes every day up until at least year 6. This could be independent or shared reading.

Cheers all, Simone Dawson
Executive Teacher
Community Liaison Officer



The Parts of a Parent Reader





Dates to Remember

27 Mar	Preschool Botanic Gardens Excursion
29 Mar	Board & P&C Meeting
29 Mar	Preschool Botanic Gardens Excursion
30 Mar	Good Friday
2 Apr	Easter Monday
5 Apr	Blundell's Cottage Excursion Yr2
6 Apr	Year 5 Assembly
9 Apr	Bunnings Visit to school 1:00pm-1:40pm
11 Apr	Bunnings Visit to school 1:00pm- 1:40pm
12 Apr	Cross Country
13 Apr	Last Day Term 1
30 Apr	First Day Term 2

Notes sent home with this issue

28 Mar Athletic Carnival Sausage Sizzle

ICAS Reminder

Your child is invited to participate in the 2018 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). For over 20 years ICAS has taken place each year in schools throughout Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, the Pacific region and South Africa.

ICAS provides an opportunity for all Years 3 – 6 students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. It provides teachers, parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results in the areas of English, Mathematics, Spelling, Science and Writing.

All notes and payment need to be returned to the school by Friday 13 April 2018.

Cross Country Reminder

Just a reminder that our school cross country carnival will take place in week 10 this term (Thursday 12th April) on our school oval and around Theodore. All students have been practising their distance running and are encouraged to continue at home, as physical fitness is an important key to living a healthy lifestyle.

School News

Hot reads

To promote a love of reading for pleasure, we are introducing a new newsletter article to our weekly content. This will showcase what is currently being read by students and staff and a brief overview of what makes it a good read. We aim to provide students with a look into the world of books and stories that brighten our day. Look out for some good reads ready for the holidays!

Wellbeing matters

In last week's newsletter, we looked at how power can be misused in relationships. To identify bullying, we also look for whether the behaviour is ongoing and repeated. If someone behaves in a mean or aggressive way on a single occasion, it is not bullying, even though the behaviour is not respectful or acceptable. Bullying can be ongoing through repeated actions or it can be through the use of threats which create the fear that it will happen again. In fact, we know just the fear that unwanted actions will be repeated can create distress and harm. The ongoing nature of bullying adds to the power imbalance, as the person being bullied feels powerless and unable to stop it from happening. So, to describe behaviour as bullying it must be an ongoing and repeated misuse of power in a relationship. Single incidents or random inappropriate actions are not bullying.

Identifying when an ongoing or repeated misuse of power exists helps schools to respond more appropriately to bullying. This is part of the work we continue to talk with students about through our social emotional learning to make Theodore a safe place to be.

Source:

<https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/layouts/15/bnw/videos/videotranscripts.ashx?vid=102>





Year 3 and Year 4 News



WOW! It's hard to believe we are already in week 8 of Term 1. We have had a very busy start to the year in Mereki. Although only a few weeks ago; camp seems but a distant memory. We had such a good time at Birrigai learning how to gather different sized wood to build our own fires. We worked in small groups to collect thin short pieces called kindling as well as longer, thicker pieces. We were shown how to construct a conical shape using the kindling wood. Using our knowledge of symmetry we balanced the pieces opposite each other until the shape was formed. The next step was to repeat the conical shape using the longer, thicker sticks. We used our knees as the guide to how tall we could build. We gently scrunched up newspaper and placed it in the gaps in the wood. Each member of the group had a turn to strike a match and light the newspaper. We were all very excited to watch our fires burn and while we were waiting for the flames to die down we were shown how to wrap damper dough around a long stick which we then cooked in the red hot embers. When the damper was brown all over, we enjoyed eating it with golden syrup. We used buckets of water to extinguish our fires; we really like the sizzling sound the fire made when the cold water hit the coals and the big puffs of black smoke which rose up from the fire pit. We had a long bush walk which led us to the 'Birrigai Rockshelter'. Some of us were brave enough to climb through one of the caves and we learnt about the importance of Gibraltar Peak to the Ngunnawal People.

Last week at the Swimming Carnival we wore our house colours and cheered our fellow, Allen, Rodda, Jennings and Fox 'housemates' on. There were competitors from both year 3 and 4 and they all did an amazing job swimming in races. We had a fantastic time doing rotations at the pool. We did noodle racers, used sponges to collect water and squeeze it into buckets, raced our peers to collect balls and the favourite of them all...the water slide.

We have also been busy outdoors practising for the Cross Country which will be held on Thursday the 12th of April.

Kind regards, Ali Haddy, Jen Lonergan, Denby Lovell, Ben McCarthy & Jodie White.





P&C News

We are very pleased to announce that after last night's successful meeting all the positions on the P&C for 2018 are filled and we are off to a great start!

Your new P&C office holders are:

President: Carrie Timmer

Vice President: Rosemary Woodbridge

Secretary: Laura Henry

Treasurer: Nicola Franklin

Assistant Treasurer: Matt Gard

Fundraising Committee Convener: Narelle Haywood

Executive Committee members: Liset de Kojer, Lynda Charnock, Gavin Haywood & Michelle Bruce

Fundraising Committee: Emily Rowbotham, Rhonda Ball, Nicola Franklin & Gavin Haywood

School Banking Officer: Alexia Kassionis

Uniform Liaison: Nicola Franklin

High School Liaison: Michelle Bruce

Preschool P&C Convener/Fundraising Officer: Jemima Livingstone

Preschool P&C Secretary: Jacinta Margaronis

Preschool P&C Finance Officer: Kim Fitch

Preschool P&C Assistant Finance Officer: Roslyn Prasad

