



Achievement, Confidence & Pride

Thursday, 20 May 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big thank you is extended to all the families who managed the return to school in an orderly manner.

The Prep to grade 2 students have enjoyed meeting up with their classmates and are settled back into the school routine.

The teachers at Avondale Primary School are to be congratulated on the way in which they continued the learning for your children in an online platform over the past five weeks. They worked quickly to prepare materials and transition to the online platform to ensure continuity in the program and have students engaged with their learning. The grade 3-6 teachers continue to operate in that environment but I am sure, both teachers and students are looking forward to being back in the classroom with things getting back to normal.

Thank you to families for your patience and understanding as we have brought the students back to school. We will monitor this process during the week as this will inform our processes for the return of the Years 3-6 classes.

Grade 3- 6 return

Details on how the Grades 3-6 classes enter the school will be provided later in the week.

The department has advised parents drop their children quickly so that we can get all students into the yard in a timely manner. Please observe social distancing during drop off and pick up and do not remain outside to socialise.

Government Grant

As many of you are aware the school received a grant of \$9.02 million last week. A subcommittee of school council has worked over the past few years to develop plans for a new school however, the funding information stipulates the money is for a gym, a learning centre and a refurbishment.

A group of school representatives are meeting with Ben Carroll this week to seek clarification on what facilities the funding will gain for the school.

Assessment

Over the next few weeks the teachers will be conducting assessments to inform their report writing. They will be doing some of the assessments online so it is important that parents allow their child to communicate with the teacher independently.

End of semester reports will be amended to reflect the changed circumstances created by learning online. Reports will comment on Literacy, Numeracy and Personal Development in relation to the transition to online learning.

Prep 2021 enrolments

If you intend to enrol at Avondale Primary School online enrolments are open. See the school website for the forms.

Dr Bette Prange

Acting Principal

Inspirational Quote:

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." – Dr. Seuss.



Reminder; Grade 6 Transition forms

All forms must be filled in, signed and returned to Avondale Primary School by **Friday 29th May, 2020.**

Return to School

It was a relatively smooth return for the students to school. We really appreciated the punctual drop off and pick-up. We implemented a number of strategies for the safe return of the Prep to Grade 2 students on **Tuesday 26**. We followed the advice of the Victorian Chief Medical Officer and the Department of Education when creating our processes. Every school context is different and some of our processes may differ to other schools. We have our policy on the school website, Compass information and this newsletter advice.

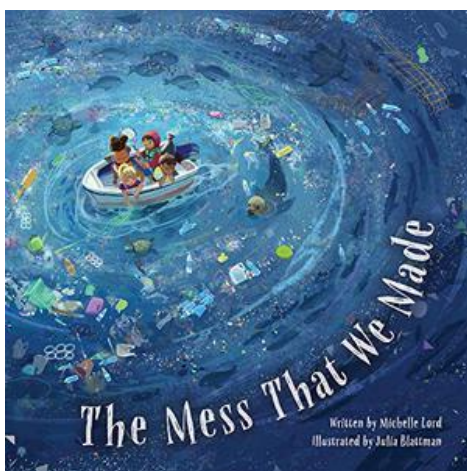
Parents are **NOT permitted** onsite. This will be enforced for the safety of all. The office staff are not available at the beginning of the day. We need to have a streamlined approach for the entry of students and manage this in an efficient manner so that we can get the day off to a positive start. This is not what parents are used to but it is necessary for the well-being of teachers, students and community – we are all in this together.

Online learning Survey

The Department of Education is keen to learn about the parent and student online remote learning experience. A Compass notice has been sent to the Grade 3-6 parents. If you could complete the survey that would be appreciated. The students will do this as a class activity.

Book Review - Tried and Treasured

The Mess That We Made.



Written by Michelle Lord and

Illustrated by Julia Blattman

This informational picture story book would be an asset to any library as it highlights 'The Great Pacific Garbage Patch' and how serious it is. Written to the rhythm of 'The house that Jack built'

The story starts with four diverse children drifting in the ocean seeing the cumulative effects of garbage in the ocean and how it enters the ocean food chain. But then we also move on to see people cleaning-up the garbage, which sends a positive message that we can change our world for the better. After reading this book, I believe it' best suited to children 6 to 10.

by Liz Oruba



Saving (Y)our World Instalment 10: Bring the Bees

by: Morrigan R

I bet that you don't like bees. They sting! They buzz! They hurt! However, did you know that bees are very important to humanity? *Without* them we would not have nearly enough fruit or veg to eat. Without bees, there would be no pretty flowers or really any plants at all! Yes, there are other pollinators, but bees are by far the most effective. We need bees, but why make a *buzz*? Find out in this week's instalment of Saving (Y)our world!

Bees are the best little pollinators. In fact, of all the plants that need other organisms to pollinate them, bees pollinate around 80% worldwide! In a world without bees, fruit, vegetables, nuts and flowers would be rare and hard to get. Only richer people would be able to afford veggies. People with not much money would probably only be able to afford potatoes. Fruit would probably be considered a rare delicacy. We might be heading towards that world. Bees need very specific conditions to live. They are suffering from climate change. Humans are clearing huge areas of forest, taking wild bees away with it. And even worse, pesticides (we will talk more about those next week) are killing bees that are just trying to pollinate gardens. Do they deserve this? Of course not!

Now bees may pollinate 80% of all earth's crops, but even knowing that, lots of people are terrified of bees. I know from experience: the second a bee turns up, everyone starts running. But bees only sting if you antagonise them. In fact, they are *more likely* to sting you if you run away screaming! And something else, you hurt them more than they hurt you! While you get a slight pain, the bee *dies*. You shouldn't be afraid of bees. The best thing you can do is just leave them alone.

What can you do? Well first off, if there are any hives near where you live, leave them alone. Bees will protect their hives at the loss of their own lives. And since our bees are so important in pollination, we shouldn't make them need to. To help the native blue banded bees that don't actually live in hives, get yourself a bee hotel. Bee hotels have lots of little holes of different sizes and shapes. Bee hotels are mainly for bees, but they provide a safe shelter for all kinds of bugs! Once you put your bee hotel up, leave it there so you don't disturb your 'customers'.

So, we need to save our bees. The tiny bugs are important to the survival of all of humanity. We need them, and they need you! I hope you help our tiny friends before it is too late.

Morrigan Raven signing out. I hope you join me next week for another instalment of saving (Y)our world.

"If we die, we are taking you with us," -the bees



SIMONDS CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Simonds Catholic College is a small inner city, secondary boys school of approximately 430 students.

We are accepting Year 7 2021 and Year 7 2022 enrolments.
Limited places are also available for Years 8 to 12.

Find out more about the Simonds Catholic College community,
inspiring young men to become active, global citizens.

Tour bookings can be made online at www.trybooking.com/BGI0G or
contact our Registrar on 9321 9207 or info@sccmelb.catholic.edu.au.

Where the individual matters