



Achievement, Confidence & Pride

Thursday, 23 July 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend a very big 'thank you' to the parents and guardians who had children on site last week. Your punctual drop-off and prompt collection at the beginning and the end of the day was really appreciated.

COVID 19

Please understand that the impact of COVID 19 has required schools to implement a range of strategies that ultimately distance families from staff and each other. We have been asked to respond to the advice provided by the Chief Health Officer and that has meant some vastly different processes in relation to your attendance at school and communications with staff. So long as we all follow the rules and do the right things we might be through this sooner rather than later.

Wearing Masks

Students who attend primary school for on-site supervision will not be required to wear a face covering. Students who are aged 12 by Year 6 will not be required to wear face coverings. The Victorian Chief Health Officer has advised that it is not practical to require some primary school students to wear face coverings while others are not required to. However, students can wear a mask if they want to.

The Department of Education has advised *'Parents/carers will be required to wear face coverings whenever they leave the house, including for school drop off and pick up.'*

It would be appreciated if all could follow the advice provided by the Premier and the Chief Health Officer so that we can get through this pandemic as quickly and safely as possible.

Safety Warning

You will note there was a Compass alert last week regarding a stranger speaking with students in the local area. Please have a conversation with your child and provide them with strategies if they are ever in a situation where they are approached by strangers. Please reiterate the need to tell you and to report the matter to their teacher.

I have asked teachers to go over this again with students during their learning program.

Protocols for Online learning

Protocols for online learning were distributed on Compass. Please note the need for parents to email any queries and they will endeavour to get back to you in a timely manner.

End of Semester reports

Teachers are currently completing the proof reading stage for the reports. They will be emailed to parents. You are advised to download the report to your computer or a USB Compass on 24 July. If you do not receive the report please check your 'junk' emails.

Curriculum Days

Staff will be involved in a curriculum Day on Thursday 30 July – that will be a **student free day**. There will be no online learning that day.

Dr Bette Prange

Acting Principal

Inspirational Quote:

"You've got to get up every morning with determination if you're going to go to bed with satisfaction." – **George Lorimer**



Parent teacher Interviews

Parent teacher Interviews will be held on **Tuesday 11 August**. That will be a student free day and there will be **no onsite learning or online learning**. Parents who need their child supervised on that day can contact OSCH who will be providing a holiday program.

Instructions for booking a time will be sent to parents via Compass. Interviews will be conducted by phone. Please ensure your contact details are up to date.

Advice from the Department of Education (20 July 2020)

In line with advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has announced that those in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire must wear a face covering when they leave home from 11.59pm on Wednesday 22 July 2020.

Face coverings will be mandatory for people aged 12 and over. These measures will slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and help protect the community. In schools, this means that school-based staff and secondary school students in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire will be required to wear a face covering.

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has advised that any face covering will be acceptable – it does not need to be a surgical mask. More information about different face coverings is provided at the end of this message.

For schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire

All school-based staff must wear face coverings at school, and when travelling to and from school. Teachers and education support staff will not be required to wear face coverings while teaching, but those who wish to do so, can. Teachers should wear face coverings in other areas of the school when not teaching (for example, in the staffroom, on yard duty and when providing first aid or taking temperatures), and when travelling to and from school.

Students who attend primary school for on-site supervision will not be required to wear a face covering. Students who are aged 12 by Year 6 will not be required to wear face coverings. The Victorian Chief Health Officer has advised that it is not practical to require some primary school students to wear face coverings while others are not required to.

Students or staff who have a medical condition - including problems with their breathing, a serious skin condition on the face, a disability or a mental health condition - are not required to wear a face covering. This includes students who attend specialist schools.

Parents/carers will be required to wear face coverings whenever they leave the house, including for school drop off and pick up.



Helping students maintain a positive outlook

All students respond in different ways to these strange times we find ourselves in. After these extended holidays some students and families may struggle with returning to routine and starting school on time. You may wish to consider scheduling fun activities at the start of the day. Establishing a set routine and agreeing on a set of boundaries supports student mental health and wellbeing, promotes learning engagement and supports positive behaviours. It is a good idea when learning at home to discuss how that will work and negotiate a 'timetable'.

You may need to regularly talk about classroom expectations and routines with your children. Think about how you can negotiate tasks and deadlines and break larger assessment tasks into smaller chunks where possible to help students experience success and support their engagement. Encourage children to reflect and share their experiences of learning from home and worries about coronavirus (COVID-19). Please note that repetitive discussions about fears and concerns may not be helpful so just check in from time to time.

It will help maintain a positive mindset if children can keep in touch with classmates, cousins and friends. Factor in times when they can meet up online or chat on the phone. Encourage your children to spend time with people who make them laugh and feel happy, get outdoors, get creative, listen to music, eat well, get more sleep and talk to someone if they need. Ensure they take a break from social media and electronic devices.

In addition, it is helpful to normalise talking about mental health and wellbeing in an age appropriate way. Reassure students and understandable to experience a range of emotions about coronavirus (COVID-19). Whatever their reaction, it is okay, it is normal. They won't be the only one feeling this way, and the way they feel will vary from week to week.

Parents please note; it is a Student Free day on Thursday 30 July.

The Before and after care group have a day program available if parents want to book in.

<https://www.communityshcservices.com>

Canteen will be available Monday and Friday next week – orders through flexi schools

Prep students for 2021

If you have a child ready for enrolment in Prep for next year, (or you have neighbours or friends with Prep enrolments), can you please contact the office to complete the enrolment papers.



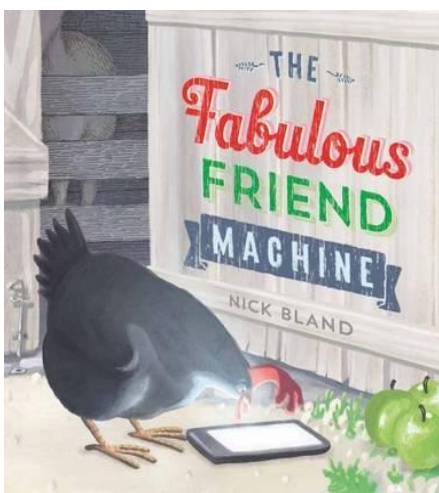
Onsite learning – prep activity.



Our onsite Grade Preps are learning about the letter 'u' this week and made Uncle Upton masks which is a character in our Little Learners Love Literacy phonics storybook called Milo's Birthday Surprise.

Book Reviews – Tried and Treasured

The Fabulous Friend Machine by Nick Bland



This is a cautionary tale about Popcorn the most social farmyard chicken. As Popcorn goes about her day she is dazzled by the light coming from the corner of the barn. She discovers a tiny screen and as she taps her screen a whole new world opens up. Popcorn becomes obsessed by social media and her new on screen friends. As she falls into the social media frenzy she completely forgets about her barnyard friends. Bedazzled by all her onscreen

*friends, she is lured into a giant life threatening fraud. Luckily her real farmyard friends arrive to save the day. A strong message for children about internet safety and real friendships. Children 4 to 8 years would love this. **By Liz Oruba***



Saving (Y)our World Instalment 15: Looking to the future 1: Solar Windows by: Morrigan R

Now, I've talked to you a lot about what is wrong with our current practices and I've identified things we need to change, however for this term I will ask the question: what are the newest technologies available now or that we are working toward that could create a greener future? Perhaps you already know about these things and even use them, but then again perhaps you don't. However, whether you know about them or not, in this term's Saving (Y)our World you will learn what they are, what benefits they do or could bring, and how they will better us in the future!

Now, I wonder if you've ever heard of a solar window, which is just what it sounds like: a window that absorbs solar energy!?! Solar windows are see-through solar panels that you can put in a window frame, and then...ta-da, your window starts producing energy! This incredible technological breakthrough will help to reduce pollution from coal energy production and lead to a more sustainable future.

If you had solar windows in your house, you wouldn't necessarily need traditional rooftop solar panels, freeing up your roof for other things, such as roof gardens. But we'll get to those next week 😊. Solar windows are great because they save space and you can use them even if you live in an apartment, making solar energy available to everyone. If you have a window frame, you can have solar windows and if there are solar windows, that's one less house powered by fossil fuels.

One day, in our sustainable future, solar windows will entirely replace regular windows! Imagine that world: fossil fuel emissions will be dramatically reduced and communities will generate their own energy that they can even share with their neighbours. If one day someone didn't make enough solar energy themselves to get through the day, another house could donate their excess energy, helping to both improve the environment and create community. Solar windows are definitely in our future!

So, you have come to the end of my first looking to the future instalment. Join me next time for Looking to the future 2: Green roofs. Have a good day!

"If such energy is coming from the sun, why are we digging the earth?" - Anonymous



Learningland

Learningland, Moonee Ponds is a place where children can explore language, literacy and numeracy in a fun filled and stimulating environment, all in a class room setting.

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Letters and numbers (3-4 years)

1 hour duration
A letter and number learnt each week.
Arts and crafts to ensure fun while learning to write and recognition.

Reading Rockets (4-5 years)

2 hour duration
A letter learnt each week.
Numeracy activities.
Arts and crafts
Positive teamwork activities
Confidence building

Saturday Class (prep & grade 1 children)

2 hour duration
Supports children through first few years of primary school.
Covers sight words, sentence building, story writing, reading and how to understand the concept of text.



We teach the
Letterland
Program

It was created to teach phonics using a story based approach.

Contact Cara
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FREE TRIAL OFFERED