



Achievement, Confidence & Pride

Thursday, 13 August 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,
Here we are again battling the vagaries of online learning while trying to remain positive about getting back to some sense of normal!

Well done to families for managing to help your children with learning from home whilst you're probably trying to figure out how you can work from home yourselves. We know that this experience hasn't been pleasant for most of us, but let's concentrate on some of the positives. This Stage 4 has resulted in more family time together; you learnt more about how your child learns and you've been more engaged with your child's learning.

We want you to know that not everyone likes home learning; it is often not a student or a teacher's preferred method of learning. Everyone wants things to go back to normal where we could actually go to school, go to work, or go out somewhere without having to social distance and wear a mask. Just remember if we all do the right thing in the short term we will get there for the long term!

Parent Teacher Interviews

Hopefully parents have had an opportunity to discuss feedback from the teachers with your children.

Just a reminder to check your 'Junk mail' folder if you have not seen or received your child's report.

National Science Week (15 - 23 Aug)

Next week is Science week so we encourage you to find some science activities around the house to do with your children. You can conduct simple experiments such as putting a piece of celery in a glass with some coloured

water (use food dye). See what happens over the week. Maybe dust off the old Science Kit that is packed away and see what they suggest!

As Spring is on the way perhaps germinate some seeds in a bit of soil in an empty egg carton or on a piece of wet paper towel. Take some cuttings and see if you can grow new plants.

Farewell Mr Mulroyan



As you would know Mr Mulroyan was on Long Service Leave for the first half of the year. He has now officially retired! Mr Mulroyan was Principal at Avondale Primary School for 19 years and during that time he made a significant contribution to the development of the school. He also made an impact on the many students and families he encountered during his time here. On behalf of the school community we thank Mr Mulroyan for all his work with the school and the local community and wish him all the best in retirement.

Dr Bette Prange

Acting Principal

Inspirational Quote:

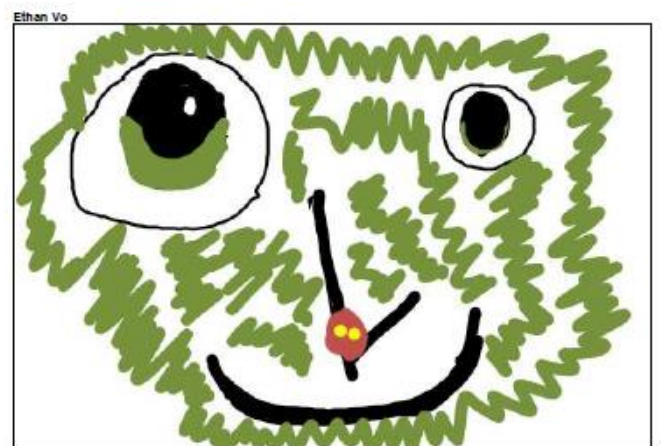
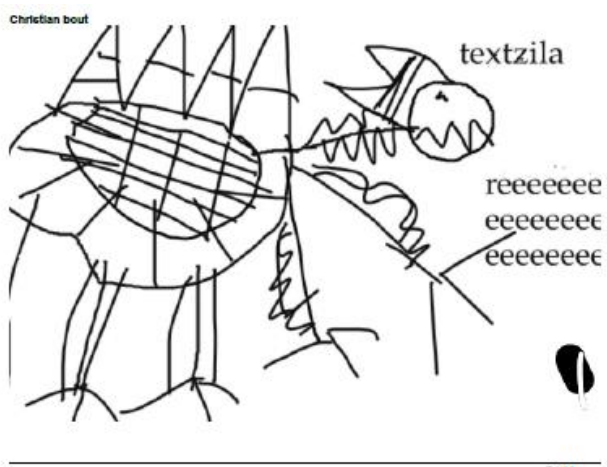
"Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism." **David M. Burns.**



Grade 5/6 Learning online.

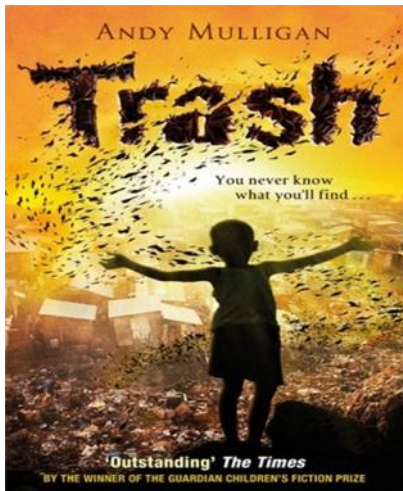
While online learning, we have been developing our ICT skills and interacting with different programs. As a class, we experiment and practise our new skills regularly and have found a way to utilise it in a way that helps us stay connected during online learning. We share and contribute more creative aspects of our personalities by participating in Friday Fun activities which we vote on as a class. Lately, we have incorporated a whiteboard program to play Pictionary and Mr Squiggle. In Friday Fun everyone can participate, laugh, joke and express themselves creatively in our safe and supportive online classroom. We use this time to check-in with each other, reward our hard work and stay connected for both our mental health and to maintain our classroom family.

Here are some of our MR Squiggles we produced using our new whiteboard program.





Book Reviews – Tried and Treasured



Trash by Andy Mulligan

Trash is set in the Philippines and is the tale of three boys, ranging from 9 to 14 years that live and work on the Behala rubbish dump. It follows their lives which are tied to a life cycle of poverty and lack of opportunity. They have little to no education despite access to the dumpsite missionary school to which they reach out in desperate times to simply survive. One day as Raphael is working through the loads of rubbish he discovers a wallet and tells his friend Gordo which in turn shares with Rat (Jun-Jun). The wallet holds money, and a secret to be unlocked and wrong to be righted which leads to the highest level of government. As they unravel the secret they must deal with the consequences which are harsh and extreme.

Ultimately the aim is to escape the poverty, moving to an island and becoming fishermen with their own boat.

*The story is told by multiple narrators, but primarily the three boys and two other people who help them with their quest. The story builds in excitement with an eye opener into the poverty and ferocity of their lives. Certainly not for the meek and truly insightful. Best for 11 years plus. **By Liz Oruba***



Saving (Y)our World instalment 17: Looking to the future 4: Biochar **by: Morrigan R**

Welcome back to looking to the future! Today we will be talking about biochar, or charcoal soil, and how it will help us in the future. It may sound like a strange idea; however, it has many benefits that we will explore during this instalment. I hope you're all *biocharged* up and ready to read this week's instalment of saving (Y)our World.

Biochar is charcoal that can be mixed into soil. Biochar adds fertility to the soil and gives plants extra nutrients. As well as adding nutrients, biochar absorbs Carbon Dioxide and other harmful greenhouse gasses, which slows down global warming. If every potted plant had biochar in its soil, we could drastically reduce the amount of harmful chemicals in the air.

Biochar can also attract water and hold it in the soil, keeping the plant happy and healthy. Biochar can reduce the risk of soil-borne diseases (yes, there is such a thing), increase agricultural productivity and even keep the soil healthy. Biochar is a great asset for any garden. Better yet, in the future, it can be produced in large quantities from materials like crop waste, meaning we can turn a waste product into a carbon dioxide eating and plant growing super soil booster!

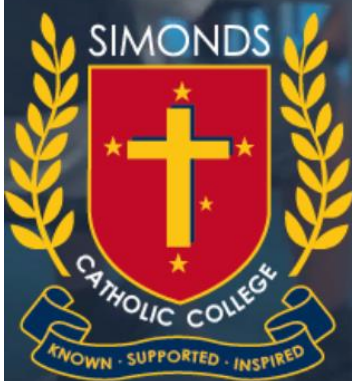
But you don't need to wait. For gardeners, the future is now! Biochar is cheap and easy to get, as it is literally just normal charcoal. If you have a firepit in your backyard, you can crumble up the charcoal and use it as biochar. Biochar is an easy resource that you can use right now in your garden! So, what are you waiting for? Find yourself some charcoal and get started!

So, you have come to the end of my fourth looking to the future instalment. Join me next time for Looking to the future 5: Wave Energy. Have a good day!

"Biochar is biodiversity" -Dr N Sai Bhaskar Reddy



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TO BEGIN THE ENROLMENT PROCESS.
LIMITED PLACES
FOR 2020 & 2021 ENTRY ARE
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AT ALL YEAR LEVELS.



YEAR 7
2022
APPLICATIONS
OPEN