



Achievement, Confidence & Pride

NEWSLETTER No. 32 - Thursday, October 22, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

Our students have continued to engage in their learning in a positive and focused way. Well done! A big thank you to our parents for adhering to the physical distancing guidelines and wearing masks at pick up and drop off times.

A TEACHING AND LEARNING FOCUS ON READING

It has been delightful to visit classrooms this week and see students engaged in Reading.

Across the school, we are consistently focusing on building knowledge and confidence in:

- decoding
- fluency and expression
- comprehension

Our students are developing reading skills and strategies through Guided Reading/Reciprocal teaching and Independent Reading to build their capacity to become life-long readers. There is nothing better than snuggling up with a good book that you just want to finish. Just ask Chloe in 5/6A who could not put her new book down!

An important component of our Reading program is Home Reading, which provides many opportunities for children to consolidate the skills and strategies they are using when reading at school. We encourage you to read every night with your child to help them develop a passion for literature.

SAFETY FIRST AT AVONDALE PRIMARY

STUDENT SAFETY

To ensure the safety of all children, it is important that we have clarity around the processes in place for student collection at the end of the day. All students need to know:

- which gate they are being picked up from
- where to wait if there is not an adult to pick them up yet
- that if they are going home with a friend or classmate, that this is organised with parents and the classroom teacher is aware of these arrangements
- if they are walking or riding their bike home, it is important they go straight home

Thank you for reinforcing these important messages at home. It is so important that we are promoting the same messages at home and school to ensure consistency in our approach.

ROAD SAFETY

A big thank you to all families who are approaching drop off and pick up times using safe practices, both as pedestrians and drivers.

With the return to school last week and the roads and footpaths being much busier, it is important to ensure everyone in our community is safe. It is imperative that children are dropped off and collected from school in a safe and legal manner.

We are asking all road users and pedestrians to take increased care in and around school zones. If you are dropping off or collecting children please leave yourself adequate time to find a park and safely attend to your children. It is unacceptable to:

- drop off and pick up children whilst stationary at a school crossing
- park illegally
- perform u-turns in front of oncoming traffic
- block private driveways

Over the coming weeks, Police will be patrolling school zones and will show zero tolerance towards any offences. These offences (and their penalties) include:

- Speeding (\$207 - \$826 fine, 1-3 demerit points and up to 12 months loss of licence)
- Fail to give way to a pedestrian (\$289 and 3 demerit points)
- Fail to stop and remain stationary at children's crossing (\$413 and 3 demerit points)
- Parking Offences (\$33 - \$165)

For the welfare and safety of the Avondale community, please take care.

STUDENT WELLBEING: TIPS AND ADVICE FOR PARENTS ON SAFE INTERNET USE

During remote learning and with lockdown procedures in place due to COVID-19, our children have been using the internet and online platforms not only for learning but to communicate with their extended family and friends, which is fantastic.

As children start to navigate the online world and interact with others more independently, they are more likely to be exposed to risks of bullying or unwanted contact, accidentally coming across inappropriate content or racking up bills through in-app purchases.

Your guidance can help them be aware of the risks and u

Understand what is expected of them. And let them know you are always there to support them.

It is for this reason that I bring to your attention a Compass message to all parents this week which contains some important and helpful guidelines for:

- Staying safe online
- Appropriate age and use of apps, games and social media platforms
- Dealing with cyberbullying- including how to block and report

I strongly recommend that all parents read the Compass information and discuss with their child the points mentioned.

Should you wish to investigate further parent/student support and education for safe online use please refer to the e-safety website link <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

Carol Broadhurst Welfare Coordinator

ALLERGIES AND ANAPHYLAXIS

For the safety of children with food allergies we have a "no food sharing" approach at Avondale Primary School. This includes children NOT bringing in cupcakes and confectionary treats to share with their classmates for celebrating events, including birthdays. Teachers will make students aware of our school's "no food sharing approach" and discourage students from bringing 'nut products' to school. This ensures we are keeping our community safe.

The updated COVID-19 Return to School Policy can be accessed through the school website at <https://www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au/>

THUNDERSTORM ASTHMA

There are important steps that families can take to ensure students are safe during this thunderstorm asthma season.

Grass pollen season occurs between October and December. Families/schools are reminded of an increased risk of seasonal asthma, hay fever and epidemic thunderstorm asthma during this time.

Epidemic thunderstorm asthma events are triggered by an uncommon combination of high grass pollen levels and a certain type of thunderstorm, resulting in large numbers of people developing asthma symptoms over a short period of time.

People with a history of asthma, undiagnosed asthma or hay fever are at an increased risk of epidemic thunderstorm asthma during this time.

This year more than ever its important families/students manage any hay fever or asthma symptoms, as these conditions can produce symptoms that are similar to coronavirus (COVID-19) such as runny nose, cough or shortness of breath.

The best way to reduce and prevent symptoms of asthma or hay fever is to follow an up-to-date asthma action plan or hay fever treatment plan.

Families can download the VicEmergency app and create a “watch zone” for epidemic thunderstorm asthma advice and warnings.

FIND OUT MORE

- Asthma Australia for a free online learning course about thunderstorm asthma
- Better Health Channel for more about epidemic thunderstorm asthma

2021 ENROLMENTS

Avondale Primary School is currently taking enrolments for 2021. It is essential that parents who intend to send their child to

Avondale Primary School enrol their children as soon as possible. It is essential to log on to <https://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au/> to check that your address is in the Avondale Primary School Zone. Please contact the school as soon as possible, on 9318 1755 and our Admin team will support you through the enrolment process.

SCHOOL PHOTOS ARE BACK



Following the updated School Operations Guide, we are able to keep our booking on November 18. We will provide further information about this process closer to the scheduled date.

New Build Update

Work on developing the plans for the new school buildings has been progressing and will soon be ready to share with the school community. We have been very fortunate to work with architects that have been willing to work closely with the school to achieve the best possible result.

The building designs will be completed in 2020 ready to go to tender early 2021. We expect construction to be complete by November/December in 2021 ready to use in 2022.

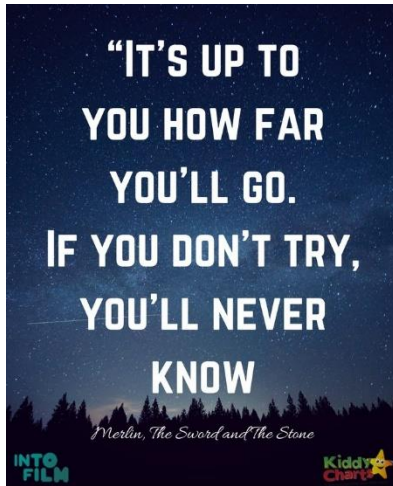
The school is also working closely with the architects on landscaping and playground areas. Staff and student feedback has been provided to the architects and we are expecting some great new play areas as well as outdoor learning areas.

Mrs Jill Benham

Principal

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Message from the Avondale PS School Council

behalf of the Avondale Primary School community, I would to say an extremely heart-felt thank you to our teachers their hard work and dedication throughout home learning.

Many of us have a new level of respect for you all, as we have realised just how difficult your jobs are teaching our children. We learnt a great deal about them and how they learn in lockdown and can confidently say they learn so much better in a classroom environment!

We know you have all worked many additional hours to keep our kids motivated in their learning and this is very much appreciated. Whether you used humour, creativity, music or just your passion for teaching, the children were kept engaged and focused throughout a very difficult few months.

Adapting to a totally different way of learning was a challenge for everyone – teachers, children and parents included, however, providing everyone with a sense of the “new normal” was essential for our well-being and you achieved this!

We have all moaned and groaned and felt the strain at some point, but we most definitely appreciate you even more for the role you play in educating our children!

Thank you!

Isabelle Sawtell
School Council President

Book Reviews – Tried and Treasured

Pig the Blob

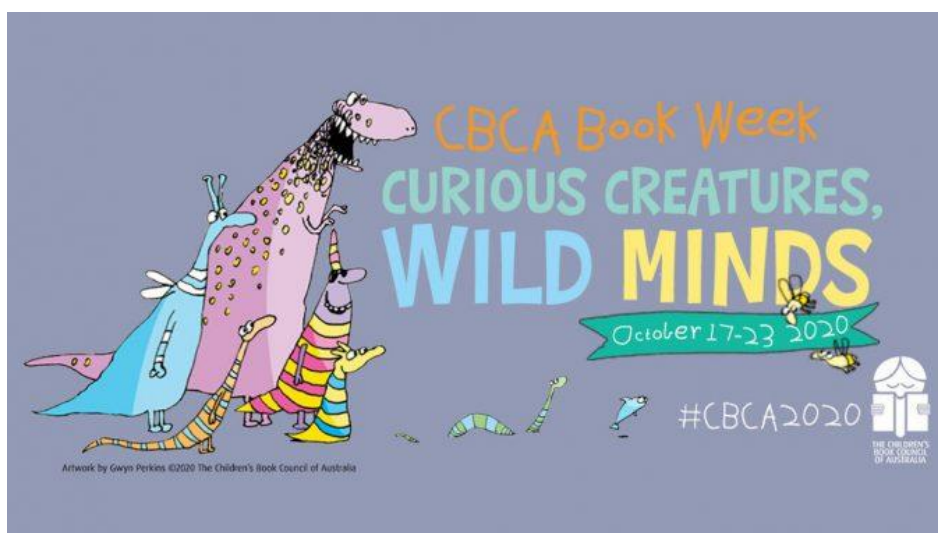
Written by Aaron Blabey

Pig the spirited and selfish pug is back and still his greedy self, but this time he is greedy for food. Pig has become a lazy slob and won't get off the couch. He eats, watches TV and scrolls the internet all day long. His buddy Trevor tries to entice Pig to get off the couch and exercise, but it is not until a couchtastrophe that Pig sees the error of his ways. By Liz Oruba

Reviewed by Liz Oruba



Book Week 2020



Each year across Australia, the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) brings children and books together celebrating Book Week. The CBCA Book Week 2020 theme is '*Curious Creatures, Wild Minds*'. At Avondale Primary School we will be celebrating Book Week in Week 5.

When: Monday the 2nd of November

Theme: Snuggle up with your favourite book

Wear: Your Pyjamas to school and appropriate footwear

Bring Along: Your favourite book to share in class

On this day we ask that students dress in their pyjamas, with school shoes or runners, and bring along their favourite book to share with their class. As well as sharing our favourite book we will also read/listen to some of the shortlisted books.

Please Note: Due to the current DET COVID-19 Guidelines, there will be no Book Week parade

Saving (Y)our World instalment 25: Nature Organisations

By: Morigan Raven

Last week, we learned about three sea-based organisations. This week, we resurface once more and learn about a local, national and international nature organisation. Are you ready to find out about three, somewhat similar, protectors of the land?

This week's local (or at least State) organisation is Trust for Nature. Trust for Nature is an organisation that works to protect wildlife on private land in Victoria. This means that they work collaboratively with private landowners to achieve their goals. One way they do this is by helping landowners establish something called covenants, which are legal agreements that prevent land from being cleared—even into the future. Trust for Nature believe that local wildlife should be preserved for future generations and they also help raise money to protect endangered species, like the critically endangered Plains-wanderer. They are one of Australia's oldest conservation organisations and you can learn more about them through here: <https://www.trustfornature.org.au/>

Today's national organisation is the Australian Conservation Foundation. The Australian Conservation Foundation, also known as the ACF, believes in protecting the environment and conserving endangered species. Did you know that Australia has one of the worst extinction records on Earth? I certainly didn't, and I am shocked by this. The ACF is an advocacy group, which means that they speak up for the environment and promote campaigns that aim to protect it. They also encourage people to be involved and have recently been very active in the #StopAdani campaign. The ACF has been around for over 50 years and my grandfather was a member for so long that he was awarded a lifetime membership! This is a committed organisation that is working hard to protect Australia's unique and beautiful places, including the stunning Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest. Find out more about the ACF here: <https://www.acf.org.au/>

Finally, our international organisation is The Nature Conservancy. This organisation works in 79 countries and territories. They work on climate change, protecting land and the oceans, and maintaining sustainable food and water sources. One thing the Nature Conservancy has done in Australia is work with Indigenous people to help manage fires. Australia's Indigenous people know that you need to fight fire with fire, so to speak. If you let a controlled fire burn in the cooler months, it will help prevent bigger ones in summer, which can help promote sustainable land management. They also actively work to have land and ocean areas set aside for protection. And of course, they've done plenty more. To find out what, visit their site here: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/>

So, in this instalment we've learned about three organisations that strive to protect nature from all of its threats and that believe in the wellbeing of the endangered creatures that those locations support. I hope you've learned something from all of this and that you will help them make a difference. See you next week for our freshwater organisations!



Plains-wanderer (critically endangered Australian species)

Source: <https://ebird.org/species/plawan1>

TERM 4 – SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, 23 October	Thank You Day/AFL Grandfinal - Public Holiday
Tuesday, 3 November	Melbourne Cup - Public Holiday
Friday, 13 November	Parent Opinion Survey closes
Thursday, 17 December	Student's last day of school - students will be dismissed at 1.15pm

CANTEEN TIMETABLE

At this stage, canteen restrictions continue to apply, which is reflected in Di managing the canteen and preparing lunch orders on her own. To ensure that Di is able to cope with the number of orders on any particular day, we are continuing to operate with our existing ordering arrangements.

Monday: Prep to 2 students

Thursday: Grade 3/4 students

Friday: Grade 5/6 students

We understand that this is not a perfect arrangement and creates some challenges for siblings. This causes an inconvenience for some families, however, with only one person working in the canteen it is not possible to provide the pre COVID-19 services that our community know. Following Department of Education guidelines, when restrictions ease further and we can return to more regular operations, we will ensure the community is notified. Thank you for your understanding.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE

If you are unwell, please stay at home.

The greatest risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) is between adults. Please follow these physical distancing measures:



No gathering in a group.
Keep 1.5m distance between yourself and other adults.



Minimise time around the school grounds during drop off and pick up.



Always wear a face mask.