



## ***Achievement, Confidence & Pride***

Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Parents,

### **Attendance during the cold and flu season**

The Education Department's policy on attendance requires children between the age of 6 and 17 to attend school every day the school is open for instruction. Programs such as *'It's not OK to be away'* aim to ensure that this legislative requirement is met.

The Education Training and Reform Act 2006 recognises that children can be kept at home if there is a reasonable excuse such as illness or accident.

When students contract a contagious disease such as the common cold or flu and have symptoms such as coughing or a runny nose, *they should be kept at home until the symptoms pass*. Hygiene practices such as using disposable tissues, washing hands, using antiseptic pump bottles and wiping kitchen areas with antimicrobial wipes can help prevent the spread of diseases within your family.

#### References:

Vic Health advice: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/edfactsheets/downloads/colds-and-flu.pdf>

Education Training and Reform Act 2006:

[http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web\\_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/f932b66241ecf1b7ca256e92000e23be/575C47EA02890DA4CA25717000217213/\\$FILE/06-024a.pdf](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/f932b66241ecf1b7ca256e92000e23be/575C47EA02890DA4CA25717000217213/$FILE/06-024a.pdf)

Department's attendance policy:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/participation/Pages/attendance.aspx>

### **Working with Children Checks**

There will be two parent induction sessions for parents and friends who wish to be classroom and canteen helpers.

#### Details:

Date: Thursday 20th June

Time: 9.00 - 9.30am or 2.30 - 3.00pm

Location: staffroom.

Parents need to attend one session only. RSVP through the school calendar on our website or by contacting office staff.

### **Year Ones visit the Melbourne Museum**



*It was a cool day last Thursday when Year One students visited the Melbourne Museum.*





### Curriculum News: Grade 1A and Community Circles

Grade 1A is using community circles in their classroom to build respectful listening practices and positive classroom relationships.

A community circle is a safe discussion space in which students and the teacher sit in a circle so that all members' faces are visible to one another. Students have the opportunity to voice their opinion and concerns as well as celebrate the fantastic learning that is happening in the class.

Ms. Ferraro and Ms. Gerace worked with students to introduce community circles in the grade recently.

*Grade 1A students discussed: If you had a superpower what would it be and why?*

Some ideas were,

*"I would make sure everyone is kind to each other"*

*"I would help everyone when they needed help"*

*"I would make everyone who is poor, rich"*

*"I would make everyone happy and laugh"*



### Health and Human Development (Family Planning Vic) Parent Information sessions

**This evening (6<sup>th</sup> June)** parents will be informed about the **health and human development** (sex education) lessons that will be presented in Term 3. This is your opportunity to find out about the content of the lessons by the presenters.

- Grade 3/4 parents 6:15 – 7:15 in the BER
- Grade 5/6 parents 7:30 – 8:30 in the BER

I urge parent to attend so that you can make an informed decision about your child's participation in this program.

### Are your contact details up to date?

It is very important that the school has your current contact details in case of illness or emergency. Please contact the school if any of the following details have changed:

- Home address
- Home phone
- Mobile numbers
- Names and contact numbers of emergency relatives or friends
- Email address
- Student's medication taken at school regularly
- Domestic arrangements between parents



**\$20,000 of local fundraising money used to install new playground equipment.**

I wish to thank parents who have supported recent fundraising activities. The money raised has been used to improve the school's facilities for students.

Our school council approved the installation of a new suite of playground equipment. Due to the inclement weather it took workers two days to complete the task.

Peter G, our maintenance person, will extend the playground border this week.

Next week, 30 cubic metres of soft-fall will be pumped from a truck in Robson Street East and spread over the expanded play area.

Students will be able to play on the new equipment once the soft-fall has been spread and the area is made safe.



**Italian Day - PASTA WORKSHOP**

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July, students will take part in a hands-on pasta making workshop. Student voice plays an important role in choosing educational experiences and as such, hands-on experience focused on Italian food was an explicit learning goal for many of our students. The workshop will run in the Moonee Valley gymnasium during school hours and will incorporate a range of class activities and discussions preceding the day.

The providers will cater for students with gluten and egg allergies. Students will work in multi-age groups to experience the process of making fresh pasta; all students will bring home a 300 gram bag of fresh tagliatelle, to be enjoyed by the whole family!



Notes will be going home on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June and must be returned with payment by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. The cost of the workshop is \$15 per student.



### Tex Update

Tex has been training as a Seeing Eye Dog and has been attending Prep D since October 2018. During this time, he has been welcomed by students, staff and parents. He has helped some students to overcome their fear of dogs and has always enjoyed the pats and attention he has received from the Avondale community.

Whilst Tex has a gentle nature and a willingness to learn new things, he does not have all the skills necessary to become a Seeing Eye Dog.

He will soon find his fur-ever family and will enjoy being able to chase balls, something he hasn't been able to do in training.

It will be sad to say goodbye to Tex, but I'm sure he will be very much loved by his new family.

It is hoped that before the end of the school year, we will be able to welcome and love a new puppy in training.



Leisha Watson

### Let them play! Kids need freedom from play restrictions to develop

By [Brendon Hyndman](#), Senior Lecturer and Course Director (Postgraduate Education courses), [Charles Sturt University](#)

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You may have heard of play. It's that thing children do – the [diverse range](#) of unstructured, spontaneous activities and behaviours.

Children play in many ways, including by exploring movements, constructing with equipment, creating games, using imagination and chasing others around a playground.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child [recognises play](#) as every child's basic right. But play is becoming extinct. Global [studies, across generations](#), have confirmed outdoor children's play has been declining, across all age groups, for decades.

Unstructured play improves [learning](#) and [social](#) and [physical](#) development. Providing a variety of play options, improved play access and fewer restrictions can encourage [children to engage](#) in physical activity with peers in line with their imaginations.

Play is becoming extinct.

Australian [children's active or independent](#) travel [has been declining](#) over the past two decades, [consistent with other](#) countries.

There are many reasons researchers are describing child's play as "[endangered](#)" and "[extinct](#)". These include more use of electronic devices and parents wanting to protect children from strangers, traffic, pollution and bullying.



[Research also points to](#) a low awareness of the importance of play, more pressure on children to do well in class and more restrictions on play. Hectic schedules, such as parents' jobs and children's extra-curricular activities, may also contribute.

Parents [have reported](#) their children are playing outdoors far less than they used to when they, themselves, were children. Parents are [noticing fewer children](#) walking and cycling to school or actively playing after school.

Modern parents are more likely to accompany children, by driving them to school, attending their excursions, supervising them on school grounds, or keeping them indoors altogether.

More than [half](#) of the world's population lives in cities. Urban environments are prone to decreasing play opportunities with less open, [natural spaces](#) for outdoor play.

#### Why this matters

Children have fewer [opportunities to engage](#) with nature. Providing more [contact with nature](#) can enhance children's creativity, boost their mood, lower stress, improve well-being, promote physical activity and improve attention spans.

[Nature play](#) is also becoming more important as a counterbalance to children's technological saturation. It is important for children to connect with nature early, as they are then likely to learn to appreciate nature into adulthood.

In primary school, children spend around 30 hours per week at the school and have more than [4,000 recess periods](#). If play opportunities are becoming limited around the home and community, [schools](#) are the best place for children to meet their play requirements.

#### How schools can help

Research [shows](#) introducing simple objects from around the home (such as milk crates, pipes and wooden planks) into school playgrounds may influence children to work cooperatively. They discover new ideas and solve problems by constructing, observing, designing and learning from each other. Providing more options for children to play outdoors ensures they are [intellectually challenged](#) and engaged to find new ways to use such spaces for discovery. If loose play equipment, such as balls, bats and blocks, isn't available children can still use what nature provides, such as twigs, leaves, rocks, feathers, petals, mud and sand. \*\*\*

The [diversity of outdoor objects](#) and features offers children a variety of shapes, sizes and locations they can use to discover, explore and invent games or designs. It's better for play objects not to be fixed as this helps with exploration, discovery and creativity.

Many Australian [school playgrounds are fixed](#) in the same spot. But new and replenishing play opportunities are important for children. For schools and parents to maximise children's play, play environments [should include](#):

- spaces for thinking, so school children can make discoveries, learn and be intellectually engaged
- spaces for doing, so school children can take moderate risks, undertake play challenges and extend themselves physically



- spaces for being, so school children can be themselves away from the confines of classroom walls or overly restrictive rules, regulations and routines
- spaces for feeling, so school children can explore and independently embrace their senses and play decisions with a diversity of colours and features.

The [Australian Curriculum](#) recognises the importance of play and outdoor [learning](#). Ensuring children can access quality outdoor play [can help align](#) with national curriculum objectives.

**\*\*\* The brown container near the vegetable garden will soon have a roller door allowing students to access a variety of materials for play at recess times.**

### ***A big thank you***

***I wish to thank [Lyn Keating](#), grandmother to Harry Hemple (prep) for:***

- ***Sorting through our lost property boxes,***
- ***Returning named articles to students and***
- ***Washing all other articles before bringing them to the second hand store.***

The second hand uniform shop is open every Friday morning from 8:30 to 9 am.  
Jodi is happy to assist you get just the right article at a very good price.

### ***Play group News***

A very vibrant 'Anklebiters' playgroup meets every Monday morning in the BER. Each get together has games, activities and free play for the children. Pictured below is the group resting after trekking through the 'jungle'. If you look carefully you might see some wild animals such as a lion, a leopard and a panda. Luckily mum or dad is not far away.



I hope you have a great week.  
Paul Mulroyan



## JUNE SCHOOL DIARY

### June

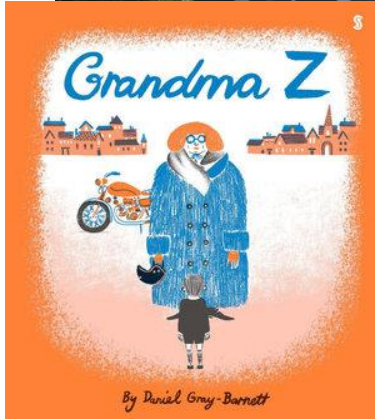
Thurs 6	Health and Human Development Parent Information Evening - Grade 3/4 Parents 6:15-7:15pm Grade 5/6 Parents 7:30-8:30pm
Fri 7	Grade 5/6 Interschool – Moonee Ponds P.S. (home) Second hand uniform sale 8:30-9am
Mon 10	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Thurs 13	Selected Music students to visit Ron Conn Centre
Fri 14	Second hand uniform sale 8:30-9am Grade 5/6 Interschool – Ascot Vale P.S. (away)
Tues 18	School Council Meeting 7:30pm
Thurs 20	Water Treatment Excursion Grades 3/4B, 3/4C and 4/5A Parent Helpers Induction Session – 9am and 2:30pm
Fri 21	Water Treatment Excursion Grades 3/4A, 3/4D and 4/5A Reports Emailed to Parents Second hand uniform sale 8:30-9am
Tues 25	Jump Rope for Heart
Wed 26	Special lunch order day
Thurs 27	Parent Teacher Interviews
Fri 28	Last Day Term 2 – <b><i>Students finish at 2:15</i></b>

### **School Office Hours**

**8:30am to 9:30am**

**2:30pm to 3:15pm**

**Please limit visits to office to these  
times.**



*Liz's Book Review*

**Grandma Z**

by Daniel Gray-Barnett

Albert lives a dull and ordinary life. Even his birthday is just like every other day. He dreams of something special for his birthday, and then with a knock at the door Grandma Z arrives and picks up his dreams and leads Albert through a most extraordinary birthday filled with adventure and fantasy. Recommended for children 3 to 8.

By Liz Oruba

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for Parents

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### Book Club

orders are due:

**9 pm. Wed. 12th June, 2019**

**Pupils of the week on Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Prep A** – Odessa E  
**Prep B** – Ethan A  
**Prep C** – Aarush E  
**Prep D** – Hania B

**One A** – Cohen H  
**One B** – N/A  
**One C** – Audrey K  
**Two A** – Kirat S  
**Two B** – Amir J  
**1/2 A** – Arden N

**3/4 A** – Rachel D  
**3/4 B** – Sienna D  
**3/4 C** – Koby S  
**3/4 D** – Jarrod F

**4/5A** – Alex C  
**5/6 A** – Lucas C

**5/6 B** – Raymond  
**5/6 C** – Xavier P

**5/6 D** – Justin N

