



Achievement, Confidence & Pride

Thursday, 19 March 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy week with the first round of senior sport however since last week we have been advised that the interschool sport and the athletics carnival are postponed.

Coronavirus Update

The school receives an update from the Secretary of the Department of Education each evening advising school about the action to take.

On 13 March, the Prime Minister announced a number of measures that all Premiers agreed to, on the basis of the advice from Australia's Chief Medical Officer and Chief Health Officers of the states and territories.

All non-essential planned gatherings of more than 500 people should be cancelled from 16 March. These measures do not include the closure of early childhood services, schools or higher education institutions.

Closures will be made on the recommendation Victoria's Chief Health Officer. Once this occurs, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will inform the Department of Education and Training, and we will then work with the school, service or institution to implement the closure.

At this stage the school is operating as normal and the teachers are working

The advice of the Chief Health Officer and our Prime Minister is that our schools will remain open, except in the case of a confirmed case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

As a school we implement the advice and endeavour to communicate it to you as it comes to hand. Some parents have requested that students do not hold hands as they come into the classroom; we have discussed this with the teachers and the students.

School value

Our school value this week is **Integrity**. This is closely related to honesty, caring for others and persistence. Integrity is the ability to behave and act in ways that are consistent with the values, beliefs, and moral principles we claim to hold. It's about doing the right thing, even when no one is watching; and about courage, honesty, and respect in one's daily interactions. .Your sense of integrity is how you develop your own values and beliefs.

Safety message

Last week it was reported to me that a toddler was left in a car at school pick-up time on one of the hot days. Please don't leave children unattended in the car, take them with you for the safety of all.



Easter raffle

Parents and Friends Fundraiser – the Parents and Friends Committee have organised an Easter raffle. Thank you to the families that have donated goods for the prizes. Each student has been issued with a book of tickets which should be returned to the office with the correct money when they are sold. Raffle tickets by **Friday 20 March**.

Dr Bette Prange
Acting Principal

Inspirational Quote:

“There is not elevator to success. You have to take the stairs.” **Author unknown**

To Note: The school has been notified of a case of Slap Cheek syndrome so please be vigilant.

School Council Update by Isabelle Sawtell

We held our AGM on Tuesday 17th March followed by our School Council meeting.

A large number of policies were approved by School Council:

<i>Child Safety Policy 2020</i>	<i>Parent Payment Policy</i>	<i>Dogs at School Policy</i>
<i>Child Safety Code of Conduct</i>	<i>Refund Policy</i>	
<i>Commitment to Child Safety</i>	<i>Internet Banking Policy</i>	
	<i>EFTpos Policy</i>	
	<i>Bpay Policy</i>	
	<i>Cash Handling Policy</i>	
	<i>School Purchase Card Policy</i>	

The following executive positions for council members were also decided:

School Council President: Isabelle Sawtell	School Council Secretary: Joe Scarfo
Vice President: Annerley Juhlin-Beeck	Treasurer: Ajay Bhargava

An issue which invoked some discussion was the unpaid school fees from 2019:

6 Unpaid student book packs	\$840
25 Partially paid book packs	\$1335
40 Partially or unpaid essential learning items	\$5288
32 Partially or unpaid grounds contribution	\$492
Total of unpaid school fees for 2019	\$7995



The funding provided from the government to public schools does not cover everything required for our children's education and each school sets fees according to the costs of materials.

At Avondale Primary, we strive to provide clear and transparent information about how the fees are calculated. According to the Department of Education website, <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/school-costs.aspx#link99>

Items you pay for

You pay for items that are essential to help your child learn the standard curriculum. Your school will decide what those items are and give you a list.

In most cases the school provides the essential items, and you pay the school.

You can choose to provide some items yourself. Check with the school first to make sure the item is correct.

Essential items include:

- text books and stationery that your child borrows from the school or keeps
- materials used for school work where your child keeps the final product. For example, wood used in a woodworking class.
- school uniform, if your school has one
- excursions or work placements that all students must attend.

Non-payment of the fees by parents results in a significant deficit for the school who have to pay for the essential materials for all children.

Saving (Y)our World Instalment No 3: Ban The bag

Welcome to yet another instalment of Saving (Y)our World! In this instalment, we will look at probably the worst kind of plastic there is: the dreaded plastic bag. We will find out what is so bad about the bag, and why recycled plastic just isn't good enough. So, what is the problem with the bag and how can we help? Read on and all will be answered!

The other day, I'm sure almost everyone saw the plastic bags flying high in the sky like untethered kites. I'm sure everyone also saw the birds flying between the different kinds of bags, narrowly missing getting tangled and falling from the sky. Every one of those bags might end up in our rivers or oceans to be eaten by some unfortunate water dweller thinking it's a tasty snack. These creatures then can be eaten by others (even humans!) sending the plastic poisoning problem through the food web. Otherwise, the carcass will sink to the bottom, and get eaten by bottom dwellers that will get poisoned by feeding on the remains.



You see how just one plastic bag can cause a devastating chain of events? Well, that's not the only problem with bags! Places like Coles are giving out 80% recycled heavy duty plastic bags. But what about the other 20% of the bag that is still being produced? Also, these heavy duty plastic bags are even worse than the original thin plastic bags supermarkets used to use because they stay in the environment EVEN LONGER! This is especially important because if you don't reuse these bags a lot of times before throwing them away the problem has only gotten worse. Plastic free is the only way to save lives! But what can you do?

Reusable shopping bags made of sustainable materials are available all over the place! Some even come with little bags you can fold them into so that you can carry them in your handbag! It is easy, sustainable and efficient. That way, no plastic bags will be seen high in the sky again.

I hope you join me next week for another instalment of Saving (Y)our World.

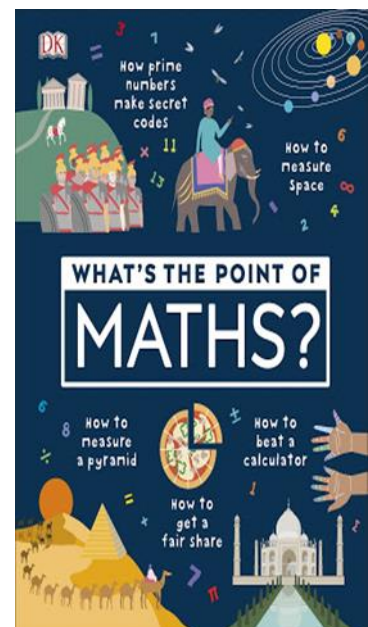
"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

-Albert Eisenstein

Book Review

What's the Point of Maths? DK Publishing

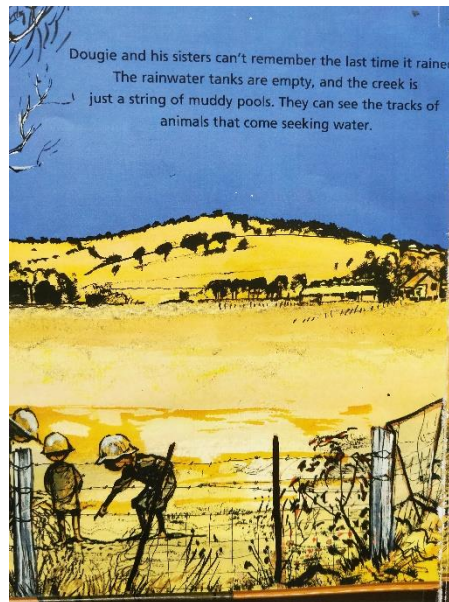
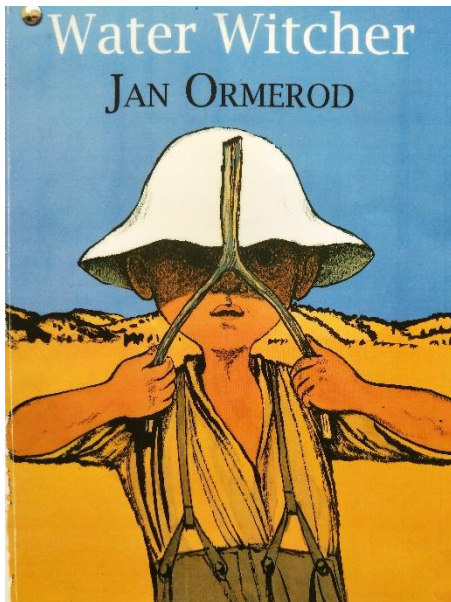
What's the point of Maths? Well, this books demonstrates that maths is fun, maths is engaging and that maths can be and has been used in many different ways. Basically 'Maths is Fabulous!'! This book presents us with thirty different ways in which has been used maths from ancient time to modern day. Demonstrating, how do we determine the biggest piece of pizza, the best sale item and how to write your birthday in Hieroglyphics? Enticing illustrations present a new understanding of Maths! Most relevant to children 9+. By Liz Oruba





What's happening in the classroom? *GR 3/4 Art*

In Visual Arts, students in the 3/4 area created some wonderful Australian landscapes. This was based on a picture story book called 'Water Witcher' by Jan Ormerod. The teacher read the book to the class and the students listened to the text and looked at the illustrations to see how they reinforced the story. In response the students produced their own images to reflect the effect on the farmland as a result of no rain. Tissue paper and oil pastels were used to construct the background while black ink paint was used in the form of lines to depict the harsh conditions faced during Australian hot summers.





MARCH/APRIL SCHOOL DIARY

MARCH

Friday 20 th	Grade 5/6 Interschool sport (Home) CANCELLED Easter raffle tickets/money due back
Monday 23 rd	Easter raffle drawn 9a.m.
Wednesday 25 th	SRC Good Friday Appeal Casual Clothe Day Gold coin donation
Friday 27 th	Last day Term 1: Early dismissal 2:15p.m.

APRIL

Tuesday 14 th	Term Two commences 8:50a.m.
Thursday 16 th	School Photo Day
Friday 17 th	Second Hand Uniform sale 8:30-9:00a.m.
Monday 27 th -	Book Fair
Friday 1 st May	
Tuesday 28 th	School Council Meeting

Pupils of the week on Friday 13th March

**Prep A -Ainsley
Prep B -Eloise
Prep C -Ava
Prep D -Noah**

**One A –Lucas N
One B -Cara
One C -Amir**

**Two A -Alexandra
Two B -Cohen
Two C -Riley
Two D -Arden**

**3/4 A -Walied
3/4 B -Jacob
3/4 C -Sidney
3/4 D -Mina**

**4/5A -Jarrod
5/6 A -Andy
5/6 B -**

**5/6 C -Seth
5/6 D -Anh
LOTE- Arya PrepA**



Message from Veronica Howarth

Dear Principal and School Banking Co-ordinator,

Over the past few weeks, you will have seen the rapidly evolving coronavirus situation continue to unfold. We've been consulting with our schools, P&Cs and the relevant health authorities on the best approach moving forward.

As a result of this feedback, we have made the difficult decision to temporarily pause the School Banking Program from close of business 20 March 2020 until the start of Term 2 in your state. We will of course keep the start date flexible as the situation continues to change.

Our primary goal will always be to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our communities and our people. By taking these precautionary measures, we hope to minimise any potential impact.

With regards to the impact to children collecting Dollarmites tokens and the impact to schools regarding School Banking contribution payments, we will circle back to you once our program resumes.

To help you communicate this to your school community, we have attached a newsletter article at the end of this email to distribute to parents as you wish.

We kindly ask that any monies outstanding relating to deposits accepted to the program are paid into your school's clearing account by Friday 27 March 2020 at the latest. This will ensure there is no delay in the accurate processing of deposits to children's accounts.

Please note, our team of School Banking Specialists are still available to support you and your school via mobile and email. Our School Banking Helpdesk also remains available on 1800 674 496, Monday - Friday 9am-5pm Sydney time.

Regards,

Veronica



Veronica Howarth
Head of School Banking
Retail Banking Services