



## June 28, 2017 Newsletter No. 10

As we come to the end of term, I'd like to say thank you to all of you for your work and commitment to our school. Together we have achieved a lot as far as learning and wellbeing for our kids this term. A special thank you to our dedicated staff who go above and beyond, for our kids. Thank you also to parents who are on School Council, the Buildings and Grounds Team and the Fundraising Team, who have made great strides in term 2. Finally thank you to all families. It was wonderful to see pride and joy expressed on so many faces during Student Led Conferences on Tuesday. Students love sharing their learning and are becoming more confident and articulate at explaining what they are learning and why. The feedback from parents is glowing and very heartening reading for teachers and myself. If you still have a feedback form to complete, please drop it in.

I have just sent our Pre- Review Self-Evaluation Report to members of the Review Panel ready for our school review in term 3. The collaborative work that has gone into this document has given our staff an opportunity to share and discuss the many strengths of our school. Input from students, families and School Council means that we have a collaborative view of the extensive and thriving learning community that is St Leonards Primary School.

We have much to be proud of and the review next term will be a real opportunity to celebrate our strengths and set directions for the future. Key highlights are:

*Our excellence in mathematics teaching and learning, and student learning growth.*

*Our experienced and caring staff*

*Our strong connections to community.*

*Our excellent wellbeing program*

*Our vision and School Wide Positive Behaviour values of respect, responsibility and safety, which are common language for all.*

A copy of the calendar for term 3 will be sent out next term, or its on our website, along with some new photos and other information. You can also access these through the St Leonards Primary Updat-ed app.

[www.stleonardsps.vic.edu.au/](http://www.stleonardsps.vic.edu.au/) Parents and carers make sure you keep an hour free at 9am on August 28<sup>th</sup> to listen to Cybersafety expert Robbie Noggler. More info next term.

Goodbye and best wishes to Monique as she heads off on her exciting adventure, teaching in Beijing. We would like to thank Monique for the huge contribution she has made, for many years, to teaching and learning and student wellbeing at our school. I know she will be greatly missed. Welcome to Lynn Jones as she steps into the Grade 5/6 teaching role. Welcome also to Joanne Mazza who will work with Mrs Layley and Mrs Dixon in Grade 2/3 for the first 2 weeks while Mrs Orvis enjoys Malaysia.

Wishing all families a safe and happy school holiday period.

Jenny Cowburn  
Principal

### **Congratulations to Sharna Cloke!**

Sharna's fantastic slogan and artwork will be printed on Calico Bags, which will be distributed to everybody in our school, as well as other places across the Bellarine.

We would like to thank Bellarine Bayside for helping us to learn about and care for our environment, and join with them in encouraging everybody to try "Plastic Free July".

We would also like to thank IGA who have some of our students designs on display. I believe they may have some calico bags available once they are printed.



## **Attendance**

We have worked hard to improve our school attendance data this semester using a number of strategies and have had pleasing results. Many families will have received postcards from school acknowledging attendance improvement.

We hope the attendance report, included in reports, is also helpful and we welcome your feedback.

Our data shows that many absences are unexplained. You can let the school know why your child is away via diary note, phone call, email or just telling the teacher. From next term we will be sending a form home if absences are unexplained. We ask that you fill it out and return to school the next day. This will really help to improve our unexplained absence data, which is a priority for the Department of Education.

## **Mini Lotto**

\$2.00 entry, cross off 5 numbers, envelopes available from the office. Drawn at the Bowling Club each Friday at 7.30 pm. Jackpot is \$5030 Last week's numbers were 02, 03, 06, 13 & 18

## **School Fees**

Thank you to those families who have already paid fees. At this stage we only have payment from about a third of families and we do rely on this income to pay for your children's learning supplies. Overdue invoices have gone home. Please make payment promptly or if you need more time talk to Janette or Jenny at the office.

## **Illness and Attendance**

Currently we have quite a few unwell children, particularly with coughs and colds. Please encourage your kids to practice good hygiene: washing hands; covering mouths and using tissues so that we don't spread germs. If your child is away, through illness or any other reason please let us know, via diary note, email or phone call. It is a Department of Education Requirement that we record reasons for absence for every child.

## **Entertainment Books**

The school is selling the popular Entertainment Books that have discount coupons for hundreds of restaurants, cafes, entertainment venues, hotels and resorts. Local venues participating include the Jack Rabbit, Portarlington Golf Club and Flying Brick, as well as McDonalds, Subway and KFC. Books are \$60.00. You only need to use a couple of vouchers to get your money back! Come and inspect a copy at the office.

## **Asthma Plans**

All students who have asthma must have an asthma plan at school. Forms for all students who have asthma need to be updated each year. Even if your child has mild asthma, it is essential that their medication and spacer is always available to school staff. Please make sure your child always brings a spacer with them to school, or has one that stays at school.

***Is this worth posting? Do you want the Principal to see this? How does this post make you feel? How will you fix this?***

**These are some of the questions we need to ask our children in conversations around social media before they reach secondary school. A quick survey at school showed that many of our students have online accounts. Instagram and Snapchat have minimum ages of 13, in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act.**

**Every year at St. Leonards we support students who are caught up posting inappropriate comments and language online. These concerns are then brought to school when students are not supervised or monitored at home with their internet use or accounts have been set up without parental knowledge. Have a chat with your children about their online activity...do you know what they are doing when they are online???**