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## August 16<sup>th</sup> 2018 Newsletter No. 14

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### Nurturing great readers



This year improving reading outcomes for all students is a school priority. We have updated home readers with the purchase of many new books. We have created classroom libraries where children are actively involved in not only reading, but in organising and recommending books.

We would like to welcome Melissa Smith, our new teaching partner who is here on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Melissa is working with teachers on excellence in literacy teaching. Currently grade 3 to 6 teachers are working as a team with Melissa to extend their professional knowledge and practice in teaching reading.

We are keen to have more adults come to listen to students reading. If you are able to spare some time regularly at the beginning or end of the day please let me know.

Encouraging, modelling and sharing reading at home also helps to nurture great readers. We know that reading is a skill that improves with continuous practice, which is why we ask students to read at school and at home every day. The following link provides a handy link to literacy and numeracy tips to help your child every day.

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/involve/Pages/support.aspx>

### Our Growing Community

Local MP Lisa Neville visited our school recently to discuss population growth in the St Leonards area and the impact this will have on future demand for school enrolments and early years services.

She met with our school council, a playgroup representative and representatives from the City of Greater Geelong and the Department of Education and Training, to develop a shared understanding of the school's unique context. Each year the Department reviews demographic data and current school provision across Victoria to identify the need for new schools or relocatable classrooms.

We expect that our school will be able to manage enrolment demand for 2019. However the Department will review this when they see 2019 enrolment projections later this month. They are also working with the local council to plan for the expected longer-term demand for school places and early years services.

The meeting recognised the importance of St Leonards Primary School being able to provide great education facilities on behalf of our community.

### Fundraising

Thank you to our fund raising team who have been hard at work with the Pie Drive, Veggie Boxes and a very successful pancake lunch and to families for supporting these initiatives.

Recently our fundraising received a huge boost thanks to the efforts of Pauline and Wendy who raised over \$1000 from the Bunnings BBQ.

### Toucan Appeal

For their leadership project Ruby and Ike are organising the Toucan Appeal (food for homeless people in the Geelong area). If you could please donate some cans or packets of food to go in the box at the front office we would appreciate it. Our goal is 100 items of food.

## **Mindfulness on Mondays**

Our whole school mindfulness sessions for 15 minutes after assembly on Mondays will continue for two more weeks. Parents are very welcome to stay and join us. We would appreciate you giving feedback about these sessions to me or Mrs Layley.

*Research shows that mindfulness can help young people develop the emotional, behavioural and attention regulation skills that set the crucial foundation for learning and train students to be better equipped for the pressures of adult life.*

## **Book Week Celebrations – Grandparents and Special Persons Day, Thursday August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

This year our student leaders are organising a Grandparents and Special Persons Day in conjunction with Book Week. We will have our traditional parade at 9am, so students can show case the book character they have chosen to dress up as. During the morning students will work in cross age groups participating in creating art works related to picture story books.

Our students will invite their special people to pop in during the afternoon, between 1 and 3pm. Visitors are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to share with their students and to spend time in the classrooms. They are very welcome to bring a favourite picture story book to share.

## **Parent Opinion Survey**

A random number of parents have been invited to participate in the Parent Opinion Survey for our school. If you have received an email we ask you to please complete the survey as it provides valuable feedback to the department of Education for our school. Thank you if you have already responded. The survey takes 10-15 minutes and closes on Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup>. If you have any queries please contact me.

## **Open Afternoon for 2019 students – August 30<sup>th</sup> 2-3 pm**

This month we start the transition program for next year's students. Do you know any students who will be coming to SLPS in 2019? If so, please ask them to contact us at the office for an enrolment form, or let Jenny or Janette know, so we can make contact. The open afternoon will be an opportunity to see our school in action, do a tour, and to meet me and teachers, as well as other new students and families. We hope that families who already have siblings at SLPS will attend.

Jenny Cowburn  
Principal

## **Fiver for a Farmer**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of August Edan and Max and Fiona (for their leadership project) are organising Fiver for a Farmer. The farmers are going through a drought and struggling and we would like to support them. We would like you to dress up as a farmer or a farm animal and please try to donate a five dollar note. If you can't bring five dollar note any donation will be great.

## **Playgroup**

Playgroups operate in our rear portable building on Tuesdays from 10 to 11.30 and Fridays from 9.30 – 11.00. Tuesday's session is supported by the CoGG and parents require a health care card. Please contact Marieke for more information. **M:** 0448 816 414  
**E:** [MWasterval@geelongcity.vic.gov.au](mailto:MWasterval@geelongcity.vic.gov.au)

## **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 \$7265. Last week's numbers were 02, 12, 15, 16 & 20.

## **Lions Club Raffle**

We are fortunate to again have the opportunity to participate in the Portarlington/Drysdale Lions Club Community Raffle. All the money from the tickets we sell goes to the school. There are lots of prizes, including a Bank Deposit to the value of \$1000, accommodation packages, gift vouchers, petrol vouchers and more. Tickets are \$2.00 each and are available from the office until August 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 or until sold out. Please consider collecting a book of tickets (5 tickets per book) to sell to family, friends and work colleagues. Books and tickets are available from the office or see Trudi Kyrou if you are able to help sell books, we have 20 books to sell