



October 25th 2018 Newsletter No. 18

Literacy is a priority at SLPS

Our school starts each day with a two hour literacy session. Our Strategic Plan Goal is to *'improve the growth and achievement of every student in literacy'* so that we develop students who are capable communicators, who can speak and listen effectively, read with understanding and convey their thoughts and ideas in writing and digital images.

We differentiate because children learn at different levels and at a different pace. That's why you'll hear your child talk about their reading group, their reading level or their word list. Teachers know where students are with their learning and what they need to do to move them to the next level.

Today you will find some information on home reading written by our Teaching Partner, Melissa Smith. Melissa's role is to support us to improve student outcomes in Literacy. Learning happens everywhere, not just at school. Your child really benefits for the extra support that you give at home.



There is a lot happening to improve our Buildings and Grounds!

Last week Lisa Neville came to visit to announce that we have been successful in receiving a \$74,900 grant! This money will create a SLOSS (St Leonards Outdoor Sensory Safe Space). It will include a wonderful sensory native garden, dry creek bed, boat sandpit, outdoor classroom and lots of places to sit, relax, chat with friends and enjoy being outside. Thank you to all members of our school community, including students who worked hard to create our successful submission. Yay! More news soon.

Our school is looking sparkling clean and tidy, and we have two new garden beds thanks to the many hard workers at the working bee last Saturday. Thank you to Laurie, Jen, Chris, Rose and Rhenay, Nicki, Dylan and Lyla, Pete, Kahlia, Addyson, Ameaya, Aria and Alivia, Dan, Michaela, Mary-Jane, George, Charlie and Nora. A special thank you to Wayne Long for his hard work, guidance and expertise with the gardens. Wayne has also worked with our STEAM gardening group this week to plant out the new gardens.

We also have greatly improved lighting and heating /cooling in our Art Maker Shed, so it is now a much more inclusive and comfortable learning space.

Communication

We know that different families prefer different forms of communication. The best ways to find out what's happening at SLPS are:

- Our fortnightly newsletter
- Morning assemblies, especially Monday, at 9am
- The Updat-ed App, which can be downloaded on android or iphone
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stleonardsprimaryschoolvic/>
- Student diaries

Communication about your child is best done through a phone call or visit, or a note in the diary. We know that you are busy, and so are teachers, so if it's something that requires more than a short discussion we would appreciate you making an appointment. We find the personal approach works best for any concerns. Many parents 'pop in' for a minute or two before or after school, but if you are unable to do so, give us a call. Janette is in the office til 1pm each day to take messages.

Classes for 2019

We expect to start the year with 105 students next year. At the moment we have 117 students but we have 21 Grade 6s leaving and 11 Preps enrolling. We also have a couple of families moving house. Our school population is very transient and tends to grow during the year. Data shows that this is increasing every year. This year we have had 32 students move in during the year across all grades, prep to 6, and 14 students leave. The housing growth around the township also indicates that our numbers are likely to increase.

To cater for growth, we will have the following classes next year: Two Grade 5/6 classes, two Grade 3/4 classes, a Grade 1/2 and a Grade Prep/1. All classes will have less than 20 students. We will be using the portable building as a classroom.

The way we determine who is in which class is based on our Class Placement Policy:

The SLPS logic for allocating students to classes is as follows:

1. *To have all classes reasonably even in size. If possible grades Prep, 1 and 2 with a maximum of 20.*
2. *Where there are year levels split across two classes selection will be based on the following-*
 - a. *gender balance*
 - b. *siblings to be in different classes*
 - c. *student preferences (Who do I work well with?)*
 - d. *personality/behaviour clashes*
 - e. *having good role models in each year level – as learners and as School Wide Positive Behaviour models for others.*
3. *Academic ability is NOT a consideration. All teachers cater for individual needs across a range of levels. Even for students who are in one year level there are a range of abilities so student learning is differentiated in every classroom. Based on their own schooling many parents are of the impression that for example, grade 2 students in a 1/2 will not learn as well as students in a 2/3, which is not the case with the way we currently teach students according to their learning needs.*

We understand that in certain situations, parents and carers may like to request that their child be placed with a particular friend or in a particular class. Requests for class placements must be made in writing, and can be addressed to Jenny Cowburn, Principal. We will not always be able to accommodate class placement requests, but will endeavour to take your wishes into consideration where possible.

Healthy Relationships

Next week Tanya and Kate, who are both nurses, from Bellarine Community Health, will begin a 4 week program with our Grade 5s and 6s on Healthy Relationships. Talking to students about sexuality, puberty and growing up is something that many parents ask for support with so we hope you find the attachment on “Talking to Your Children about Sex: When and How?” useful. It’s never too early to start!

Children who are unwell

We have quite a few students coming to school feeling unwell at the moment, mainly with stomach bugs, or just feeling off colour. If your child gets up and doesn’t feel great please keep them at home. It’s not fair on students or teachers for parents to bring them along to ‘see how they go’. Keeping unwell students at home also means that we have less contagious bugs floating around our school.

Lunch Orders on Fridays

Lunch orders will be available on Fridays only this term from <http://www.freshmealfairy.com.au/>

Order and pay by 9pm Thursday evenings

Mini Lotto

\$2.00 entry, cross off 5 numbers, envelopes available from the office. Congratulations to J Saddington on his win. Drawn at the Bowling Club each Friday at 7.30 pm. Jackpot is \$45. Last week’s numbers were 05, 06, 10, 11 & 16.