



August 2nd, 2018 Newsletter No. 13

Learning about Environmental Sustainability First Hand!



Today our students were able to work with a team from Bellarine Bayside and Bellarine Catchment Network to learn more about our wonderful environment and to make a difference for the future. Prep to Grade 4 students helped to revegetate the school site on the foreshore by planting plants. They also went on a search for bugs and learnt more about them on return to school. Grade 5 and 6 students went to St Leonards Bluff to learn more about the habitats in the area and to find out about the nesting boxes that are located there. They then designed interpretation boards that tell others about the bluff. There is a lovely bush walk in the revegetation area close to the cliff, which is protected from the coastal winds. If your family walk in that area don't forget to look up in the large trees. If you see any activity in the nesting boxes please let us know. There are nesting boxes for parrots, owls, kookaburras and microbats. We are so fortunate to live and learn in such a special part of the world where we can connect with the natural marine and coastal environment every day. We know that it's very important to our students and we hope they will grow to be great advocates, who share with others what they know and continue to care for the environment as adults.



Connecting with the natural marine environment also means that it's imperative that our students are great swimmers. Notes have gone out this week for our swimming program, which will be in the last week of term at Splashdown. Students will have a shorter but more intensive program with 5 X 45 minute lessons this year. As this is part of our curriculum, we expect all children to attend. It is a prerequisite for other water-based activities such as swimming, snorkelling and canoeing that students get to participate in as they move through the school.

Thank You!

We are very grateful that we live in such a generous community and we really appreciate the support given to our school. Thank you to:

- Michelle Browne who presented us with a cheque for \$6000 from St Leonards Market fundraising.
- Jane, Gary, Matt and Lachie for working with our students and staff and to Kevin for driving the mini bus on Enviro Day.
- Julie Ann Salter for generously donating her time to do Mindfulness on Mondays.
- The Lions Club who cooked a delicious Sausage Sizzle for students and staff today!
- The Men's Shed for doing some maintenance jobs around the school and Nigel Gregory for doing a maintenance audit.

Mindfulness on Mondays

We are going to trial some whole school mindfulness sessions for 15 minutes after assembly on Mondays for the next weeks. Parents are very welcome to stay and join us.

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 23rd

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 provides valuable feedback to the department of Education for our school. If you have any queries please contact me.

Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety for Parents

We have attached this very useful poster to today's newsletter. It is also well worth following kathleenmorris.com for more tips and ideas. Kath is a local Leopold teacher who was recently awarded Teacher of the Year for her work with digital technologies.

Unexplained Absences and Lost Learning Days

Across the school during terms one and two, we have lost 468 days of learning and have 174 unexplained absence days. It would be great if we could reduce these numbers significantly in terms three and four.

The Victorian Government has made some changes to the way we record and report student absences. Parents and carers are legally required to ensure that their child attends school OR provide an explanation. We will continue to support families with follow up phone calls, Attendance Plans and referrals to the School Attendance Officer.

Bunnings BBQ – this Sunday, drop in and buy a sausage!

This Sunday, August 5th the Bunnings BBQ at Leopold will be raising funds for our school. Thank you to Pauline and Wendy and all others who have volunteered to help. Please support our school by dropping in and buying a sausage or two if you are in the area.

Open Afternoon for 2019 students – August 30th 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

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 \$7176. Last week's numbers were 03, 05, 09, 13 & 14.

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 20th 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