



May 31, 2018 Newsletter No. 9

Improving student outcomes in reading

This year the Department of Education has funded a Teaching Partner, Shannon Cormack, to work with teachers on improving student outcomes in literacy. Shannon has been working with us on reading and our inquiry has found that many students can fluently say the words that are on a page of text (decode) but they don't actually deeply understand what they mean (comprehension). As a reader you know that you're not actually reading unless you are understanding! Shannon has attached more details and some great questions for parents to use for home reading. We don't have a lot of formal homework set at our school, but we do expect that all children will read. It's a great life-long learning habit to read a little every day!

We have recently spent about \$1700 to update our take home readers. We will also spend a further \$300 on readers thanks to a kind donation by the Rotary Club of Drysdale.

Today and tomorrow Leanne and I will be participating in Teaching Partner Learning Circles with many other schools from our region to further understand and learn from the Teaching Partner Initiative.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Last week was Volunteer Week and at SLPS we benefit from support by many people in our community:

- Our wonderful parents and grandparents who help out in many ways, from transporting students to events, helping in classrooms, especially with reading, sharing skills, being on School Council and on the Buildings and Grounds Team. A lot of our maintenance is done by parent volunteers both at working bees and when specific jobs need to be done.
- Parents on The Fund Raising Team have been very active this year with the Book Fair last week being their most recent success.
- Many men from The Men's Shed pass on their woodworking skills to our kids, they also help with maintenance, provide fruit for brain food, AND they have created the gaga pit and surrounding play area.
- We also have Lesley and Monica who are regular volunteers in our office every week and Jaren who volunteers weekly with STEAM learning
- At the moment there are many volunteers working behind the scenes for Cinders, especially Gayle and Elisa doing costumes and props and Tamsin painting backdrops.

A big THANK YOU to all our volunteers for your generosity and for providing our kids with connections to our community. You are greatly appreciated!

Congratulations to Jayde!



Jayde is the first student in our school this year to complete her School Wide positive Behaviour sticker chart.

All students are given stickers by staff members for displaying respectful, responsible and safe learning behaviours. A full chart means that students get to be treated to lunch with me!

Sporting Events

Congratulations to all our netballers and footballers who participated in Lightning Premiership last Tuesday. They displayed great teamwork and sportsmanship. It makes me very proud to hear positive comments from adults at other schools.

Well done to Josh, Nate, Sharna, Alicia and Ethan T who competed on Tuesday in the second round of the local schools cross country event at Eastern Beach.

Thank you so much to all parents and teachers who helped with organisation and transporting students to both events.

School Uniform

Unless it is your birthday we expect you to be in school uniform!

As the weather cools we have noticed many students wearing brand name jumpers instead of a navy school windcheater or hoodie. It is optional to have a school logo on your top, but we do expect it to be plain navy blue. Please write your surname on the tag with a pen. You would be surprised how many jumpers we have in lost property with no name.

Reminders:

1st June: Scarf Day for Terri

20th June: Cinders our whole school musical extravaganza! get your tickets. they are selling fast!

27th June: Student Led Conferences – lessons finish at 12.30 and students need to be picked up. Forms will go home soon for parents to make a conference time with their child later in the day.

No lunch orders on Thursdays. The Fig Tree is closed. Students can order lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday only.

Costumes for Cinders

Do you have a Geelong Footy top?

We need to borrow some footy jumpers for the footy players in Cinders. They will be taken care of, and returned after the performance. Please see Ms Carroll or Mrs Orvis if you can help.

Grade 5 and 6 cast members need to bring all their costume items to school on Tuesday June 12, for checking by Gayle and Elisa, who are our costume department!

Jenny Cowburn
Principal.

Book Fair

Thank you to the parents who organised Book Fair the school received \$400 of books, also a big thank you to all the people who purchased books and helped with the fundraising.

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Tickets **Cinders** At Parks Hall Portarlington

Wednesday June 20th, 6.30pm start, doors open 6pm

Tickets for Cinders have gone on sale, each ticket will be \$7. There is a limited number of seats so initially there will be a maximum of four tickets per family to make sure no families miss out. SLPS students DO NOT need tickets but all other family members do, including younger brothers and sisters, three and older. Please buy your tickets as soon as possible. All income from ticket sales will go to offset the cost of the production. There will also be a raffle on the night.

Student Banking

Wednesday is student banking day. Make regular deposits to earn some great rewards.

School Fees Please!

Our learning programs rely heavily on subject contributions from parents/carers. We have been fortunate to be able to buy, in bulk, extensive stationery stock for every classroom, as well as a great supply of materials and equipment for STEAM, Art, Physical Education and Music. We are currently looking at updating our take home readers at a cost of around \$2000. Thank you to those families who have paid fees promptly. A large number of fees are still outstanding and we would appreciate payment as soon as possible. If you have not paid please see Janette or Jenny to do so or to discuss alternative arrangements.

Earphones

We are finding that students are using headsets more and more in their learning. Because of health regulations we would appreciate students having their own headsets that they can bring to school. This might be a great idea for the next birthday present?

Book Fair

Come along and check out the books and other goodies at the school from Tuesday, May 22nd until Friday, May 25th. The book fair will be open from 8.30 – 9.00 am and 3.00 – 3.30 pm each day. If you can't make it to the book fair books can be purchased online, every purchase helps the school with fundraising and your child with reading. The school gets 30% back on all books sold.

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 Portarlington Golf Club, Bakers Delight and Wildings Pantry Essentials, as well as Sovereign Hill, McDonalds 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.

Absences

It's Not OK to be Away! At SLPS last term we lost 354 days of learning because of students not being at school...almost one whole year of learning. In February student absences added up to 130 days with 68 of those days unexplained. In March total student absences were 224 days with 83 of those unexplained. The Department of Education requires us to report absences and it is difficult when parents and carers do not let us know why their children are away from school. Please let us know through a diary note, letting the class teacher know directly or phoning the office explaining why your child is absent from school. We hope that we can work towards reducing the number of unexplained absences from school in term 2.

Chris Layley
Well Being Teacher

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 \$6714 Last week's numbers were 01, 07, 08, 09 & 16.

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Personal Belongings at School

The Department of Education does not hold insurance or accept any responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors. Students are asked not to bring valuable items to school.

Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. Please come to the office and fill in the application form and bring your concession card so that we can photocopy it. A payment of \$125 for eligible primary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund aims to ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important educational and fun activities. This fund cannot be used to pay school fees or subject contributions.

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Sunglasses

As St Leonards Primary School is a sunsmart school we are looking at purchasing sunglasses, (\$13.00) we have samples in the office if you would like your child to try them on. SLPS is printed on them and are in school colours in 4 different sizes. They come with a matching case and bag clip, a microfibre cloth and are approved to the highest Australian UV standards.

Updat-ed Website:

Over the holidays our web services were upgraded with additional security patches. The consequence of this is that all Android subscribers to our phone app called Updat-ed will need to re-register. Here's what to do;

- Delete the app from your phone
- Go to Google Play and search for 'Updat-ed by sponsor-ed'
- Download the app and complete the registration process
- We will see your registration request and mark it as approved

Mothers' day Raffle
Entertainment Books

Updat-ed App:

Over the holidays Sponsor-Ed upgraded their web service with additional security patches. The consequence of this is that all Android subscribers to our phone app called Updat-ed will need to re-register. Here's what to do; The app is also available to download, just visit the App store for iPhones or Google play for Android's. Search for Updat-ed.

- Delete the app from your phone
- Go to Google Play and search for 'Updat-ed by sponsor-ed'
- Download the app and complete the registration process
- We will see your registration request and mark it as approved