

Thursday 19th March 2020
Issue 4

LINK LETTER



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Michael Kent - PRINCIPAL

Hello and welcome to the latest newsletter.

At such unprecedented times I urge everyone to stay abreast of the latest, and evolving information from the state and federal leaders. There has been some miscommunication being spread across social media about potential school closures etc... School remains open and will continue to operate our teaching and learning foci. Whilst school continues, we are focussed on trying to keep our students and whole school community as safe as possible. We remain vigilant in educating and providing opportunities for our students to practice quality and consistent personal hygiene measures. We are also mindful of adhering to the advice of employing social distancing, wherever practicable. This is obviously difficult in the classroom environment but something that we are attempting to administer as best we can. As a result we will not be conducting school assemblies, inter school sport, excursions etc.. **Please see the COVID-19 updates within this newsletter.**

Please note that due to the current health pandemic we have postponed the upcoming Student Led Conferences. We will be sending home your child's portfolio next week and ask that you share these with your child. Further details about the portfolios will be coming home next week. Obviously the situation is evolving daily and we continue to act on the most up to date advice. I apologise to everyone who has made alternative arrangements to attend the conferences.

We have also cancelled next week's 2021 Prep Information Night.

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IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH
LAST DAY OF TERM 1
1:30PM DISMISSAL

ASSEMBLY VIA P.A SYSTEM

APRIL

SCHOOL RECOMMENCES
TUESDAY 14TH APRIL

THURS 16TH APRIL
SCHOOL PHOTOS

**HAVE A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY**

2020 TERM DATES

TERM 1
30TH JANUARY - FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

TERM 2
14TH APRIL - 26TH JUNE

TERM 3
13TH JULY - 18TH SEPTEMBER

TERM 4
5TH OCTOBER - 18TH DECEMBER

Please note that our senior health officials suggest that COVID-19 is most dangerous for the elderly members of the community. I ask that everyone remains mindful of this vulnerable group and take measures to follow the guidelines in protecting our community. Additionally, I would encourage everyone to stay as positive as possible during these unprecedented times. Remaining calm and rational are important in keeping our students focused on being happy, healthy and safe. If the situation changes in the future and we need to close schools, then we are well prepared to facilitate and support 'at home' learning and we will provide notice of this to our community as and if necessary.

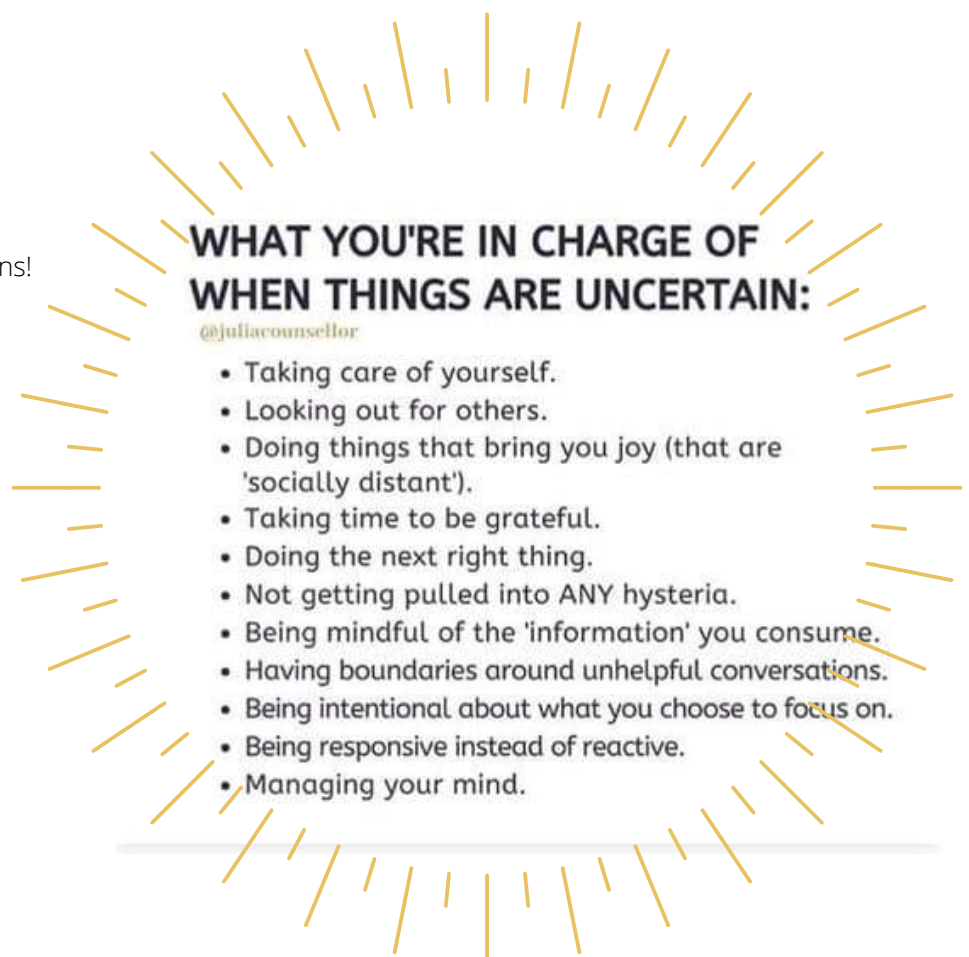
During this time with some hysteria and panic purchasing I think there is an opportunity to pause and take charge of how we process what is around us. Here are a few thoughts from different wider community members that may strike a note with you:

Perspective..

Downtime or free from distraction time?
Isolation or pause, reflect and meditation?
Loss of entertainment or increase in creativity?
Your life shut down or are you now tuned in?
Cancelled events or rise of new activities?
Panic ridden or purpose driven?

Another thought..

Conversations will not be cancelled
Relationships will not be cancelled
Reading will not be cancelled
Songs will not be cancelled
Self care will not be cancelled
Hope will not be cancelled
Happiness will not be cancelled
May we lean into the good stuff that remains!



UPDATE for COVID-19

Just providing some updates on the ever emerging situation with COVID-19.

Thankfully, at this time we have had no positive reports of any parents, staff or students testing positive to coronavirus. However, if your child is suffering from any illness, we ask you to please keep them home from school. If we notice students becoming unwell, we will contact parents to collect their child. This will help to reduce the spread of the virus.

Please note that staff will be doing the same thing. If they are unwell, they will be encouraged not to be at school until they are feeling better. This is not an indication of anyone having the virus but rather a preventative measure to reduce the potential virus spread.

It is very important that we maintain a positive mindset during these unprecedented times. As adults we must all help to support our children and keep them calm and positive. Panic and stress are not positive ways to support our families and community at this time. Please be aware that the information provided to schools is changing rapidly and we are doing our best to respond appropriately and to also put measures in place that can address any issues, maintain calm and provide health and hygiene measures as practicably as possible. The impact of this situation will no doubt evolve and extend over time. We have an obligation to all support the management of the situation and hopefully protect some of our more vulnerable members of society. I have outlined below a few of the measures we are taking to help manage the spread of COVID-19 at this time. Please note that further changes may be required and I will notify you of these as and if they arise.

School Open

As previously shared schools are not closing and they remain open. However, if this advice changes we are well prepared for a continuation of our learning programs in an 'offsite learning' capacity. In the event that this is required we will be utilising the Compass and SeeSaw apps to complement our communication and sharing of content. I urge all families to ensure that your connectivity to these programs is working and if you don't have access to these, please inform your child's teacher so that we can make alternative arrangements to support if needed.

School Operations

The school remains open and we are conducting our normal suite of school based educational programs. We have however modified some of these provisions that can minimise the movement around the school. For the remainder of this term; Science, Mandarin and Discovery Learning programs will be conducted in classrooms rather than in specialist's spaces. We will not be conducting groups sessions eg: buddy program, team teaching or cross age work.

We ask that if parents and students are happy to be dropped at the school gate, this will help to limit the number of people congregating in common areas. If you aren't able to do this and you need to access the school or teachers, of course you are still welcomed to do this.

Some further changes taking effect next week include:

- No assemblies for the remainder of term 1 (however we will be making some announcements to students in classrooms).
- Swimming has been cancelled for the remainder of the term.
- Inter school sport has been cancelled for the remainder of the term.
- We have cancelled all incursions and excursions to and from the school.
- The school banking program has ceased until term 2.
- National Day of Action against bullying postponed.
- School Dental visits cancelled
- No PMP classes next week
- No more parent helpers in classroom programs for this term
- Students are encouraged to use their own water bottles from home rather than using the school drinking taps

Hygiene

We continue to encourage and provide opportunities for students to wash their hands and sanitize on a regular basis. The school has adequate resources to support this until the end of the term, after which we will be re-stocking over the school holiday period.

We have requested extra cleaning of the school toilets in periods through the day. In addition to our daily cleaning we have also requested an additional hygienic clean of the whole school. We are also spot cleaning aspects of the classrooms each day.

We are encouraging all students to drink from their personal water bottles at school. This will reduce the need to use our school drinking fountains.

Absences

If you choose to keep your child at home as a precautionary measure, please mark your child's absence on Compass as 'Parent Choice' and add a comment such as, 'Parent choice to self-isolate due to COVID-19'.

If your reason for self isolation is due to the advice and direction of health authorities, please inform your child's teacher and myself asap.

Communication

We will continue to use Compass to keep you updated with any information as required. I urge all families to keep informed via the official government websites. There has been some spam being circulated that only helps to build anxiety and scare people into panicked behaviours.

Government Advice

Prime Minister, Scott Morrison addressed the nation again yesterday to explain the need to enforce some strict guidelines. One of these was to ensure no gatherings of greater than 100 people. Another was to maintain social distancing – where practicable. This excludes schools and kindergartens.

As I mentioned earlier, it is imperative that we remain calm and as positive as possible at this time. This is an evolving landscape and as a school we are well prepared to manage with whatever decisions are made in the near and distant future.

As I shared in the recent newsletter, we are in charge of how we process and behave in uncertain times. Set a good example for your children about caring for others whilst maintain a focus on your own personal hygiene and positive mindset.

Wishing everyone good health at this time and please look after yourselves and your elderly neighbours, friends and family.

Regards,
Michael

FETE

WOW! What a wonderful day at the fete on Saturday!

It was so fantastic to have the school community come together to enjoy the fete over the weekend. The community spirit was on display for all to see as staff, friends, parents and students came together to celebrate our great school and enjoy all that the fete had to offer!! We talk a lot about the community culture of W.H.P.S

and when we enjoy days like this it is apparent that we have a unique and special community!! The fete demonstrated to me that we are lucky to share in such a giving and supportive community. Whilst fundraising is important, it pails into insignificance when our school has the opportunity to develop a sense of belonging that was evident on Saturday. To see so many parents, staff and students getting involved as you all did over the weekend, I have such a sense of pride in our wonderful school and it's amazing community.

We don't have the final figure of the money raised and whatever this proves to be it will be generated back into our school and into the students. I thank-you for your fundraising efforts but more importantly I thank-you all for the manner in which you came and embraced the W.H.P.S ethos.

A HUGE thank-you to everyone within our community whom donated for this event. Maybe a donation of your time, maybe a donation of goods and services...every little bit helps to make the day successful.

I truly and greatly appreciate everyone's contribution!

Our values of Success, Teamwork, Respect, Individuality, Visionary and Effort were certainly on display in the lead and facilitation of such a great community event.

Success – the day was an overall hugely successful event. The community spirit, the funds raised for our students, the overall support was amazing!

Teamwork – evident prior, during and following our great fete was sensational! I feel so proud to be part of such a wonderful team at W.H.P.S !

Respect – additional to the great team approach everyone involved has displayed a high level of respect for the school and our fantastic students.

Individuality – our fete displayed the uniqueness of our great school. The tone of the day was something that was individual to our school. People came and will continue to come to our school to experience the W.H.P.S vibe!

Visionary – thanks to our school council for having the visionary foresight to approve and support the required governance for our fete!

Effort – goes without saying...sooooo much effort has gone into making our fete such a success! Thank-you to everyone for all you did to help and support this day, our school and most importantly – our STUDENTS!!

We always Strive for the Heights and we achieved great heights on Saturday! Thank-you!

I would also like to extend a HUGE thank-you to the staff whom gave of their time on the day (and in the lead up, and aftermath). We are lucky to have such a dedicated team whom support our students and the wider community so readily.

Curriculum Day

The staff enjoyed the recent curriculum day where we worked hard on developing our reading program. Staff worked in teams to review and develop our literacy curriculum. It was wonderful to reflect on all the great programs that we run at the school and also spend some time refining and improving our practice for the future.

Staff Carpark

Parents are asked not to park in the staff carpark. This is still an issue that must be avoided. We are also having some problems with congestion in and around the school. Unfortunately we don't have great parking facilities however, this can be improved through everyone's awareness, consideration and patience. Promoting a healthy lifestyle it would be great to have more students walking or riding to school. Even if you need to drive to school you could park a few streets away and walk the remainder of the journey. I have been informed that the council will be active in issuing infringement notices in coming weeks. On a similar topic, thank-you to everyone for reverse parking in the visitors carpark.

Watsonia Heights School Council

In welcoming our new school council I would like to acknowledge and thank some outgoing school council members. Outgoing President, Pierre Scotney has been a member of the council for the past 8 years. He has fulfilled the roles of Vice-President and President, overseen annual reports, Strategic plans, Annual Implementation plans and our school's review. Richard Illingworth has also served on council for 8 years and fulfilled the role of treasurer over that time. Donna Leibowitz has also had successful terms of school council and has led the community links group and most notably co-ordinated this group during our recent school fete. I sincerely thank them all for their dedication, support and commitment to governing our school over recent times.

The role of school council is of vital importance to the governance of the school and I excitedly welcome the new council members for 2020: Tony Ryan, Phil Hannon, Amanda Macellari, Clint Mackie, Mel Bradley, Charlotte Bethune, Tracey Szymanski, Shelli Giosis, Leigh Greenhalgh, Georgina Nankervis, Joanne Purdie, Penny Stammers and Rob Burley.

Enjoy the last week and of term 1!

Please be aware that school will conclude for the term on Friday 27th March at 1.30pm.

There will be no assembly but we will be making some announcements across our public address system into each classroom.

Warm regards,

Michael

ACROSS THE AP'S DESK...

TONY RYAN - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



New Seating!

We recently installed a Buddy Bench in the junior school. Buddy Benches are designed to promote social inclusion and support students who are finding it difficult to engage in play activities. Students who are by themselves can simply walk over to the Buddy Bench and take a seat. Other students are encouraged to engage with students sitting on this bench to check if they are ok, to invite them to join their games or simply to sit and talk if the first student would like that. This also gives another avenue for our yard duty teachers to check in with students that may require some extra support in the yard. This is consistent with the existing culture at the school and I think our students on the whole do a great job in supporting each other. It will be great to formalise this process with a clearly identified seat. Our student leaders and staff will be promoting this initiative through the classrooms to ensure everyone is familiar with the new seat and the process to support each other.

In addition to the Buddy Seat we have also invested in some extra seating options around the school. This will provide some flexible seating options for our students in designated eating areas around the canteen and some spaces to chill out in the junior and senior school with friends.



ACROSS THE AP'S DESK...

TONY RYAN - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Fantastic Fete:

What a fantastic day our school Fete turned out to be!

We were fortunate both with the weather and on account of the developing medical advice around restrictions on crowd gatherings. It was awesome to see so many smiling faces around the place and the great community spirit that was on display. Our thanks goes out to all the members of our community who supported this event by attending and also the many parents and families that assisted with the organisation and managing stalls across the day.



This is a major community event on our calendar that only comes around every two years. It is impossible to put on an event of this nature without a wide contribution of time and effort from the community. It is because of your efforts that this day was such a success.

A special thank you goes out to the members of our Fete committee, both parent volunteers and WHPS staff for their tireless work in the many months leading up to Saturday and on the day. Our staff and school council also deserve a special thank you for their efforts in contributing towards this wonderful event. In the end, all the work is put in to put a smile on the face of our students and the community and to give them a fantastic experience. On that measure, the Fete was an overwhelming success.

THANK YOU!!!



School Privacy Policy

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy. For more information about privacy, see the Schools' Privacy Policy on the school website. This link includes a section with further information for parents, which is available in nine community languages.



"What are some positive self-talk statements you might be able to say/think to yourself that would encourage you to tackle something you are finding difficult?"

Have a great weekend everyone,
Tony.

From The Sport Shed

Hello wonderful WHPS community,

Due to the current uncertainty surrounding the corona virus the School Sport Victoria and the Watsonia District have decided that the 5/6 Summer Interschool Sport Competition will no longer continue for the remainder of the term. The success of all our teams, bat tennis, cricket, rounders and basketball was a sight that was so wonderful to see, I am very saddened to hear we will not be able to finish out the season.

The Watsonia District has no further pathway for cricket, bat tennis or rounders as they are focused on participation, student involvement and student enjoyment, however the pathway for our district is for basketball. Our boys basketball team has resulted in finishing high on the ladder, which means that later in term 3 our boys basketball team will be involved in a 4 way final which will decide who will go onto the next level.

We do understand that we still had one more game in our season, Miss Massa will try and organise a scratch match with this school (Streeton) in term 4, we congratulate the following teams where they ended up on the current situation for the ladder.

Bat Tennis Girls - 5th on the ladder

Bat Tennis Mixed - 3rd on the ladder

Cricket Team - 1st on the ladder

Basketball Boys - 1st on the ladder

Basketball Girls - 5th on the ladder

Rounders Girls - Equal 2nd on the ladder

GET EXCITED 5/6's we have our Winter Try Outs happening 9am-10am this Friday morning. Students have the opportunity to try out for a winter sport. Our winter sports include AFL, Netball mixed, Netball girls, Softball girls and Soccer mixed.

Again, due to the current situation, we have been informed by the Watsonia District that our Winter Interschool Sport competition will begin on Friday 1st May (week 3).

I hope you are all well and I look forward to seeing you all around.

Amanda Macellari

Physical Education and Sport Coordinator

Division Swimming

On Wednesday the 4th of March at Northcote Pool, we had 19 students make it to the Division level of swimming. With a fantastic effort from our superstars they did an amazing job against the fierce competition at such a high level. Walking away with smiles, their heads held very high and quite a number of ribbons these students could not have represented Watsonia Heights in a more positive manner in which they did.

Our number one rule is providing our swimmers with some loud cheering and clapping which not only our students helped us out with but as well as our amazing support system of parents who joined us on the day. I loved the enthusiasm from our students but most of all our support from our community of parents and friends at Watsonia Heights. I could not be anymore happier with how our students represent themselves when we are out at large school events! Well done team!

Amanda Macellari

Physical Education and Sport Coordinator





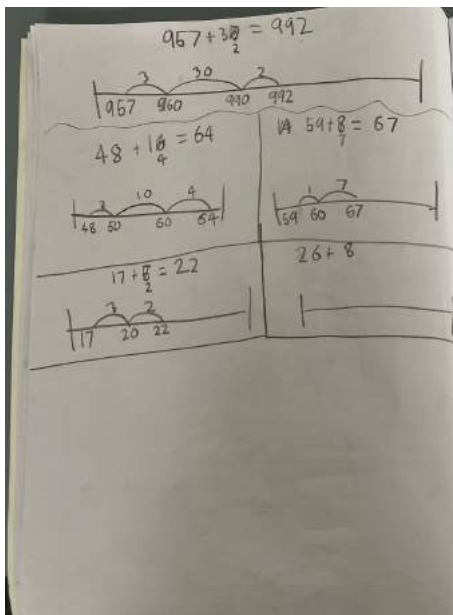
Check out what's been happening in 3/4!

Mathematics

Place Value

We learned about the values of numbers like the 4 in 43 isn't a 4, it's value is 40. we also played a game where someone would roll a dice and everyone would have to try to use the numbers to make the largest number possible. We also played Traffic Lights, which last year we called Crack the Code. You have to try to guess the teacher's number in only 6 guesses. The teacher would give each number a colour to show if it was in the number or in the right spot or not in the number at all.

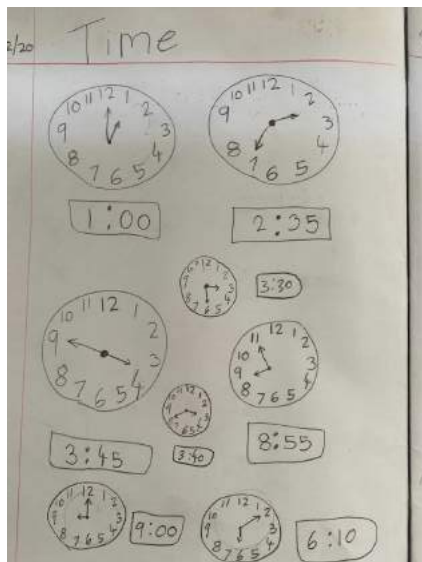
By Zach Burley 3/4G



Addition strategies

This term I have learned a few strategies to help me with addition. Some of the strategies are the number line strategy, partitioning (which means to break the number down into smaller parts to make it easier to solve problems), bridging to ten, doubles and near doubles and friends of ten.

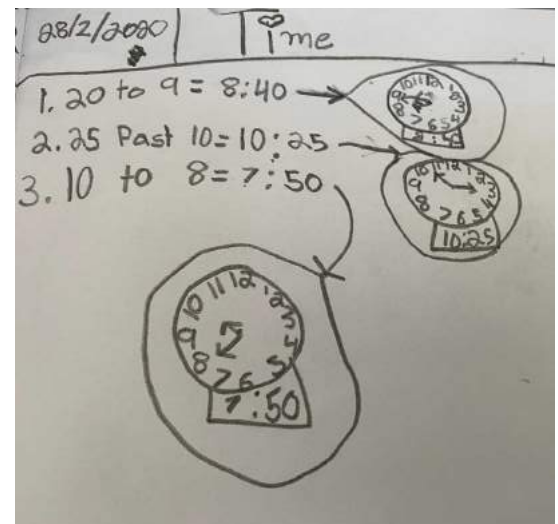
By James Eade 3/4G



Time

When we were learning about time, practised reading and making times on analogue clocks. One way to read the time is by skip counting by 5s to work out how many minutes past the hour it is. We also challenged ourselves by working out how long had passed in worded problems.

By Talia Clough 3/4G



Literacy

Reading

This term 3/4 has been focusing on different topics for reading and writing. In reading we have been using the CAFÉ strategies. In CAFÉ the C stands for comprehension, the A stands for accuracy, the F stands for fluency and the E stands for expand vocabulary. We have been using monitoring and fixing up, trade a word, cross checking, flip the sound and many more strategies to make us better readers. We also have chosen our own reading goal that we will be working on for semester one, each reading lesson we have time to do independent reading to practise our CAFÉ strategy goal. Parents please note your child should be reading at least 5 times a week, writing it in their student diary and getting it sign by a parent or guardian in the recommended space.

Written by Mae Butterworth and Joanne Denton (3/4K)



Writing

In writing we have been learning about VCOP and all of its features including vocab, connectives (our main focus), openers and punctuation. Everyone in 3/4 has been writing and publishing our own fabulous Little Miss and Mr Men books including a variety of VCOP and how could we forget our editing and up levelling. We are now focusing on persuasive writing and discussing important topics in the classroom, like students SHOULD have homework. We really enjoy this topic as we all get to see everyone's different opinions.

Thank you for reading 3/4K's part in this wonderful newsletter!

Written by Mae Butterworth and Joanne Denton (3/4K)



Discovery Learning



We do Discovery Learning to work with different people we don't usually work with. If you always work with your best friends you won't know anyone else. It's good to practice these skills because when you get job you will need to use them! We design, build, test then rethink our ideas of what we made. At the moment we are doing lots of building but we always plan first and don't wing it. Sometimes in Discovery Learning we get to do challenges. I think Discovery Learning can be hard sometimes because I like to be the leader and I should let other people have a turn.

By Ivy (3/4D)

Making straw towers was great. I think everyone had so much fun doing this. We had a certain amount of straws and we had to build a tower that had two ping pong balls on the top. It also had to be over thirty centimetres tall. I like Discovery Learning when we have a really hard challenge.

By Angus (3/4D)



In DLC we made pipe-cleaner towers. Every group got about 20 pipe cleaners and we couldn't even use any tape! It had to be a certain height and it had to be free-standing. It was really fun because you get to work with your classmates. My favourite part was when you got to twist up the pipe cleaners.

By Michaela (3/4D)



3/4 Swimming



3/4 is really enjoying our swimming lesson and we wish it wouldn't stop! Swimming is fun, it makes us well and healthy. It also teaches us different strokes and helps us to be better swimmers.

By Mia C, Evie and Mataya (3/4M)

Swimming is fun. We get to be independent, try our best and the swimming teachers are really good. It's important that we learn to swim because it helps us be safe if we find ourselves in deep waters.

By Grace, Reuben and Sabrina (3/4M)

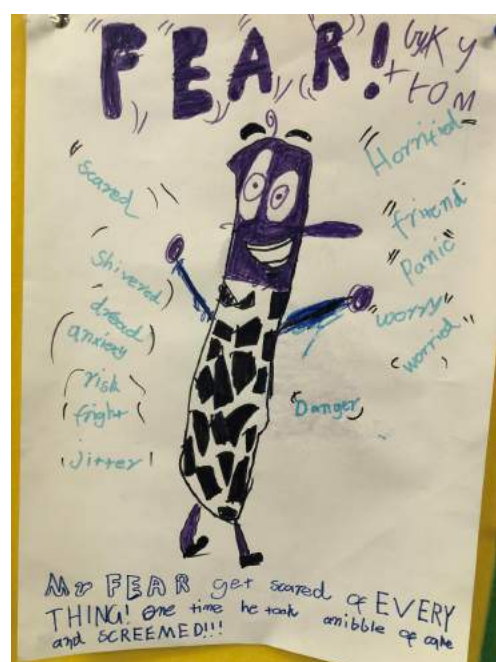
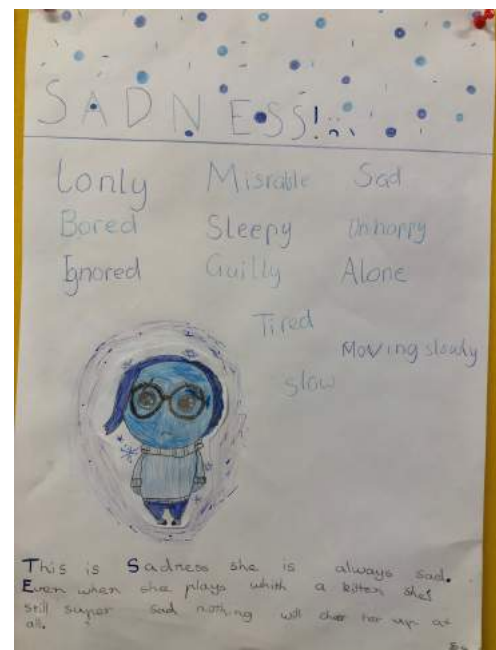


Inquiry

In Inquiry we have been learning about emotions. We are learning how to cope with all the different emotions that we can feel and how they can affect us at school, home and in our lives.

In class we watched the movie Inside Out and it taught us that it is normal to express ALL of the emotions. Now we know that it is important to tell others how we are feeling so that we can get help from others if we need it.

By Alex and Millie 3/4A



Specialist Leaders



Science Leaders

Callum & Matthius

Art Leaders

Lily & Ryder

Mandarin Leaders

Zara & Abbey



I.C.T Leader

Isaac

Boronia House Captains

Molly & Kayla

Students of the Week

Week 6 Term 1



2020 Students of the Week – Term 1 Week 6
Layla, Isabel, Ava, Lily, Rybek, Rhys, Lyrika, Samuel,
Noah, Quade, Leah, Kyan, Callum, Heidi, April, Tori,
Bella, Koby, Lachlan, Lola, Mya, Kayla, Scarlett,
Amelia, Kai

Students of the Week

Week 7 Term 1



Jordan, Lachy, Jordan, Lucas, Maggie, Sarah, Bella,
Darcie, Beau, Jullia, William, Ben, Bella, Cleo, Amelia,
Audrey, Dusk, Hudson, Matilda, Patrick, Yaami,
Theo, Lillee & Miss Agnew



Junior School Council

Classroom Representatives



Grade 1D-Lucy & Nahara, **1M**-Mitchell and Cohen, **1R**-Isla & Ivy

Grade **2TE**-Matthew & Lucinda, **2M**-Tara & Edie, **2T**-Willow & Siena

Grade 3\4A-Mitchell & Mary, **3\4D**-Gordon & Max, **3\4G**-Sean & Zach, **3\4K**-Noah & Kyal, **3\4M**-Sabrina & Aerynn

Grade 5\6H-Charlotte & Matthias, **5\6L**-Ellen & Miguel, **5\6J**-Jordan & Archie, **5\6A**-Siena & Rory

This is for all the MUMS out there that know this is THEIR TIME!

□** Training sessions right at the school!!!**** □**

This is their time to put themselves first, that they are deserving of some time to themselves and are desperate to get their health back and FEEL GOOD again! The amount of calls I get from women, particularly mum's that say 'I've given so much for so many years and now I need this for me!'

You do! You deserve to feel good, to carve out time in your day to put you and your health first. And you BLOODY deserve to feel amazing in your body. So many have forgotten what that feels like! My name is Sarah and it's my goal to create a space that women can train and feel that there is no judgement, no competition. Where they can escape their everyday lives and leave feeling better. Like they have achieved something and feel empowered in their lives! Where they feel supported by not only me but each other! No pressure to out do each other! Here's what one of my beautiful clients/mumma Jane had to say ...

'I was a busy working mum who was so busy taking care of everything & everyone else, I wasn't taking care of myself. After the first program, I was feeling fitter, had much more energy, actually enjoyed eating healthy food

& really needed that time out. The girls in the program are awesome and really help push you on. Trust me, this is just what you need and will help bring the best out of you! This beautiful client has now been training with me for around 18 months and keeps reaching more of her goals!

If you are SERIOUS about feeling better and learning to appreciate your body and would like to join me jump on my website www.sjmindbodytraining.com and send me a message or direct message me today through Facebook for more information.

Ps. We laugh a lot like this during training because it should be fun!