Principal’s Message

Dear Families,

Our year 5 and 6 campers arrived back from two days at Sovereign Hill with many stories to tell. It appears we have some excellent gold miners in this cohort which could come in very handy if we need an extra fundraising activity if things get tough! They survived the arctic Ballarat weather, and the teachers report that a good time was had by all. Thank you to all the teachers who readily agreed to go on camp. I am very aware that their families have to manage without them which can be a bit tricky. I would also like to mention that in all the years of greeting campers back from camp, I have never had so many parents take the trouble to express their thanks for the teachers’ care and attention of their children. This was particularly touching and speaks volumes about the caring nature of our community.

The year 3 to 6 school athletics carnival is less than two weeks away and organisation is in full swing. The children have been practising all the sports in PE lessons and hopefully the imminent Olympic games will add further inspiration to go higher, longer and faster. The aths carnival promises to be an exciting day of colour and activity and I invite all parents of year 3 to 6 students to come along and watch some of the fun if you are able. We would LOVE to have some extra parent help on the day so please let your teacher know if you can help. In order for close supervision and accurate judgements we need lots of helpers. No training required...we will show you what to do on the day.

Fifteen percent of our school families will have received a 'Parent Opinion Survey' this week. Thank you to those who have already returned it. This is an anonymous survey requesting feedback in a number of areas against which our school is measured. We can only get accurate data if a minimum number of responses are sent in so please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to school.

On Friday August 12th we will have a pupil free day to allow all the staff to work on preparing the school self-evaluation for our review. The school is reviewed every four years and we need to look closely at our current strategic plan to see if we have achieved the goals that were set way back in 2012. This involves analysing a range of data. We will also include some information technology professional learning on the day. Timing this day for the middle Friday of the term hopefully allows some families to take advantage of a potential long weekend to reenergise for the second half of the term.

And speaking of taking time off, I am a little concerned by our increased absences during school times. If there is one thing about school that I can guarantee, it is that student learning increases when children attend school. If your child is ill or there are extenuating circumstances, of course we would understand your child being kept home, however teachers are becoming concerned about unexplained absences or absences for family activities that could be scheduled for weekends. After discussions with the teachers, we have decided to become proactive in contacting parents if children are regularly late or absent, or if absences are not accounted for through the Compass system. Remember that one day a fortnight absent leads to a month across the whole year!
I am sure your children will have told you all about Stomp. This term we are working with the Stomp dance company to provide a highly engaging dance program for all students in the school. Plans are underway for a whole-school performance to allow the children to show off their skills. We are aiming for a ‘twilight’ performance to be held on Wednesday September 14th and I am currently negotiating with our neighbourhood schools to find an appropriate venue for our dance extravaganza. Initial planning would suggest that the show will be after school and would be completed by 5pm. The aim is to allow families to come along without needing to impact on an evening or to worry about purchasing tickets. Watch this space - more information to follow. (And don’t tell anyone, but I believe there are plans afoot for everyone… and I mean everyone… to be involved in the dancing!)

Next week we are running our 3-way conferences. This is a reporting format that allows every student to show their work and talk through their learning goals and activities with the parent and teacher together. Parents have access through Compass to book a time that suits them in line with the teachers’ availability. Children have been working hard developing their work portfolios which will be the focus of the discussions. Please make sure you have booked a time before the booking portal closes on Sunday.

Our birthday celebration preparations are ramping up. Have you seen the banner by the office? Did you receive your advertising postcard? Have you looked at the facebook page? A couple of ‘latest news items’ are:

1. **Loose change collection competition** – Each grade has a container in which the students will collect loose change to support the costs of setting up the day. We hope you can check the bottoms of bags, jeans pockets, 5 cent coin collections etc to send along bits and pieces to help. The containers will be judged by weight so there is some potential for your family to work out the best kind of coins to send along. This will be an ongoing competition with a prize at the end of the term for the grade with the heaviest container.

2. **Chocolate Block collection** – One of the best money spinners is the coin toss that enables participants to potentially win a block of chocolate. We are holding a free dress day on Thursday August 11th and the cost of coming along in casual clothes (no theme) is a family sized block of chocolate per child. Keep an eye out at the supermarket for specials so that you are ready on the day.

3. **Year level stalls** – Each grade level will be allocated a stall to organise and run on the day. We DESPERATELY need a parent or small band of parents from each level to take on the management on this. The Birthday Committee will give lots of support so please don’t feel shy about putting up your hand. We need people to help get everything organised and then we need a roster of volunteers to ‘person’ the stall on the day. Don’t be shy!

Robyn English, Principal
Dear Families,

This week has been rather chilly. Our Level 5 and 6 students showed great resilience as they headed off to Ballarat where the forecast was for VERY low temperatures. Don’t forget to check lost property each day if you are missing any clothes that get taken off after running around at play and lunch.

**Digital Technologies:** There was a great response to the recent visit from our local police to discuss cyber safety with our older students. Our visitors were most impressed with the tone of our school and the questions asked and the understanding of leadership shown by our LS-6 students. Montrose PS are hosting a cyber safety evening session for families in our area – check out the details on the AP window. (Wednesday 7th September, 7:00pm FREE).

What’s this pokemon go! thing about? I live in a tourist town [Healesville] and have noticed people staring at the Town Hall with phones and iPads and getting rather excited! Pokemon Go is about augmented reality. It’s getting people outside to actively explore their surroundings. It’s also raising questions and concerns about whether the game’s location and mapping features are actually cybersafe! Here are some issues for you to be aware of:

- A player’s name and location is broadcast to other players. There have also been reports of physical injury due to distraction and people being directed to unsafe places or onto private property. Parents need to check whether Pokémon Go is appropriate for their kids.
- Make a plan, not a ban. The moment you make something taboo, kids will do everything they can to do that very thing. Instead of banning all things Pokémon GO from the outset, try using it as a jumping-off point for more valuable learning experiences.
- Educational purpose: One great thing about Pokémon GO is it gets kids out in the world discovering new places and people. Seize the opportunity and have kids embark on similar experiences in their communities to get them out in the world, researching history or talking to people and creating tours, maps, podcasts, and videos.

Check out these fun ideas: [I got these from the Department Digital Learning web page]

**Science:** Have kids share their top five favourite Pokémon to discuss their attributes. Based on their association to a phylum (water, earth, and so on), students have to think critically about what attributes the Pokémon possesses. Students then apply attributes to real animals that might share similar attributes.

**History:** Use PokeStops as a way to do research on local landmarks.

**Math:** Have students log distance and calculate distance between battlegrounds or stops. You could also use the Pokémon for simple addition and subtraction within their attribute.

**Physical Education:** Use the egg-hatching function to get kids to complete their cardio distance (incubating eggs requires walking to the hatch) and aim for kids to hatch an egg (walking two to 10 kilometres) depending on the egg found.

Younger kids should only play with an adult and with parental consent. Because of the privacy issues outlined above, Pokémon GO is not recommended for kids under 13. However, we’ve heard some fun ideas for cooperative play that could be integrated into adult-supervised group activities. One parent talked about alphabetizing the Pokémon with his young daughters for a little early literacy practice!

**Student Wellbeing:** We are lucky to be able to resume our ‘Kids Hope’ program where several students will have the opportunity to participate in this program with our volunteer Kids Hope mentors. Alan Wright is the coordinator of this program and last week our school captains took him on a tour of our school. He was really impressed and he observed how happy our students were here and what great learning was taking place. Thanks Alan!

The latest Department initiative is the ‘Child Safe’ documentation for schools. There are 7 elements of the Child Safe initiative. Briefly, this is about caring for our students – having in place policies, reporting processes and wellbeing measures. Our school is well placed to organise our current policies and processes to meet the Department’s initiative. Our next step is reviewing what we have, reflecting on how we can do better and making changes where improvement is needed. To support this initiative, our current policies are on Compass for your feedback, which would be much appreciated, even if it was just a ‘That looks good/okay/fix the capital letter/thanks’.

**Super Siblings:** Watch this space for our next get together for our Super Siblings. These kids get together in the Art Room over lunch and create, make, share, chat and generally support each other with the common theme being a sibling or relative of someone with special needs.

Whilst doing some e-reading, I came across this article. As many of you know, I will often ask parents/families to support another family, chat about the ‘light at the end of the tunnel’ over the many parenting questions, thoughts, issues that arise. I found this and thought it might be helpful for families with children with reading difficulties, attention difficulties or reluctant learners: What Parents Wish They’d Known Sooner What if you could step into another parent’s shoes and benefit from his or her experiences? There’s no “one size fits all” instruction manual for raising kids, but it’s helpful to see what others have learned along the way. One of the blogs on Understood.org, What I Wish I’d Known Sooner, is a collection of personal stories and tips from other parents who’ve been there. Here are just a few highlights:

- Pam found a way to help her daughter listen without resorting to yelling.
- Amanda used Understood’s Through Your Child’s Eyes tool to find out what her kids with executive functioning issues face every day.
- Lyn has a better understanding of what her 9-year-old daughter with dyslexia is going through.

**Understood**

Understood.org also has four other blogs that offer perspectives from parents, educators, authors and more. Looking to learn from parents like you? Check out the What I Wish I’d Known Sooner blog to guide you along your journey.

Cheers,

Mary
Don’t forget to support our Book Fair this week...

You’re invited to our Scholastic BOOK FAIR!

Don’t call me Bear!

Australia! Story Country
Find your story at the Book Fair!

Anh Do
Big Weirdo

Tracy Lacy
Is completely Coo-Coo
Sums up!!!
Tania Lacy

Ella Olivia
Lee Resuce

Pixel Raiders

Date  Thu 28/7 Fri 29/7
Time  3:30 - 4 pm  8:30 - 9 am
      3:30 - 4 pm
Place  Library

All purchases benefit our school!
What’s happening in Level 1/2?

This week in Level 1/2 students have been learning about money in Maths. Students explored the values of different coins and notes that make up the Australian monetary system. They have also been investigating how to count different combinations of coins to add up to a given total, for example, $1.00.

Canteen News

OLYMPIC MORNING TEA:
Thanks to all of the families who have returned their order forms for next week’s Olympic Morning Tea. There are lots of goodies being made in the canteen for this special celebration.

ATHLETICS LUNCH DAY:
The return date for orders which will be delivered to RHPS’s upcoming Athletics Carnival (being held on Wednesday 10th August) for Levels 3-6 has been extended until 4pm, Tuesday 2nd August. There will also be a “Pop Up Canteen” at the track serving snacks, drinks and icypoles, as well as coffee for parents.

Canteen will be open on the day as usual for Foundation – Level 2.

SPECIAL:
The special for the next two weeks will be home baked Anzac Cookies, which will be available to order with your lunch or at the canteen window for .50c each from Friday 29th July - Wednesday 10th August.

Thank you,
Wendy Schilling & Canteen Sub-committee

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CURRICULUM DAY—NO SCHOOL
Our Level 5 & 6 students have a wonderful time at Sovereign Hill this week. Here are a few photos of their adventures, courtesy of Mrs Radcliffe.
From the Artroom...

Level 5 & 6 have spent time looking into the work of Australian illustrator Shaun Tan. After reading his book and watching his animated movie ‘The Lost Thing’ students created their own ‘Lost Thing Characters’.

Kirrily, 6D

Darcey, 6T

Tyla, 6K

Forum, 6T