



Term 3 Week 4
Wednesday 12th August 2020
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DIARY DATES

TERM 3	2020
Thursday 20 th August	eSafety Webinar for parents/carers
Tuesday 1 st Sept	Robokids Incursion 5E
Thursday 3 rd Sept	Robokids Incursion 5K
Tuesday 15 th Sept	P&F AGM – Zoom -TBC
Sunday 20 th Sept	Enrolment for Confirmation closes
Friday 25 th Sept	Term 3 Concludes

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that you have heard from your child/children the work we have commenced in 'You Can Do It' (YCDI). YCDI is a leading Social and Emotional Learning program for students that in part focuses on combatting the problems of low self-belief in students and to instil confidence.

How does 'You Can Do It!' as an attitude influence the way young people think, feel, and behave? When faced with stressful events or people, young people with strong self-belief talk to themselves using a strong and convincing voice, "You can do It!" "You can cope with being teased or even bullied!" "You can get this difficult work finished!" "You can give a great talk, speech, or presentation!". The result is strong feelings of confidence and determined behaviour.

"**You**" is empowering yourself to take charge, not blaming others, and not waiting for others to help. "**Can**" is confidence – your ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving that communicates to yourself and others you are expecting to cope and get the job done. "**Do**" is for you taking action – doing not stewing. "**It!**" is whatever you set out to accomplish, your daily, short- and long-term goals.



We chose YCDI after feedback from students, parents and teachers in the 2019 'Tell Them from Me Survey' results. YCDI is an Australian written programme, backed by research.

We look forward to sharing more information about the programme as the students participate in further lessons.

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL

LOWES UNIFORM PRICE INCREASE
(1st October)

Unfortunately, Lowes have advised that they have had some significant price increases from their suppliers over the past 12-18 months and while Lowes have tried to keep any increases as low as possible, increase will be necessary from 1st October 2020.

DOES YOUR CHILD WALK/RIDE THEIR BIKE ALONG PINE STREET?

If your child rides home along Pine Street, they should join the Victoria Rd walkers and cross at the lights and then proceed down Park Road to Pine Street.

STAFFING NEWS

Last week we welcomed Mrs Sonia Arena to our teaching team. Mrs Arena is a highly experienced teacher with experience teaching all grades, students with English as an additional dialect and students with additional needs. Mrs Arena will be working predominately in Stage 1 supporting students with their learning. We know you join us in welcoming her to our school and we wish her every success in this role, this year.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



August 13	Samuel M John-Paul A
August 14	Tadhg O Isaac L Tristan T
August 15	Khloe G Sean T
August 20	Joshua A Samuel J Jackson H Hayley A Kayla G Sophia M
August 21	Sanderson K
August 22	Jacob K Lennon T
August 23	Ava C
August 25	Christian G Minnie E

We would like to wish all of these children a very happy birthday!!

ENROLMENT FOR CONFIRMATION

A reminder that Enrolment for Confirmation closes on Sunday 20th September.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS
TERM 3—Week 3



KB	Emma B & Samuel B
KGT	Ariya S & Marion P
1A	Sophie C & Alisa S
1D	Arnav V & Tyler N
2FM	Mitchell B & Paris S
2RM	Daniel A & Elizabeth L
3G	Ava A & Xianjin B
3J	Thomas H & Hayley G
4D	John C & Paige H
4R	Antony W & Hannah P
5E	Genevieve B & Aaron S
5K	Chloe M & Kristina A
6K	Johnathan K & Kaisei D
6LV	Chad C & Samuel N

CARE AWARDS
TERM 3—Week 3



KB	Jenny L & Harriet S
KGT	Luca A & Emmeline M
1A	Aaron A & Khloe G
1D	Hayon K & Jessica B
2FM	Matilda C & Siena C
2RM	Jackson N & Oliver T
3G	Jamie J & Audrey T
3J	Renae A & James F
4D	Alessandro B & Caleb F
4R	Joshua W & Scarlett S
5E	Lorelai T & Ela T
5K	Sean T & Ava L
6K	Jireh S & Stella N
6LV	Isla B & Finn M

MUSICA-VIVA INCURSION...

With COVID restrictions preventing excursions at the present time, it was wonderful for our students to engage with a musical experience via zoom on their big screens last week. Mrs Dennis co-ordinated our 'zoomcursion' and the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Here is Year 2 in the Library with Mrs Dennis.



COVID-19 PROCEDURES...

The importance of following our COVID-19 restrictions...

We are very conscious of recent positive cases of COVID-19. I am very appreciative of the phone calls from families to discuss particular circumstances – thank you for your ongoing support. I cannot stress enough the importance of following all of our procedures to ensure we keep our whole community safe. In particular:

- **Drop off** – we encourage the use of Kiss and Go to limit the number of adults near the gates – if walking to the gates – please move off as quickly as possible. Kiss and Go is the preferred method of drop off.
- **Parents on site** – we currently do not have parents' volunteers on site. You may visit the school office if necessary.
- **Pick up** – maintain physical distance if collecting in person – we encourage Kiss and Go as the preferred method of collection.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please phone the school office.

LIBRARY NEWS...

Premier's Reading Challenge...

The PRC will end on 28 August 2020 so make sure all reading records are uploaded by then. If you need extra books to complete the challenge, please contact me and I will make some arrangements for you to pick up the books you need.

More Volunteers needed...

We are asking for more volunteers to help cover the many new books that have been purchased for students. So please, if you can take a bag of books home to cover, let me know so that I can arrange for you to pick them up. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Lia Raddochia
Librarian

YEAR 6 LEADERSHIP DAY...

On Friday the 24th of July, year 6 had a leadership day. We learnt about teamwork and the values of a good leader, as well as playing lots of fun activities and having a pizza lunch.

In the morning we had a lego competition in teams, and this showed us that it took more than one person to build a masterpiece, and also illustrated teamwork skills.

Afterward, we watched short films and discussed the values of each main character, then had pizza for lunch, courtesy of Mr Blissenden, our school principal.

Later, we had sport games, where - in teams - we had to collect various items without breaking the hula-hoop chain. Then in teams we stood on a carpet, with the task of flipping it over, but no one could put their foot on the floor, otherwise we would have to start again, AND only two people could talk.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable day, and year 6 learnt a lot and had a great deal of fun. I am certainly looking forward to the next leadership day!



LEADERSHIP DAY – BY SANDERSON K...

Leadership day was filled with many wonderful and unexpected surprises whilst still teaching Year 6 how to become better leaders and role models to younger students.

Straight away after the bell, we all gathered around in a large circle. Faces of excitement, joy, nervousness, and smiles was all you could see around you.

The first task included 'Lego'. Every Year 6 student was given one tiny little piece of lego. All those faces of excitement everyone saw moments ago disappeared and were replaced with faces of confusion and uncertainty. If there wasn't confusion in everyone's eyes at that point, there certainly was when Mr Bissenden instructed us to build something amazing and 'GO' without any further instructions.

No idea what to do, many of us sat down unsure where to go or if it was a trick, while others stood up waiting for further instructions that never ever came to them. After a few seconds we realised that we had to cooperate together to succeed as there's no 'I' in 'team'! Quickly, we all jumped up to work as 'team' to create a truly amazing 'LEGO MASTERPIECE'! ('Lego Masters' definitely would have been impressed!)

After the burst of excitement from our successful lego task, we quickly huddled into the Library where we watched many famous animations that displayed cooperation, courage, kindness, taking initiative, empathy, listening skills, communication and encouragement; in other words 'leadership'.

All the videos demonstrated different aspects of 'leadership' in their own unique way but the video that stood out the most to me was actually not one of the animations, it was the 'TedTalk' we listened to.

The topic of the TedTalk was 'Leadership' but there was one particular section of the talk that stood out the most to me. Here's what it is:

During the TedTalk, the presenter spoke about a girl from the University that he worked at and what she told him before he left. She told him that the night before she started at the university they were at, she thought she couldn't do it. Her parents told to just check it out and if at any point she felt she couldn't do it they would leave. They were waiting in the line when she saw him wearing the most ridiculous hat she had ever seen. He came over to her and gave the boy behind her a lollipop and told him to give it to the beautiful lady in front of him. She told him that little gesture made her know she could do it and that he changed her life in more ways than one by telling that boy to give her a lollipop.

The man then went on to say that he had no recollection of those 5-8 minutes and still doesn't but only knows he changed someone's life because they told him. Continuing on, he asked how many people have had a lollipop moment and how many people have told that person they have changed their life...

I think what he was trying to say was that someone may change your life or even help you in a small way such as someone may help you in Maths or give you a present but so many people don't take the time to tell others how grateful they are for their help or thoughtfulness.

LEADERSHIP DAY – BY SANDERSON K... cont

That's what a unique part of leadership is though. Taking initiative and being kind to others, by saying 'Thank you - you really helped me in Maths'. By saying a simple 'Thank you' - you are taking initiative and being kind to others.

Finally, the last two activities of the day were after a scrumptious pizza lunch. For the second last task of the day, we had to flip a blanket over. Sorry, you had to flip a blanket over with 9-10 people on the blanket and only one person could give directions. It really was quite challenging and put our cooperation skills to the test.

The last task of the day was called the 'Caterpillar Game'. The aim of this game was to collect the most amount of items as you could. There were four items you needed to collect in order to win and after you had them all, you could double up on them. It seemed easy enough and although it was definitely easier than the first task, it was still quite challenging.

This task also involved four hula hoops and four people in each team. Each person stood in one hula hoop but in order to move you, you had to get the last hula hoop to the front and jump forward.

(P.S. For the record, my team won!)

'THANK YOU' to Mr Blissenden and our teachers for our 'Leadership Day' that was filled with excitement, surprises, challenges, cooperation, and enjoyment, whilst teaching us many valuable leadership skills.

Written By
Sanderson K
6LV

FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS...

Please find below some more of the feedback from parents – thank you for your ongoing support.

I appreciate that the teachers were able to adjust over the weeks of school from home. Nate felt clear on what he needed to do, and the activities were set up in a way allowing him to be an independent, confident worker. Thank you.

Thank you for the way in which you all quickly and professionally changed to providing learning and support for children both at home and school. The programs sent home for Year 3 were excellent, well set out, engaging and easy for the children (and parents) to follow and complete.

I think the See Saw app was great for the young years, it was my first time using it. All the packs were brilliant and helpful. Mother's Day and the holiday video were touching. The daily zooms for the older kids, kept them in touch. The stories read by teachers were lovely for the young ones too. Mrs Radocchia's library updates were appreciated. Video assemblies were great too. Thank you to all during this tough time!!

I am in awe of Miss Brimfield, the personal messages and encouragement throughout this period made it an absolute joy for me. In a time where our pays were reduced up to 40% (and still is) there was a silver lining for us. We felt supported in every way with learning and never felt any pressure on days when work was overly demanding. We are totally blessed to have such an awesome teacher who loved so much!

Staff have been extraordinary! To keep our children safe your staff have chosen to go above and beyond. They have had to adapt their teaching style and transform themselves overnight to continue educating our children. They have also taken care, love, and support in providing emotional care for St Marys children and families. I have tears welling thinking about how grateful we are not only as a family but a society. Please thank them all.

As essential workers they have worked with what they have been given and done a fantastic job implementing the change on short notice. Well done to each and everyone.

I appreciate the hard work and effort it took to undertake such a huge task and develop a whole new skill set while having to come to work and not stay home with your own kids.

What an exceptional job you have done! Thanks for your hard work, unwavering support, and dedication during this challenging time. Whilst it has certainly challenged the normal way of operations, there have also been some positives. From the eyes of my children struggling to understand this pandemic, they knew they could rely on their teachers and school community for familiar support. Watching their faces light up during the Easter message, kindy story time and virtual assemblies spoke volumes from their little hearts. You have done such a wonderful job and to be able to pull off home learning and still having children excited by their presence in St Mary's school community is heart-warming. Thanks!