Thursday, 18th February  TERM 1  WEEK 4

KEY DATES:

FEBRUARY
22 Swimming Carnival
24 Whole School Athletics Day
25 School Photos

MARCH
4 Immigration Museum Excursion - Year 5
9 Cooper’s Settlement Excursion - Year 2
10 Cooper’s Settlement Excursion - Year 1
14 Labour Day Public Holiday
24 Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea
24 Easter Raffle Drawn
24 Last Day Term 1 - 2.30pm dismissal

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

School Council Elections

It is that time again that we are calling for nominations for School Council. This year we have 5 councillors whose two year term is now finishing and their positions are up for re-election. School Council plays a vital role in the running of our school and we are always looking for parents who would like to contribute at that level and join the team. Parents and guardians are able to nominate themselves or another person can nominate them. Forms are now available from the Office and Lauren will be able to assist you in understanding the process. The closing date for Nominations is 25th February at 4pm. If there are more nominations than there are vacancies then a ballot will be conducted. We will keep you posted about this.

We have had a number of incidents in the car park adjacent to the cricket pavilion since the beginning of the year. This car park belongs to the Whitehorse Council and they are happy for us to use this space, but all users are required to abide by the rules and signage displayed. Unfortunately we have had some car owners who think that the rules don’t apply to them and as such this has caused angst amongst other drivers. The Whitehorse Council has informed me that they will once again be sending traffic officers to the car park and fining people accordingly. Please make sure you are not one of them as no one enjoys giving a ‘donation’ to the council by way of a parking fine.

School Philosophy

Orchard Grove Primary School is committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment that engages curiosity, promotes learning, personal growth and wellbeing for all students. We strive to develop adaptability and resilience so students can become valued members of the local and global communities and be prepared for future life experiences.

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Our student leaders for 2016 were inducted into their leadership roles last Friday in front of the student body and their parents. It was a very proud moment when each child received their badge and recited the pledge. The assembly was followed by a lovely morning tea for the students and their parents to acknowledge and celebrate their achievement.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Information Nights this week. It was marvellous to see so many come along. The staff are very keen to have a strong partnership between home and school and communication and correct information is the key.

Next week is Get To Know You Interviews. Hopefully by now you have gone online and made a time to see your child’s teacher.

Once again, communication is the key and these interviews are a wonderful opportunity for you to have a one on one discussion from your perspective about your child – this is invaluable. Sometimes it may be necessary to have a longer chat. If that is the case for you; please make another time with the teacher to have that extended discussion and don’t try and jam it all in to a 10 minute time slot - that would then put the whole night’s appointments out of whack.

Next Wednesday we have our whole school athletics day. It’s always a great day. To see the sea of colour and happy faces all competing in the events is quite a spectacle. I hope that you will be able to join us for all or part of the day, I know it means a lot to the children when you are able to come along to watch and cheer. Please remember the children must have a broad brim hat – not a cap, as we want to make sure that their necks are protected. Also remember to pack some sunscreen and a water bottle along with plenty of food.

A big thank you to all the parents who read our Dog Policy in last week’s newsletter and realised that they needed to make a change and not bring their dogs on site. We really appreciate your compliance in this area.

Now before I close off, I thought you may enjoy some wisdom from a wonderful educationalist, Barbara Braxton, on the importance of reading with your child. Research is very strong around the benefits that children experience in learning to read if they have a large vocabulary, so it is vital that children hear and be surrounded by as much language as possible, but we can talk about this a bit more another time.

Have a wonderful weekend with your family.

Glenda Harry
Principal
There is a new online system that has all the events we are running this term. If you are able to help with anything please add your name to the rosters at ogps.ivolunteer.com/ogps.

Easter Raffle
This will be drawn on Friday 24th March. More information will be coming home soon.
If you are able to help out please add your name to the roster at ogps.easterraffle@volunteer.com

Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea
This is being held on Friday 24th March and order forms will be coming home soon.
If you are able to help out please add your name to the roster at ogps.hotcrossbunmorningtea@volunteer.com

** ATTENTION ALL CURRENT HEALTH CARD HOLDERS **
The Camp Sports and Excursions Fund will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. So, if you have a current Health Care Card, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to be used towards those expenses. Annually, the CSEF amount per Primary School student is $125.

If you have a current Health Care Card and believe you may be eligible, please see Lauren in the office. All applications have to be lodged by Monday 22nd February. If you would like more information visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

BIKE SAFETY
It has been brought to our attention by concerned neighbours that there are quite a few children riding their bikes dangerously around the school and not using the approved crossing areas. Please discuss bike road safety with your children. The children’s safety is paramount and we would hate to have any accidents occur.

SCHOOL BANKING - change of start date
School banking will now start Wednesday 23rd March. Bank books are to be handed into the office by 9.10am on Wednesday mornings. New account forms are also available from the office.

UNIFORM SHOP
The uniform shop is open on Thursday mornings 9.00am-9.30am. There are quite a few items on backorder. Stock has been ordered and backorders will be filled as soon as stock comes in.
Reading with your child

Reading with your child is one of the most important factors in developing lifelong learners and lovers of reading. There is a vital link to between reading ability and the success of students. The example you set, the priority you place on the importance of reading, and the bond you create lasts a lifetime.

Mem Fox says “When we take the time to read aloud to the children in our lives, we bond them close in a secret society associated with the books we’ve shared.” She even suggests that “if every parent -and every adult caring for a child - read aloud a minimum of three stories a day to the children in their lives, we could probably wipe out illiteracy in one generation!”

Consider these tips for helping your child become a successful reader.

**Surround** your child with books.

**Read** at least three stories aloud every day from birth—a favourite, a familiar and a first-read.

**Show** enthusiasm, expression and emotion. You are setting an example of the sounds and rhythms of our language

**Plan** for occasions when your child might become bored, anxious, irritable, tired or disruptive and have a book in your bag.
Pull the curtains on the day with a regular bedtime story so your child goes to sleep knowing they are loved and safe.

Share stories that you enjoy reading because children are very adept at detecting reluctance and boredom.

Choose picture books with well written stories, rich vocabulary and appealing pictures. Look for rhythm, rhyme and repetition.

Focus your child's thoughts on what the story will be about by discussing the cover and the pictures and thinking about what might happen.

Encourage your child to join in the rhyme, the rhythm and the repetition.

Talk about the story and what happened in it.

Ask them what they think will happen next.

Reflect on what happened in the story and whether it was enjoyable and worth reading again.

Read it again and again and again if they ask for it.

Look for other books by the same author if your child really enjoyed the story.

Join your local library - there are riches galore!

Read your own books in front of your child so they see that you enjoy reading too and value it as a worthwhile activity.

Treasure this special time with your child—it will pass very quickly.
How to raise a child to be a giver

Michael Grose highlights why it is so important to teach your child to be a giver not a taker, and gives five practical ways to develop a sense of generosity in kids.

Young children are egocentric by nature. As any three-year-old knows only too well the world revolves around them. “I want...” “Give me...” “It’s mine!” and other variations are the mantras for this age group. This self-centredness is developmental, which means it’s something they grow out of... or they’re supposed to.

But some kids never bridge the gap from self-centredness to generosity. They become takers with an inflated sense of entitlement rather than givers who do all they can to accommodate the needs of others. While it can be argued that some children maybe self-centred by temperament I’m not convinced that we can blame Mother Nature entirely. There is no doubt that parenting impacts enormously on a child’s propensity to give rather than take.

In the eagerness to get kids off to a good start in life, a spirit of generosity is one quality that parents can easily overlook. Developing children’s personal competencies tends to be higher on most parents’ wish lists for their kids than developing a generous spirit.

But developing a sense of sharing in kids has plenty of positives. Children who are able to share their time, their space and themselves generally have more friends and experience more success than those who are self-centred and mean-spirited. Quite simply, they are leadership material.

Like most facets of child rearing developing a community ethos in kids can be a frustrating task but perseverance, modeling and expectations are parents’ greatest allies when it comes to things that really matter.

Here are five practical ways to develop a sense of generosity in kids:

1. Expect kids to help
   With families shrinking, kids get fewer opportunities to help at home than before. With this in mind expect your kids to help without being paid. Regular chores and activities that benefit others such as setting the meal table or helping a younger sibling get dressed teaches them that their contribution is valuable and very much required.

2. Think ‘gang’
   It’s a quirk of modern life that parenting is an individual endeavour. “What’s in the best interest of my child?” has replaced “What’s in the best interest of the family?” as a key parenting principle. Encourage children to make allowances for each other which may mean everyone watches a sibling’s special concert rather than some children missing it because “it’s boring!” “We put ourselves out for each other’ is a wonderful family strength that often needs to be reinforced by parents.

3. Don’t let them get away with meanness
   Children wear L-Plates when it comes to behaving generously. They don’t always get it right, which means that parents as the wise adults need to remind children when their words and actions are intolerant or mean-spirited, or when they need to put their own needs behind the needs of others.

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4 Develop a sense of other
Children and teenagers don’t live in a bubble. The socialisation process demands that kids be accountable for their poor behaviours. “What does this social situation reasonably require of my child at his or her age and stage of development?” is a great question to ask yourself to develop a sense of other, rather than entitlement in kids.

5 Encourage giving
During the Victorian bushfires a few years ago I heard the story of a nine-year old whose mum went into his bedroom to growl at him for being up too late. She found him busy emptying his moneybox into little plastic bags, ready to donate at the school bushfire appeal next day. There were plenty of stories like this showing the generosity of Australian kids, we just need to encourage them in everyday life, rather than wait for a tragedy, to give their generosity a kick start. You can begin by encouraging them to give toys, books and clothes away when they have finished with them, or doing a good deed by a neighbor or friend.

The skills that kids need for future success are changing as technology, greater flexibility and mobility, and new economic forces are transforming workplaces at an astonishingly rapid rate. But the basic attitudes and character traits needed to succeed such as teamwork, initiative and generosity haven’t changed too much over time. Ask any employer and I’m sure they’d say they’d hire a giver over a taker any day as they are just so valuable to have on a team. Hopefully they are not becoming a rarity as well!

Michael Grose