



Mildura South Primary School Newsletter

A Positive Education School

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Friday 25th February, 2021 Newsletter No. 4

"Mildura South Primary School acknowledges the traditional owners of the land as we choose to bring our best selves to school and love the work that we do"



FOR YOUR DIARY

****ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO COVID GUIDELINES PERMITTING****

TERM DATES (Mon 31st Jan to 5th April)

TERM 1

March

Wed 9th	Division Swimming
Mon 14th	Labour Day Public Holiday – No students at school
Wed 16th	Lawn Bowls
Thurs 17th	Girls Cricket
Fri 18th	Boys Cricket
Mon 21st	Harmony Day

CHILD SAFETY

- Please use the pedestrian crossing when crossing Deakin Avenue
- When dropping students off or picking students up in Albert Street please observe ONE WAY (from Deakin Avenue to the Wetlands)
- When driving in Albert Street before and after school please travel at 20km/per hour

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US IN KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE

Principal's News

'We choose to bring our best selves to school and love the work that we do'

PREP CHILDREN ARE NOW HERE FULL TIME

Next week we will be in the month of March and the Prep students will be attending school for five days a week.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Our School Assembly takes place every Monday at 2.40pm as a WebEx Event. The Grade 6 students will continue to lead the School Assembly each week. A link for our School Assembly will be posted on Compass each week for you to access.

CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS

School Crossing

Last year we had the ongoing concern of adults and children not using the School Crossing when crossing Deakin Avenue (often while holding a toddler and the hand of a student at the same time).

The mandated Child Safety Standards require that all members of our school community use the School Crossing to ensure that all of our students arrive safely to school and leave safely from school.

You may think that because you are with your child crossing Deakin Avenue outside of the School Crossing that you can ensure their safety – this is not the case. If a Parent chooses to cross Deakin Avenue without using the School Crossing, they are teaching their children unsafe behaviours and modelling this unsafe behaviour for other students who may follow.

I would like to thank each of you who do use the School Crossing correctly as you help me not only keep your children safe but all the children who attend Mildura South Primary.

If I observe any adult not using the School Crossing, I am obliged to speak to that person and support that person in adhering to our Child Safety Standards and use the School Crossing.

HATS

Mildura South Primary is a SunSmart School, and it is important that all students wear a hat when playing outside in Terms 1 and 4.

Thank you to the Parents who have made sure their child has a hat and it is named clearly.

Children without a hat remain in the shade during outside play time.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

The school is supported by Cowards Cake to supply lunches for students on Wednesdays and Fridays. Orders are required to be submitted on the Flexischools App by 2pm the day before the lunch order.

SCHOOL OPERATION GUIDELINES FOR COVID 19

In order to keep our students, staff and families well and limit the spread of the Covid 19 virus, the following procedures will be in place at Mildura South Primary School for Term 1.

The school will notify the school community of positive Covid 19 cases using Compass as a communication tool. Year level and last day of attendance will be communicated. No names will be identified.

Please make sure that you can access Compass as our main form of communication.

If your child is unwell, please keep them home.

Any child presenting at school with Covid 19 symptoms will be isolated and sent home immediately.

- Parents are asked to only be on school grounds when necessary.
- Parents must be double vaccinated to be inside school buildings.
- Students will enter and exit school grounds through their House Gate.
- Students who arrive before 8.45am will enter the school through the front gate, where Principal Class staff will be supervising.
- Students in Grades Prep, One and Two, along with their older siblings will finish school at 3.15pm.
- Students in Grades 3 – 6 will finish school at 3.30pm.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD BE A GOOD FRIEND

By Shona Hendley

Winnie the Pooh once said that “a day without a friend is like a pot without a single drop of honey left inside,” and my bet is that when he said this, that he wasn’t talking about any friend, he was talking about a *good* friend.

Being a good friend and knowing what a good friend entails is an integral component of friendship. Research says that children start making meaningful friendships from around the age of four and from that point onwards, friendships will contribute to their wellbeing, learning, confidence and mental health.

But understanding what a good friend is can be tricky, so here are some strategies you can use to help explain what being a good friend means to your child and how they can be one.

Defining what it means to be a good friend

While most adults know instinctively what a good friend is, explaining this to children can be difficult, says Reach Out’s Online Community Coordinator Janine Nelson.

Pinpointing some of those elements of what being a good friend means can be a great way to start.

For example, “being a good friend means including concepts of respect, loyalty, providing support and having fun together”, Nelson explains.

“Good friends typically display behaviours such as being trustworthy, someone who is around for the hard times not just the good times, and someone you can laugh with. Good friends respect your boundaries, and make you feel comfortable being yourself.”

Healthy Harold and the team at Life Education add that “generally, being a good friend involves loyalty, empathy and trust. A good friend would listen, be an upstander instead of a bystander, be forgiving, be patient, and respect your opinion. They are empathetic, and able to put themselves in your situation.”

What a good friend is can vary and change

It is also critical for children to know that a good friend can be different for different people and that what we view as a good friend can change over time and as we grow.

“As children grow older, it’s important to help them understand that there are many different types of friends and that these relationships can change over time,” says Nelson.

Helping your children understand that this is normal and that it doesn’t equate to failure, while also supporting them through these changes is important.

Teach your child friendship values.

Life Education says that helping your children understand what specific values are associated with friendship is key to understanding what a good friend looks like and how to be one.

“Friendship values include being a loyal friend, accepting differences in a friend, standing up for a friend, being kind and supportive to a friend and including a friend in games,” they explain.

Teach and model the social skills that underpin successful friendships

While knowledge and values are a key underpinning, consolidating these with skills is the next step. Life Education suggest you “explain to your child that just as they can get better at swimming by practising, they can also get better at making and keeping friends by practising social skills such as smiling and greeting classmates, sharing, cooperating, negotiating, being positive, having an interesting conversation, playing games well (e.g., being a good winner and loser).”

Praise the good stuff

Provide positive feedback when you observe your child using social skills or values that have the potential to contribute to the development of their friendships. This will help reinforce the values that make a good friend.

Empower them to find their own solutions

Don’t always try to fix every problem that arises, be present and support the children as they try to find a resolution. Create an environment where no questions are off limits so that nothing is too uncomfortable to discuss.

Friendships in adolescence are different

As your children grow into teens, friendships often take on a different significance and influence. Reach Out advises some additional strategies for parents with pre-teens and teenagers to use to help support them being a good friend. Work with your teen to set expectations around how they should treat their friends. A reminder of the values of a good friend and the skills that a good friend utilises can be helpful.

Be supportive if your teen comes to you about an issue with one of their friends without necessarily always trying to solve the problem. Listen openly and non-judgmentally without jumping into solution mode can be helpful. Model the behaviours of being a good friend. For example, you could get your teen involved if you are cooking a meal to support a friend and use the opportunity to talk about why that is important to you.

In closing

Helping your child understand the distinction between being a friend and being a good friend is important but supporting them to become one can be a tricky process. It can vary depending on you, your child/ren, the friendships and over time. Experiment with different strategies and techniques and see what works best for you and your child/ren.

Marie-Therese Milani
Principal

PRIVACY REMINDER FOR 2022

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.

Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website http://www.msps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Privacy_Collection_Notice2022.pdf. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents. This information is also available in nine community languages: Amharic, Arabic, Dari, Gujarati, Mandarin, Somali, Sudanese, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese.

REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

LATE ARRIVALS AND EARLY DEPARTURES

Our school day begins at 9.00am and finishes at 3.15pm (Prep-Gr2) and 3.30pm (Gr3-6). We understand that sometimes school time appointments are unavoidable but ask that these be kept to a minimum. It is compulsory for all students to sign in or out at the front office.

Each and every occasion requires a parent/guardian to come into the office to collect or drop off their student and to be signed in or out via the COMPASS Kiosk. In 2022 we will be asking that parents who are FULLY VACCINATED to come into the office if you need to collect your child. The office staff will then call your child and they will come to the office to meet you. If you are UNVACCINATED please call the office and the office staff will arrange for child to be brought to the front of the school.

It is our Duty of Care to know the whereabouts of a student at all times.

ABSENCES

If your child is absent it is a requirement that a parent or guardian informs the school via email to the classroom teacher, message on COMPASS or a phone call. If your child will be absent for an extended period please inform the class teacher or school before they leave.

MEDICATION

If your child requires medication whilst they are at school, the medication needs to be taken to the office by a parent or guardian. The school can only administer medication if we receive it from an adult and have a written authority to do so. Dosage and times need to be clearly labelled on the medication. **Children should not have medication in their bag.**

DROP BOX

A reminder for students and parents that any money or notes that come to the office should be placed in the Drop Box in the foyer. The Drop Box is locked and will be checked daily by the office staff.

COMPASS

Our School uses Compass for all communications to parents and staff. Please speak to the office staff if you don't have Compass Log In details.

CHANGE OF DETAILS

If you have changed your address or phone number it is important that you notify the school. We must be able to contact parents at all times (particularly in the case of an emergency).

ITALIAN WORD OF THE WEEK

Word of the Week
Parola della Settimana

blu
(blue)



CELEBRATION OF STRENGTHS

PH	Ali Khan	3/4B	Jet Stowe	<u>Art</u>
PK	Xavier Doecke	3/4M	Nevayah Fisher	Conny Rudkin 2R
PR	Tairome Tuarii	3/4P	Ayden Cameron	<u>Italian</u>
1C	Zoha Ahmer	3/4S	Xander Williams	Samual Telfer 3/4B
1H	Aashma Tamrakar	3/4W	Millie Russell	<u>Sport</u>
1S	Lawson Kingsley	5/6B	Indi Mulhall	Rhett Wescombe 5/6J
2B	Shantae Stewart	5/6J	Ruby Gates	<u>Performing Arts</u>
2R	Phoenix Pretty	5/6K	Harley Ackerley	Lee Mendoza 5/6B
2T	Josie Carusella	5/6L	Lexie Monaghan	Judd Russell 5/6B
		5/6P	Logan Hardie	Declan Osborne 5/6B
				<u>STEM</u>
				Yusuf Mahmud 3/4W

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

The Out of school hours care program (OSHC) operates from the school gymnasium with three programs available, as listed below. The OSHC staff are qualified in Early Childhood Education or working towards an approved qualification as well being trained in First Aid, asthma and anaphylaxis. Children attending the program require a hat for outdoor play (a spare hat from home which can be left at the service for convenience). All families using the service are required to complete a 2022 OSHC enrolment form. These forms can be found on the school website or can be collected from the OSHC office in the gym. Children are to be signed in and out of the program using the OSHC ipad by a person listed on the enrolment form. Those people signing in and out are to be wearing a fitted face mask as well as checking in using the QR code located on the sign in desk or on the gym door.

Before School Care: \$20.00 per session - 6.45am - 8.45am each school morning. Breakfast is provided upon arrival with a range of supervised activities throughout the morning.

After School Care: \$30.00 per session - 3.30pm-6.00pm each school day. A light snack with fruit is provided upon arrival. We have a variety of fun supervised indoor and outdoor activities throughout the afternoon.

Vacation Care/ Curriculum Day: \$65.00 per session plus any excursion costs - 8.00am-6.00pm during school holidays and scheduled Pupil free days. Children are to provide their own food each session. We have planned activities each day, with outings on some days such as Ten Pin Bowling, Hogs Breath Cafe and the Cinema.

Fees can be reduced by claiming Child Care Subsidy. This is determined on your household income and your working/studying hours.

To know more about our service, please contact us on the OSHC mobile 0408 232 143 or by calling the school number on 5023 2148 (option 3).

OSHC has a new email address – please send all correspondence relating to Before/After School Care/Curriculum Days and Vacation Care to this new email address:

oshc.mildura.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Vacation Care for April School Holidays

The program plan and booking form will be available to all South families from the 4th March for the April school holidays. Please ensure your booking form is returned early to avoid missing out.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



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