



Chewton
Primary School 1054



Resilience – Respect – Community – Integrity - Achievement

Newsletter No3. 4th March 2016

Hello all,

We have had some amazing visitors to our school over the past two weeks. One of the highlights for me was a visit from Beck who came with Rose and Ann to share a stunning three metre play rug with an image of the Australian landscape, complete with moveable Australian animals. It has been made as a gift to asylum seeker children as a gesture of welcome, and to encourage social and imaginative play. They developed a storytelling performance and workshop around the idea of finding a safe home. Some of our students helped to make the rug when it was being created in the Castlemaine Library. The rug's final home will be the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne. All of our students, young and old, enjoyed their turn at telling a story using the animals and I am now looking for a team of parents to help make a rug for our school in support of our oral language program.

The Life Education Van was back again this year. We book this program every 3rd year as part of our curriculum cycle. Sadly I was at a meeting when Harold the giraffe made his appearance. I first met Harold when teaching 30 years ago and was keen to see how he was aging as he continued his valued job of spreading a health message.

Family interviews are next week. Many of you have met with teachers already however by the end of term we hope to have had a personal conversation with all of our families. I will be available after bus duty on each of the days so please make use of this time. Julie **Ceridwen and Neon are telling their story on the rug.**



"I was on such a high after being at Chewton Primary. The older children were respectful, & engaging. The younger ones, adorable & captured so much understanding in their story telling. I was just so overwhelmed by the children's stories & their ability to understand the essence of it all. Thank you so much Julie, Scott, Nicole & parents for allowing us to share this experience with the children x Rose"

Calendar

March:

Mon 7th: Family interviews this week. Monday and Wednesday

Wed 9th: Grounds and Buildings 8:30 (new members welcome)

Thurs 10th: Head lice checks .
Family sewing from 9am.All welcome

Frid 11th: Ride to School Day.

Mon 14th: Labour Day Holiday

Tues 15th: **School Photos**

Wed 16th: Cross Country 3-6

Annual Report to the School Community: 4:30.

Thur 17th: Head lice checks
AGM school Council 6:00 followed by our regular meeting

Mon 21st: Harmony Day

Thur 24th: **Last day of term 2:30 finish. Easter Fun Day**

April:

Mon 11th: First day of term

Frid 15th: All grade 6 at Grip Leadership in Bendigo

Frid 22nd: Grade 4-6 at Schools Anzac Day Service. Shire Remembrance.

Mon 25th: **Anzac Day. Students required for Chewton Service**



Students of the week:

This term we are celebrating: 'Ready to Learn'. Teachers are encouraging children to be ready when the bells goes. Have books out when asked. Sit on the mat with eyes on the teacher. Make sure you have all the items with you before you start a task.

This week **Ready to Learn** students are:

Emma-Lee: Always putting in extra effort to make sure she starts and finishes work on time.

Tycho: Always looks like a learner

Gussie: Always has her books ready to go

Thanks to:

Tasmin and Rhonda: For completing head lice training. We still need more helpers and you can train on the job. All that is required is a working with Children's Check.

Heather: For mending the bean bag covers.

Kate G and Rachael: For the only brave souls at last week's working bee. There is still lots to do in the interpretive garden so please come and see me if you have a spare 30min.

Rob: For lighting a great pizza oven fire for our family night

Internet and technology policy

Thank you to all who responded via email or at our discussion night re our policy review on internet and technology use in our school. I have been working closely with John T to incorporate as many of your ideas and suggestions as possible however this issue is a range of parent opinion. It reminds me of homework discussions we have had in the past. Views are at each end of the scale. In short, this makes it impossible to satisfy everyone's needs and desires for the best fit for their child. We also work under the guidelines of curriculum with our school implementing the Victorians Curriculum which contains explicit content on technology use from prep to year 6. This policy will go to school council this month and will then be viewable on our school web site.

Student Report

Thanks also to the many families who took the time to complete our reporting survey. By far the majority of rating were in the high to very highly satisfied category. There were some relevant comments around explaining the marking system (however we have since realised that this page was missing from the end of the year report. Opps) and some families would like to see more reporting on specialist areas in mid-year reports. Each of our class teachers are also specialist and it would be unreasonable to expect teachers to complete detailed class reports followed by whole schools specialist reports. Check list will be used midterm for specialist area however you are always welcome to talk to any teacher re the specialist program they are teaching.

News from the Music Room



This term I am sharing my life's second passion (teaching being the first, of course), African drumming. With authentic djembes from Guinea the children are exploring their listening skills and coordination using traditional rhythms and songs from Africa. Drumming together fosters unity and team spirit and is a great way to kick off the year in music. The djembe is one of those instruments that gives practically immediate gratification, anyone can do it. So it is also a great confidence builder and breaks the ice which can freeze up shy souls. Be prepared for some dazzling drumming displays this Easter fun day on the last day of term 1. Nicole



Friends on the Bus :

Only children who are registered to travel on the bus are permitted to do so. If friends are coming to your house children are **NOT** permitted to travel. This causes a range of safety issues for both the school and the bus lines. If arrangements have been made, we will be need to contact you to pick up your child.



Life Education Van Visit: Report from Arion.

Today we learnt to keep my password to myself and that you have to have a strong password. Don't talk to anyone you don't know in real life. You are not allowed to go into other people's accounts and take all of their stuff. Always check to make sure you are on a safe web site.

Want to be involved with our school?

- Join our Grounds and Buildings Committee. We currently meet on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 in the meeting room next to the multipurpose room. All welcome. We are after ideas not a work force.
- Join our Well Being Committee: We need to make a date that will suit new members. Desperate for more parent input.
- Work in our vegetable garden on your own or with some children
- Offer to help make lunch for one of our grades using the produce for our garden along with other ingredients.
- Tidy the shelves in the library or see Belinda and Kate for how else you can help.
- Ask your teacher how you can be involved.
- Please consider obtaining a 'Working with Children's Check.' They are free. You apply on line and it is much easier to be involved in our school programs.

Head Lice Program

Thanks to our new small team of head lice checkers. Our first Check is next week. All children will have their hair checked and a note will go home to each child checked. If we find lice or eggs you will be informed. If you would like some more recent advice about how to control head lice or what to do if you find them, please see Rhonda Jury, Tasmin Whaley or myself.

Annual Report to the School Community: 4:30. Wed 16th March.

This report is delivered each year before the regular school council meeting. It takes about 15 min to present followed by question time. This a chance for you to ask some questions about what our school achieved in 2015 and the direction we are headed in for next year. I have chosen this time as many students will then be picked up from 'Sporting Schools'

News from the Art Room

The art class are in need of boxes for an exciting term 2 project, where students will be building sculptural buildings and cities. We are after any cardboard boxes which are the same size or smaller than a shoe box. Really small boxes very welcome. We are also in need of any cardboard rolls, for example the rolls out of tin foil. There will be a large box in the art room, for you to put any donations. (No toilet rolls)

The art class thanks you very much! Kate



Ride to School Day: Friday the 11th March

This is an informal event where we encourage student to ride their bikes to school even for short distance. This year we will have 2 starting points.

1: Our usual spot at the Chewton Servo. We will meet on the Servo side of the road as there is better parking for cars. It does mean crossing the road to join the bike track so adults as helpers are required. I will be the meeting person for this ride and we will meet at 8:20 for an 8:30 departure.

2: Bronwyn (Flynn's mum) has kindly offered to lead a ride from the other end of town. This will be a much shorter ride and she is happy to pick up riders on the way. They will leave at 8:30 from the corner of Mitchell St and the Pyrenees Hwy. Plenty of space to pull up in cars, unload kids and bikes and off the main rd. Please ring Bronwyn on 0407 889 390 if you require pick up along the trail for this ride.

School rules

Our children have been following the rules in the playground with very few reminders so this week our focused moved the classroom. Teachers all agreed that the most frustrating and time wasting issue was students not starting tasks when asked. We are often given a range of excuses why a writing can't commence or a problem cannot be solved. Work is always modified or children can ask for help. On Tuesday as set of rules and consequences was developed by the children with this sign prominently displayed in all classes.

Ready to learn rule

You need to have started your work within 5 minutes. You will get a warning when it gets to 3 minutes.

What happens if you have not started your work?

You will get your name written down in the Class folder.

If your name is written in the folder 3 or more times in a week your parents will be asked to come in for a meeting.

You may get sent to another Classroom or complete it at recess or lunch time at the discretion of the teacher.

2016 camps and excursions: Approximate Costs Only.

Grade 2: Boomerang Holiday Ranch. Daylesford: Oct 27-28th. Horse riding and outdoor fun. \$90

Grade 3-4: Lady Northcote: Bachas marsh: Aug 1-3. Adventure: \$240

Grade 5-6: Melb: Date 9-11th Nov \$260

Bike camp: 3-6.13-14th Oct (Interested children only. Families invited) Heathcote to Bendigo: \$60

Chewton Sewing Group"Have you got creative hands and mind and like to sew or always wanted to sew?"

We are starting a CPS sewing group.

Sewing machines available in art room on Thurs 9.30am -12.30pm or you can bring your own.

Come along, bring a project and share your fantastic creative ideas with us.

Everyone welcome.