



March 14, 2019 Newsletter No. 4



Learning about our Coastal Environment

Last week we learned more about our wonderful natural environment. Grade 5/6s went snorkelling for the second time thanks to funding from the Drysdale Portarlington Community Bank. Our enthusiastic snorkellers made their way under the pier and got to see what exists in our own marine front yard!... An amazing array of colourful plants and animals attached to the pylons as well as many types of fish and stingrays.

Bird and bat expert Trevor Pescott came to visit, with Gary from Bellarine Bayside, to show us the micro- bats that live in the bat-boxes down at the St Leonards Bluff. We were all surprised at how tiny they were.

Ange from Caring for Our Bays brought us new posters so we could learn about the Eleven-Armed Sea Star, Southern Fiddler Ray and Angasi Oyster.

She also inspired us to create new designs for the shopping bag competition this year. We are so lucky to live in a part of the world where the environment is appreciated and unspoiled. I hope you had a chance to get out in it with your kids over the long weekend. They know so much about our plants and animals and I hope that they are teaching you!

Tik Tok and MoMo

Social media is a part of life, even for children. Anonymous student surveys recently revealed that over half of our grade 3 to 6 students have social media accounts, with 40% having a Tik Tok account. This week we have also heard of children who are quite concerned about the Momo challenge. We know that social media is the responsibility of parents and that children need to be 13 before they have accounts but sometimes the lines between home and school blurr. It's the responsibility of parents and educators to be well informed about the ever evolving social media platforms and their pitfalls as well as their benefits. The reasoning behind being 13 is explained well at

<https://www.common sense media.org/social-media/>

It was heartening for me to attend a Student Leadership meeting with Mrs. Layley last week where the question they discussed was ' Social Media use at home impacts on school. What do we do about this? Some students told us about the very responsible ways that their parents support them and the guidelines they have in place.

Come and join us!

We hope that parents and families will be able to join us at school for the following events:

The Rainbow Run on Tuesday March 19 at 1. 45

Celebrating Learning to Learn on Thursday March 28th at 1.45 If you'd like to bring a picnic lunch to share with your child/ren come at 1pm on the 28th. I believe we may even have some student buskers at lunchtime! More details soon.

Thank you to all parents who came to share and discuss information to support their child's learning, during parent discussions on Tuesday. Remember you are always welcome to make an appointment to discuss learning, wellbeing or any concerns.

We now have a computer set up in our open learning space for parents to access. We know that sometimes families have difficulty logging on to access information at home. If you need to use it just see me or Janette.

Also we have an excess of old student tables – there are 2 outside the shed that are free to a good home and quite a few more in the container. Once again see me if you are interested

Jenny Cowburn
Principal

Some of our Prep/1 students would like to share things they have learnt and enjoyed at school so far...

Sport is fun. I like it when you get to throw the chicken and the vortex. By Josh

I enjoy using the I-Pads for Maths. By Ruby

I like to paint and colour in Art. By Aria

Playtimes are fun. I get to play on the red monkey bars. By Toby

I have learnt my Golden Words. By Ben

I liked using play dough to make numbers. By Tilly

I have been learning how to count up to 100 by 10's. By Bonnie

I have learnt how to use the monkey bars and to go down the long red pole. By Saydee

I really like doing my readers at home. By Hunter

I have learnt about our Stick Insect. By Chaise

Please do not ask teachers to heat up lunches!

Students eat lunch from 1pm to 1.10. During this time our duty of care means that teachers are in classes supervising. They are not able to leave classrooms to put boiling water in noodles or heat up students' lunches in the microwave. Between 1.10 and 1.40 teachers have 30 minutes to eat their own lunch as well as a myriad of other things. If they are on lunch duty they have only 15 minutes....our teachers care about kids and work really hard. It's unfair to expect them to heat up lunches as well as all the other things they need to do.

School Fees

School fees were due by the end of February and are now overdue, if you are having trouble paying please call into the office and see Jenny or Janette to make payment arrangements.

Student Banking

Wednesday is student banking day. Make regular deposits to earn some great rewards.

Mini Lotto

\$2.00 entry, cross off 5 numbers, envelopes available from the office. Drawn at the Bowling Club each Friday at 7.30 pm. Jackpot is \$355 Last week's numbers were 03, 10, 14, 18 & 20.

Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. Please come to the office and fill in the application form and bring your concession card so that we can photocopy it. A payment of \$125 for eligible primary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund aims to ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important educational and fun activities.

Sunglasses

As St Leonards Primary School is a sunsmart school we have purchased sunglasses, (\$13.00) we have samples in the office if you would like your child to try them on. SLPS is printed on them and are in school colours in 4 different sizes. They come with a matching case and bag clip, a microfibre cloth and are approved to the highest Australian UV standards.