

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



We are very excited to welcome back all students to school after remote learning last term and the school holidays. Once again, I would like to commend everyone for their great efforts with remote learning. Many of our planned activities for this term have changed as we follow the latest advice from the Department of Health and the Department of Education. As the term proceeds some measures may no longer be required and /or new measures may be introduced. One aspect we have learnt from COVID-19 so far is that health and safety measures can change quickly. We will continue to

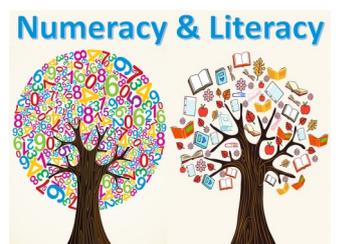
keep you updated. Please be assured that we have adopted a variety of strategies and advice to reinforce COVID safe behaviours. These include:

- Staying at home if unwell – students **must** remain at home even with the mildest of symptoms.
- Practising good hygiene – students undertake regular hand hygiene throughout the day, use their own water bottle, do not share food and use non-contact greetings.
- Staff wear masks when not teaching.
- Parents and carers are required to use the school quick drop-off and pick-up traffic area – please wear a mask in the car during these times as staff members will be assisting children to get safely to and from their vehicle.
- Visitors to school grounds are still limited – our front door will continue to be locked.
- Parent-teacher communication will continue to be replaced with online or telephone alternatives.
- School assemblies and Chapels will continue to be held in each classroom.



We will endeavor to plan for as many learning opportunities for the students as we can, but many activities will have to be adapted, modified or deferred. Staff are currently looking at what our Graduation Ceremony might look like and our Year 6 celebrations will need to be altered. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we juggle what we do for end-of-year celebrations versus what we are permitted to do.

As we begin on-site learning again, our priorities are wellbeing, learning and transitions. Literacy and Numeracy across the curriculum will remain a focus and staff will be adapting their teaching and learning programs. This week we will begin assessment tasks to determine those students who have fallen behind in their learning and those who have progressed significantly. Please continue to communicate with your classroom teacher if you have any concerns or questions about the progress of your child/ren. Likewise, staff will contact you before the Semester 2 reports go home at the end of the term if they have concerns about your child/ren. We look forward to a positive and exciting term.



From Mrs Pritchard...



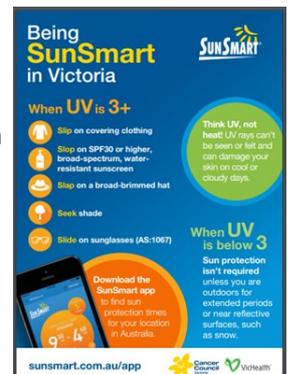
REFORMATION
Sunday

REFORMATION

During the month of October, students will be learning about the Reformation which began in 1517 in Wittengerg, Germany. Reformation Sunday is celebrated on Sunday 25 October this year and commemorates the Protestant Reformation as well as Martin Luther. It is an opportunity to reflect together on what it means to be saved by God's grace and how we respond to the love of Jesus Christ.

SUNSMART

SunSmart protection is recommended whenever UV levels reach 3 or higher. Because you cannot see or feel UV, you can't rely on your senses to let you know when you're in danger. UV can reach you on cool and cloudy days too- not just hot or sunny days. At school, we regularly check the [SunSmart app](#) or SunSmart website each day for the recommended sun protection times. The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are expected to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher **from mid-August to the end of April**. At school we have sunscreen stations and encourage students to self-apply sunscreen. Students also required to wear their hat when outside.



COMPASSION SPONSOR CHILD

Please remember to keep supporting our sponsor child, Luis Cruz. Every Friday in Chapel we have an offering bowl in each classroom and we are aiming to raise \$150 this term. Please also keep praying for Luis.

WALK-A-THON

The 3/4 class are organising a walkathon to raise money for people in Vanuatu. The money is going toward the hospital to provide nurses with emergency essentials. Many nurses don't have basic equipment so the money will buy nursing packs that have bandages, a torch, scissors, thermometer and stethoscope. The walkathon is on Thursday 22nd of October and our whole school is participating. We are walking around the school boundary. It is starting at 10am and students can wear sports uniform on this day. Students can ask for a flat donation or people might like to sponsor them for each lap completed. The forms were sent home before the holidays in the remote learning bags. Please ask at the front office if you need a new form. We are also going to have water stations around the track and everyone will get an icy pole at the end. By Zac, Archie and Jasper



FACEBOOK PHOTOGRAPHY PERMISSION FORM

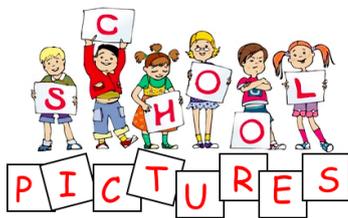


Yesterday your child should have bought home a Facebook Photography permission form. This form applies to both of the schools Facebook pages—the closed and the public group. Please return the form to school ASAP indicating your decision.

From Mrs Pritchard cont'd...

UNIFORM

In Term 4 we normally allow students three weeks to wear either Summer or Winter uniform depending on the weather. From Monday 26 October, all students will be required to wear Summer uniform. Please note that students are not to mix and match Summer and Winter uniforms. Summer uniform is to be worn with socks – not tights. We also ask that students do not wear jewellery other than plain earrings and a watch.



SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Normally at the end of each year we publish a school magazine with photos and articles highlighting occasions and special events that have occurred throughout the year. Due to so many of our events being disrupted with COVID we have decided to do something different. Instead of a school magazine, we will provide each child with a special photo memento at no cost to families. At this stage, we are not permitted to have a photographer come to the school for school photos. If this situation does not change by the end of the year, those who have already paid for their school photos by Frank Monger, will have their money refunded.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND PUPIL FREE DAYS

We have two public holidays coming up in the next few weeks, **Friday 23 October** and **Tuesday 3 November** for AFL Grand Final and Melbourne Cup day respectively. The Monday before Melbourne Cup Day, **Monday 2 November**, has been set aside for Report Writing. Students will not be attending school on any of these days.



PLAYGROUP

The latest advice that we have received from Playgroup Victoria is that it is unlikely that community playgroups will be able to meet again this year. This is disappointing and we really miss not seeing little people using our Unity Centre. Playgroup Victoria has been hosting Playgroup at Home LIVE sessions via Zoom and other opportunities for families each week <https://www.playgroup.org.au/playgroup-at-home/> These sessions will continue for the rest of the year and into next year. Families can register for free. Playgroup Victoria are also offering free Family Memberships until the end of December. This will give members access to activity tip sheets, themed booklets, the playgroup toolkit and other resources. If you would like to join, visit <https://www.playgroup.org.au/become-a-member/> and use the promo code FREE6MONTHS. We are looking forward to resuming our Playgroup as soon as restrictions allow.



'GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL' PROGRAM

We are getting very excited to soon welcome our 2021 Foundation students to school for our 'Getting Ready For School' program. This program will help our new students transition from Kindergarten to a new school environment. We are also very excited to have Mrs Olivia Coates who is an Early Childhood Educator join us to help our new students have an outstanding start to school. Our first session begins on Monday 19 October.



Devotion...

STILL AND QUIET

"Be still before the Lord." Zechariah 2:13

It's hard to be still and quiet. There are so many things you could be doing—playing outside, talking to a friend, watching videos on YouTube. But there are times when you have to be still—when you are sick, when you have finished your school work in class, or when others need you to be quiet. Instead of wishing away this time, use it to listen for Me and to thank Me for My Presence in your life.

Some of My greatest work is done when you are still and quiet. That is when you can hear Me whisper to your heart.

READ ON YOUR OWN: Isaiah 30:15; 2 Corinthians 12:9



Taken from "Jesus Calling—365 Devotions for Kids" by Sarah Young



Congratulations to Shylah, Bianca and Andrew on the wonderful and exciting arrival of Shylah's little sister, Dixie Maree Evans!

What a wonderful blessing Dixie is to you all!

With love and blessings from your St. John's family xx

Left: Proud BIG sister Shylah with Dixie



**Side by side,
every step of
the way**

Read this week's story at
www.lca.org.au/sow

STORY OF THE WEEK

Read or view the video at
www.lca.org.au/sow

Mem Fox's



TEN Read-Aloud Commandments

- 1** SPEND AT LEAST TEN WILDLY HAPPY MINUTES EVERY SINGLE DAY READING ALOUD. FROM BIRTH!
- 2** READ AT LEAST THREE STORIES A DAY. IT MAY BE THE SAME STORY THREE TIMES. CHILDREN NEED TO HEAR A THOUSAND STORIES BEFORE THEY CAN BEGIN TO LEARN TO READ. OR THE SAME STORY A THOUSAND TIMES!
- 3** READ ALOUD WITH ANIMATION. LISTEN TO YOUR OWN VOICE AND DON'T BE DULL, OR FLAT, OR BORING. HANG LOOSE AND BE LOUD, HAVE FUN AND LAUGH A LOT.
- 4** READ WITH JOY AND ENJOYMENT: REAL ENJOYMENT FOR YOURSELF AND GREAT JOY FOR THE LISTENERS
- 5** READ THE STORIES THAT YOUR CHILD LOVES, OVER AND OVER, AND OVER AGAIN, AND ALWAYS READ IN THE SAME 'TUNE' FOR EACH BOOK: I.E. WITH THE SAME INTONATIONS AND VOLUME AND SPEED, ON EACH PAGE, EACH TIME.
- 6** LET CHILDREN HEAR LOTS OF LANGUAGE BY TALKING TO THEM CONSTANTLY ABOUT THE PICTURES, OR ANYTHING ELSE CONNECTED TO THE BOOK; OR SING ANY OLD SONG THAT YOU CAN REMEMBER; OR SAY NURSERY RHYMES IN A BOUNCY WAY; OR BE NOISY TOGETHER DOING CLAPPING GAMES
- 7** LOOK FOR RHYME, RHYTHM OR REPETITION IN BOOKS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN, AND MAKE SURE THE BOOKS ARE REALLY SHORT.
- 8** PLAY GAMES WITH THE THINGS THAT YOU AND THE CHILD CAN SEE ON THE PAGE, SUCH AS LETTING KIDS FINISH RHYMES, AND FINDING THE LETTERS THAT START THE CHILD'S NAME AND YOURS, REMEMBERING THAT IT'S NEVER WORK, IT'S ALWAYS A FABULOUS GAME.
- 9** NEVER EVER TEACH READING, OR GET TENSE AROUND BOOKS.
- 10** PLEASE READ ALOUD EVERY DAY BECAUSE YOU JUST ADORE BEING WITH YOUR CHILD, NOT BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.



What Does Junior School Look Like?

Our Junior School Wing is a vibrant, creative place where the well-being of our students, along with our academic learning architecture, is at the heart of all of our studies.

Mentor sessions held every morning enable our students to instantly connect with a trusted adult and familiar faces and set the well-being and learning environment in place for the day.

By providing a wide range of extracurricular experiences, we aim to prepare our Junior School students for their academic and social life throughout our Middle and Senior years, as well as within our broader community.



Bell Times

MENTOR GROUP 8:50AM - 9:10AM
PERIOD 1 9:15AM - 10:05AM
PERIOD 2 10:05AM - 10:55AM
RECESS 10:55AM - 11:20AM
PERIOD 3 11:25 AM - 12:15PM
PERIOD 4 12:15PM - 1:05PM
LUNCH 1:05PM - 2:00PM
PERIOD 5 2:00PM - 2:40PM
PERIOD 6 2:40 PM - 3:30PM

Visting the Library

The Library is open every Recess and Lunch Time and is set up ready for a range of quiet activities for individual or group enjoyment.

The Library remains open after school for students to study and has an assisted Homework Program on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday until 4:30pm.

More Information

Phone: (03) 5523 1344
Email: portland.sceducation.vic.gov.au
Website: www.portlandsc.vic.edu.au

BE RESILIENT
BE SUCCESSFUL
BE RESPECTFUL
BE CREATIVE

Student Kirby shares about her first year...

What do you remember about your first day at Portland Secondary College?

I remember walking to school with new friends and getting to know lots of people at the school.

What has been your favourite thing you have been involved in?

Doing out of school sporting events.

Who has been your favourite teacher?

Mr Doyle because he is a really fun teacher and is really chill. I also like having Miss Spears as a teacher because as a class we have some very fun and interesting discussions.

What is your favourite subject?

I like PE because I enjoy playing fun games and learning new skills.



"TO DEVELOP CREATIVE, ARTICULATE, RESPECTFUL AND RESOURCEFUL YOUNG PEOPLE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY."

Kirby's advice for our Grade 6 students attending PSC next year?

"Not to be worried or shy and to have fun!"

3 Words to describe PSC



Inviting
Exciting
Enjoyable