



STRATHMERTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**SUPPORT EACH
OTHER**



**TRY YOUR
BEST**



**ACT
SAFELY**



RESPECT

**Newsletter No.17
June 10th 2021**

2021 Dates to Remember

- ⇒ **Friday 11th June**
Interschool sports at Katunga
- ⇒ **Wednesday 16th June**
School Council @7:00pm
- ⇒ **Monday 21st June**
Quest Expo
- ⇒ **Thursday 24th June**
Parent teacher interviews 3.30-7pm
- ⇒ **Friday June 25th**
Parent teacher interviews
Student free day
- ⇒ **Monday 12th July**
First day term 3
- ⇒ **Friday July 18th**
Interschool sports at Strathmerton
- ⇒ **Friday 30th July**
Lightning Premiership at Yarrowonga

Breakfast Club every Friday Morning at 8.30am.
Great Job ladies and helpers DONATIONS: Hot
chocolate, Juice, Margarine & Strawberry Jam
BREAKFAST CLUB on again this Friday.

Teaching kids to think. Take a Step Back

If your 6-month-old is having trouble fitting puzzle shapes into the right hole, you might want to take the circle and drop it into the right slot for them. "Teaching children to be independent begins in early childhood, and will look different and be guided differently based on a child's age," Of course, if your 6-month-old is struggling, you might want to eventually point to the right shape instead of leaving them completely alone, which can frustrate them. The key is to take a step back and give them the chance to think about the problem at hand. Later on, this might translate to letting them figure out how to get down a slide on their own (with some gentle verbal guidance) or giving them the chance to figure out a social situation between friends without "solving" it yourself.

Ultimately, kids shouldn't fear thinking for themselves because they might make a wrong decision, they should grow to understand that standing up for their beliefs is a process, and mistakes will just allow them to make better decisions as they move through life.

From the Principal's Desk

Back into the classroom all this week and hopefully it stays that way. There is no doubt that these lockdown periods have had an impact on our students. For most, it's an unwanted hiccup to their learning and they settle back in, without too much disruption. However, for a small number of our students, these lockdown periods have a much more serious impact on their learning and we constantly monitor their progress. Trevor Mills and I provide additional tutoring assistance to these identified students each week, in an endeavour to help them catch up.

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Our new Chaplain, Tam Perry, has been in her new role for nearly two weeks now, and has already built a positive rapport with all those students she has spent time with, in the classrooms. She is a very bright, enthusiastic and caring person, who is highly regarded for her great work at St Francis of the Fields in Nathalia.

An important part of her role is to work with individuals, small groups of students and families to offer counselling support and to be just a 'friendly ear' to anyone who needs someone to talk to. I can't re-iterate strongly enough that Tam is **not** a minister of religion and doesn't espouse any religious views. **Her role is solely to provide welfare support to those students and families who need it.**

I've attached a copy of the Parent Permission form to this newsletter, so that you can fill it in (if you haven't done so previously). Without this consent, Tam will not be able to work with your child/ren individually, but only be able to provide assistance in the classroom, which would be a shame, because she has so much to offer our students.

She is at school all day on Mondays and Thursdays and is available for any students or parents who are looking for support.

SCIENCE VISIT

We were fortunate to have a visit from a science presenter on Tuesday, as part of a DET initiative to promote Science in regional areas. Our Year 5 and 6 students met with David for an entertaining two hour session learning how to code little ball-shaped robots called 'Spheros', so that they moved around the floor according to the instructions, or codes, that were pre-programmed into an iPad. It was a highly entertaining and engaging session, and I'm sure the senior students now know much more about the process of coding.

QUEST EXPO

As a culmination to this term's Quest theme '**Earth and Space**', we will be holding a **Quest Expo on Monday, 21st June**, commencing at 2:15pm. Parents, friends and family are cordially invited to join us to look at all the great work each class has done around this topic. Following the Expo we will have our final assembly for the term and parents, friends and family are welcome to join us in the hall, as we will be recognising the achievements of students with our whole-term awards.

PUPIL REPORTS

Pupil reports will be sent home on **Monday, 21st June**. These reports are very detailed and provide a comprehensive view of each student's performance for this first semester. Following the reports is the opportunity for an interview with your child's teacher, on either **Thursday, 24th June (3:30-7:00pm)** or **Friday, 25th June** in the morning. At this stage we are hoping to make these interviews 'live', but are prepared to switch to phone and zoom calls, if restrictions prevent parents/carers from being on school property. Leanne will send out a booking form for you to choose your preferred day and time for an interview shortly.

Geoff Weppner

Principal.

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