



SUPPORT EACH OTHER



TRY YOUR BEST



ACT SAFELY



RESPECT

**Newsletter No.21
July 29th 2021**

2021 Dates to Remember

- ⇒ **Tuesday 3rd August**
School Council meeting via Zoom
- ⇒ **Wednesday 4th August**
Lions Club Speaking Competition Night to be confirmed.
- ⇒ **Thursday 5th August**
Numurkah Sec College visit

Pie Drive

All orders along with payments are due back Monday 9th August and will be delivered to school Thursday 19th August.



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.



Words of wisdom by Tam Perry
wellbeing officer

There are many reasons for why young people have poor sleep habits which include school demands, after school activities but one of the most powerful is their **digital device habits**.

Parents can have a positive influence on their children's digital habits and in doing so have a positive outcome for not only their children's sleep but in turn their learning and wellbeing. The flyer attached offers more information in tackling this common childhood problem.

From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back everyone, after our last lockdown. It's an unfortunate reality of our new COVID world, that these lockdowns are the only way to contain any outbreaks, until the day when everyone is fully vaccinated. I would like to thank my staff for working hard to ensure there was continuity to the students' learning whilst they were at home. I realise just how difficult these remote and flexible learning periods are, not only for the students, but also for parents and carers, as well as teaching staff. We just have to grit our teeth and try to get through this together.

Just a COVID-safe reminder, that all parents/carers are to check-in using the QR codes at the entrance, and to also ensure that they wear a mask. We would also ask that all parents/carers check in at the office via the front entrance and not just visit classrooms unannounced.

FRESH FRUIT DONATION

Legacy Packing from Cobram is kindly donating boxes of fresh oranges and mandarins to our school each week, for the students to enjoy. We would like to thank them for their community spirit in providing this healthy fruit to our students.

LIGHTNING PREMIERSHIP

The organising committee for the Lightning Premiership, that was to be held this coming Friday, has decided to postpone the event until later in the term.

BUS PARKING ZONE

I would like to remind parents that the parking area outside the front school gates is reserved exclusively for the school buses to use between 8:45 am – 9:00 am each morning, and then again between 3:15 pm and 3:30 pm each afternoon. The bus drivers have mentioned that on a few occasions recently, cars have been parked there, making it difficult for them to position the buses, so that students can get on or off safely.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Due to the current COVID restrictions around the numbers of people at a public gathering, the next School Council meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, 3rd August, will be a 'virtual meeting' via Zoom. There is no doubt that the use of technology to stay in contact virtually, has been a very useful tool and one that Strathmerton Primary intends to explore as an additional means of reaching a wider parent audience into the future.

STUDENT WELFARE

An unfortunate outcome of the lockdown periods is the effect it can have on the mental health of some students. We are acutely aware of that situation here at school. Teachers regularly communicate concerns about the well-being of particular students to one another and to leadership, so that we can monitor these students more closely and offer support where needed. Tam Perry, the school's Chaplain, is particularly skilled at providing counselling advice and support. If you have a concern about your child's well-being at this time, please don't hesitate to contact me at school, so that we can put processes in place to support them.

Geoff Weppner

Principal.

Parent Survey

WE WANT OUR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents/caregivers/guardians think of our school. The Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst a sample of randomly selected parents/caregivers/guardians (previously known as the Parent Opinion Survey). It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement and experiences of remote and flexible learning. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

Approximately 30 per cent of parents will be invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year, the Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey will be conducted from **Monday 19th July** to **Sunday 22nd August**.

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **20 minutes** to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (Hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Somali, Turkish, Punjabi and Greek.

When we receive the results of the survey, later in the year, they will be communicated to parents/caregivers/guardians through our Annual Report. Last year we used the survey results to determine the degree to which parents/carers felt connected to the school, as improving parent engagement is a priority we have been working on.

Please contact me at school if you would like more information about this survey.
Geoff Weppner.