

Diary Dates

Week 10

NAIDOC Week

Thursday, 7 July

- Reports go home

Friday, 8 July

- 2:05pm Early Dismissal

Week 1

Monday, 25 July

Pupil Free Day

Tuesday, 26 July

Welcome Back – Term 3

Early Dismissal

Friday, 8 July

2:05pm

For vacation care information,
please contact Steve on
8294 1990



From the Leadership Team

Welcome to our last newsletter of the Term. We are already half way through what has been a busy but highly successful year.

Reports

On Thursday of Week 10 you will receive the mid-year report for your child / children. This report is a summary of where our learners are at, at this time of the year. Our teachers have spent many hours preparing these. Please take the time to go through this with your child, looking at areas of improvement and also areas of strength. At St Leonards, we are a community of learners. Learning certainly doesn't just happen at school. Parents and guardians have a major role to play.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all learners don't learn at the same rate, nor at the same time. Comparing learners against other learners isn't always a wise thing to do. Learning is a life long journey, so please support and encourage your child but remind them learning is hard, should be hard and that you need to show grit when things get tough.

Feel free to discuss your child's report with the teacher.

Pupil Free Day

On the first day of Term 2, Monday, 25 July, our staff will be working with Glenelg Primary, looking at Fixed and Growth Mindsets with James Anderson. James recently presented a workshop to parents in our partnership, one that was well attended and highly informative. We have attached a handout from that session for you to have a look at.

A Night Out in June

Wow what an absolutely amazing night it was. The support we had from the school community and indeed the wider community should be commended. All up the school raised around \$5866 which was a great effort.

I would like to thank everyone who organised the night. There are many of you who worked tirelessly to pull the night together. Our learners really appreciate the support you have given to them.

I have heard some whispers about a possible men's night in the future. I'm looking forward to that one.

Show Your House Colours

Friday, 8 July



wear your Sports Day team colours for a gold coin donation.

All monies raised go to a local charity supporting the homeless. This event is not compulsory. Please no face paint or hair colouring.

SRC

Pupil Free Day Monday, 25 July



OSHC available

Please contact Steve on 8294 1990



Grounds Committee Report – Tree Planting

On Wednesday this week the Grounds Committee commenced their tree planting project, replacing the oval trees taken down in 2015. In this first phase we have planted 14 trees, spaced out along the western fence line adjacent to Morris Street. Each class helped plant a tree so they will look after it and watch it grow over the years. We selected a variety of trees that suit the environment and soil conditions here at St Leonards.

A very big "Thank You", to Genevieve de Jong for her research, chasing up, purchasing of the trees and setting out the tree planting plan. To Michelle White for assisting us with the digging and planting of the trees all day Wednesday and to Jim, our groundsman for his fantastic work in digging, planting and fertilising.

We also had some wonderful student helpers from the Senior Squad who assisted with the watering and planting on the day. A big "Thank You" to Dylan G, Kyle G, Jack C and Lachlan T.

The next phase of our project will be to plant some smaller shrubs between the larger trees to fill in the entire line. We hope the classes look after their tree and nurture it on its journey.



On- Line NAPLAN Trial

In Term 3 (Weeks 4 and 5) some of our Year 3, Year 5 and Year 7 students will be involved in a state wide trial, testing a new way for students to complete the NAPLAN tests. Students will take part in the on-line, computer generated tests to provide us with data that shows our readiness and also provide us with information about any issues that we could face in a full scale testing regime in 2017. More information will come home early in Term 3.

Thank you for a terrific term. The leadership team and staff would like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable break and we look forward to seeing you in Term 3.

**Dave Henty Smith, Principal and
Barry Stewart, Deputy Principal**

Reminders for Parents/Carers

Student Absences

If your child is absent from school or will be late, please use either the school messaging system and state in the text your child's name, class and the reason for the absence/lateness eg illness, appointment, family etc or telephone the school before 9:30am. NP: If your child is late to school, please go directly to the Office to receive a late sign-in slip before going to the classroom.

Entering/exiting buildings

Please ensure that your child is using the correct door to access their classroom before and after school. It would be appreciated if you could avoid using the Office as an entry/exit point. This will greatly help relieve congestion around this area.

2017 Planning

Please let me know if your child will not be returning to St Leonards next year by emailing Melanie.worden673@schools.sa.edu.au or by telephoning 8294 9811.

Mel Worden, Admin Officer



School Ambassadors

Yesterday our School Ambassadors, Harry B, Ethan D, Justine D and Bonnie T represented our school to prospective families by showing them around our classrooms and facilities. They did a fantastic job. Well done ambassadors.



Election Day

Fun Fair and School Fete

Saturday, 2 July

Stalls and Sausage Sizzle



Wellbeing

Belonging improves mental health, wellbeing and learning

All children need to feel that school is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out problems. When these needs are met, children develop a sense of belonging at school. Belonging is very important for children's mental health and wellbeing.

Children who feel that they belong at school are happier, more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems than other students. They are also more motivated to learn and be more successful with their school work. Research into children's mental health has found that a sense of belonging and connectedness at school helps to protect children against mental health difficulties and improves their learning.

Making friends and having positive relationships with teachers help children develop a sense of belonging at school. Having older 'buddies' to turn to helps younger children feel that school is a place where they can get help if they need it. Looking after younger children encourages caring and helping in older children and helps to reduce conflicts and bullying.

This extract is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff.

View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au

As part of KidsMatter Primary, schools look closely at ways they can continue to build strong positive respectful relationships with all students and families. This includes things like:

- making the school environment welcoming for all students and families
- encouraging teachers to get to know all their students and their families
- identifying ways of improving communication with families
- focusing on child and family strengths
- making sure that school policies on safety, welfare and discipline are clearly communicated and support a sense of belonging for children and families.

Graeme Smith, Wellbeing Coordinator

Children's University

School holidays are a great time to find some fun Children's University activities. The notice board has been updated and you can check the Children's University website for lots of fun things to do these holidays.



If you participate in any non Children's University activities, you may be able to receive a stamp if you fill out a learning journal and bring it to school next term. If unsure please speak to Heather.

Visit the website at: www.childrensuniversity.com.au

Natalie Baggio and Heather Pronk
CU Coordinators

Canteen

End of Term Treat

Order forms for a Balfours Chocolate Donut (individually wrapped) have been sent home today. Donuts are \$3 each.



Please return order forms **to the canteen** with correct money by Tuesday, 5 July. Students will receive their donut at recess on Friday, 8 July.

Deryl and Katrina, Canteen Managers

Uniform Shop

Personalising School Baseball Jacket

Order forms have been sent home.

Return date: Friday, 8 July.

Cost: \$6.00

Jackets available for collection

Tuesday, 26 July.



Any questions see Mel in the Office.

Library News

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge has now been running for two terms. The school holidays is a great time to relax with a great story and add to your list of completed books. Replacement forms can be found at the library or the Parent Information Rack.



Students are challenged to read 12 books from the start of the school year until **Friday, 9 September, 2016**. Hand your completed form to your teacher or me in the library and a raindrop with your name will appear on our display.

For Reception - Year 7 students, at least eight of the 12 books will be chosen from the Premier's Reading Challenge booklist at the appropriate year level. Please encourage your child to read. For further information visit www.premiersreadingchallengesa

Overdue Books

Please return all overdue library books by the end of next week so that you will be able to borrow for the holidays.

Kelly Peterson, Library SSO

OSHC News

Vacation Care

The Excursions to Mitcham Cinema and Inflatable Zone are **fully booked**. Vacancies are currently still available for the other days, but please book early to avoid disappointment.



Pupil Free Day

The first day of Term 3, Monday, 25 July is a Pupil Free Day and OSHC will be available between 7:30am – 6:00pm, with an Excursion to **BOUNCE Inc.** planned for the early afternoon. Booking/permission forms will be available from OSHC Monday, 4 July.

OSHC Team

Vicki's Corner

This term I have had the opportunity to do training in Seasons for Growth. I found it very challenging and believe that it is very good and would benefit many students at St Leonards Primary School who are struggling with a loss of something or someone. It could be a loss of a family member or friend. It could be grief from moving to another state or even country. If you think your child would benefit from being a part of a small group, or you would like more information, please contact me.

My email address is vicki.woods141@schools.sa.edu.au
I am looking at running a program early next term.

Vicki Woods, PCW

What is Seasons for Growth®?



Seasons for Growth® is based on the belief that change and loss are part of life and grief is a normal response to these losses. Children, young people and adults need the opportunity to learn about how death, separation, divorce or other significant loss events may impact on their lives. The Seasons for Growth® programs provide an opportunity for participants to learn the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to understand and respond well to such experiences.

The Seasons for Growth® Children and Young People's Program:

- supports children and young people to understand and respond well to the issues they experience as a result of death, separation, divorce or other significant change and loss in their lives
- assists children and young people to understand that their feelings and other reactions are normal
- develops skills for coping, problem solving and decision making
- builds a peer support network
- helps restore self-confidence and self-esteem
- educates children and young people about the grief process.

The program is based on small group like-to-like peer learning processes (4–7 participants with 1 adult 'Companion'), creating a safe space for children and young people aged 6–18 years to practise new ways of thinking and responding to change and loss in their lives. The emphasis is on understanding the effects of change, loss and grief, whilst developing skills in communication, decision making and problem solving. The program is underpinned throughout by an emphasis on the development of children and young people's *identity* ('I am'), *relationships* ('I have') and *competence* ('I can'), helping to build self-confidence, self-esteem and a felt sense of belonging and connection.

The Seasons for Growth® program is evidence based and relies on research, strategies and techniques consistent with high quality, psychosocial education. The program has a sound curriculum structure and incorporates a wide range of age-appropriate activities including writing, drawing, discussion, stories, role play, music, guided meditation and journaling. Children's learning is largely generated through these activities and the conversations that emerge from stories shared,

questions asked, skills learnt and friendships developed. This child-centred approach to learning encourages participants to not only value who they are and the particular 'story' they have, but also to modify where necessary their thinking, attitudes, beliefs and constructs about life and to 'take charge' of their behaviours. As de Winter and colleagues (1999) point out: *Learning by doing, learning by participation instead of exclusion is to be considered as a powerful tool.*

Community News

GovChat: Seeking Your Feedback: How can we Support Your Child's Learning?

Research shows that children become better learners when parents are actively involved in their education. Speak directly with decision makers from government, including Education and Child Development Minister Susan Close, about how we can better support you in understanding and participating in your child's education. Call us on 1800 216 506, Monday, 4 July between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. For more information and other ways to have your say please visit www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/govchat4

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