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Newsletter
November 18th 2020

Growth Honesty and Trust Respect Connectedness Inclusiveness Fun

After School Program

Monday-Thursday
3.20-5pm

Sporting Schools

Thursday 3.20-5pm

Breakfast Club

Tuesday & Thursday
8.30-9am

Lunch Order Day

Thursday

Dates to Remember

NOVEMBER

Thursday 19th

Kinder Transition
Program 9am-11am

Tuesday 24th

Report Writing Day. No
students required at
school

Thursday 26th

Kinder Transition 9-2pm

DECEMBER

Monday 1st

Finance meeting 3pm

Thursday 3rd

Kinder Transition 9-2pm
School Council meeting

Tuesday 8th

Kinder Transition– Final
Session 9am-3.20pm

Monday 14th

Proposed Grade 6 Grad-
uation

Tuesday 15th

Reports sent Home

Wednesday 16th

End of Year celebration
(to be confirmed)

Thursday 17th

Last day for students

Friday 18th

Final day of the school

Our campers headed off on Monday full of enthusiasm and excitement. From all accounts they are having a wonderful time and challenging themselves to step outside their comfort zones and try new experiences. It is very quiet here at school and our junior students are enjoying the opportunity to have the playground to themselves!

Pupil Free Day

School Council has approved next Tuesday, 24th November as a report writing day for staff. No students are required at school.

Bushfire Preparedness Program

Staff recently attended an online professional development workshop facilitated by psychologist and welfare experts in preparing students emotionally for the upcoming bushfire season. The session was informative and provided all staff with tools and strategies to support students.

Last week in Buddies we began our whole school approach to preparing for the upcoming bushfire season. Together we looked at facts and information in regards to fire. Students had the Schools' Emergency Management Plan explained to them which included the student's role in our plan. We also discussed what steps the school has already taken in regards to vegetation preparedness. Students were then asked to take a physical audit of the school grounds to identify any other work that needs to be completed.

Reassuring students through facts and actions that the school is as prepared as it can be enables them to feel safe if or when an emergency situation arises. The most important aspect of the program is to empower the students with facts and knowledge around the role they can play in being prepared both at school and at home.

Below are some links that you may find interesting and helpful. There is also some other information later in the newsletter.

'Myths and Misconceptions': A great podcast which talks about children and young people's myths and misconceptions around bushfires, and how we can address these [here](#) (22 min)

A wonderful ABC article which articulates key points around emotional and practical preparedness at this time of year [here](#)

Sporting Schools

A reminder that there will be no Sporting Schools program tomorrow afternoon

Kindest regards

Sue Clague

Principal



*At Nicholson Primary School we acknowledge the Gunai-Kurnai people ,
the traditional owners of the land our school is built on.*

*We pay respects to the elders past, present and emerging
and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*



School Council News

Dear parents and carers,

We are excited to announce that the new playground has been designed and is now out to tender.

Currently we do not have a construction date, but are optimistic that all processes will be completed in a timely manner and the school will have a new playground by the beginning of 2021 (at the latest). With the impending arrival of the new playground to be installed at Nicholson PS, the school council has agreed to sell existing playground structures as a fundraiser for the school.

The equipment the school has deemed appropriate to sell are the monkey bars and the flying fox only.

The purchase process will be via a silent auction – interested buyers are to place their name, phone number, item they are interested in and bid inside an envelope to be delivered into the 'black box' at the office, by Monday 14th December.

Strict processes are in place for the sale:

Successful buyers are to remove the equipment and transport it at their own cost at a time deemed suitable by the school.

Successful buyers must repair any damage to the ground or surrounding infrastructure caused by removal.

Once removed from its current location the playground equipment becomes non-compliant.

If the playground equipment is to be re-erected on another site it would be necessary for a Building Surveyor to inspect the playground equipment and confirm that it is once again fully compliant before it is used.

If the items are not sold, they will be removed and recycled by the company successful in the tender for the new playground.

Kind regards,

Jacqui Telford

School Council President

More Water than Fire

Trauma can find us when the threat has passed, as echoes of fear and confusion. These sounds are often loudest for our youngest, most vulnerable, developing children.

For many the noises fade, for others they reverberate.

Feeling safe again is what makes the most difference.

Safety soothes trauma like water soothes fire.

We need more water than fire.



Children need to not feel alone. They need you alongside of them. Tell them you love them and that you will always love them.

Children need re-assurance-
"We will get through this. It won't always be like this. There are people who will help us. A lot of people care about us. I will look after you. You are safe with me."

Children need their feelings to be acknowledged and validated. "I know that you were scared. I was too. I can see you are still worried. You had a nightmare last night. It is really hard that we are not home."

Children need to feel listened to, and that they can count on your full attention being available at regular times, even if it's just 15 minutes at a time.

Ways parents and carers can build safety with children touched by fire

Children need their questions answered. "I don't know if the fires will come back, but we know what to do if they do, there are places we can go, and people who can help us."

Some children could need specialist help to grieve and slowly recover, some won't. The intensity of the fear and uncertainty is different for everyone.

Create space for children to express themselves through play or art, or writing. They may show you what is important and give you clues as to what they might need. Be open to the messages that might emerge. Play and art can help children speak in ways not available through words.

Children need to know that danger has been a visitor, but it doesn't live here. They need to know that after the threat has passed, safety can flow in.





Grade 3/4 Camp Action

