



Kismet News

McEwen Drive Sunbury. Victoria 3429 Phone: (03) 9744 4566
Email: kismet.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au Website: <http://kismetparkps.vic.edu.au>

Building the Foundations for Success and Happiness

11 June 2020

Monday 15th June	7:15pm School Council
Friday 19th June	Student Reports sent out via Compass
Friday 26th June	Last Day of Term 2 - 2:30pm finish
Monday 13th July	Students Return to School for beginning of Term 3
Wednesday 22nd July	Parent Teacher Interviews via Webex
Thursday 23rd July	Parent Teacher Interviews via Webex
Friday 31st July	Curriculum Day - students do not attend school on this day

Dear Families,

It has been great to see our Year 3 to 6 students return to school with big smiles on faces this week. They are to be congratulated on the manner in which they have settled back into their classroom routines and learning. Our focus during the remainder of term 2 is on ensuring a smooth transition through attending to student wellbeing and identifying their current learning needs to inform our teaching.

Modified student reports will be sent home on Friday 19 June. These reports follow the guidelines set by the Department of Education in consideration of the remote learning period. Parent Teacher interviews have been scheduled between 3:30 and 6:00pm on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 July. These interviews will be held via Webex. Further details will accompany reports.

Once again we thank families for your support during remote learning and in the transition back to school. We appreciate the challenges the current situation can create, however the benefits we are seeing in the independence students from across the school are displaying by entering the school grounds, moving to their classroom and setting up for learning should not be underestimated. The Michael Grose article 'Let kids off the leash for greater confidence and resilience' accompanies today's newsletter.

The work of parents and carers is also appreciated by the Department of Education. Please see the letter of thanks from the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training that accompanies today's newsletter.



Curriculum Day Friday 31 July

Planning for our next curriculum day on Friday 31 July. On this day teachers will be involved in professional learning activities that support school improvement initiatives to improve learning outcomes for our students in English and Mathematics. The day's work will focus on the implementation of our Instructional Model that sets out how we structure our teaching, the High Impact Teaching Strategies that reliably increase student learning wherever they are applied and Formative Assessment that informs teachers about what they need to teach next.

Students do not attend school on this day. Extend will be providing onsite childcare for families with bookings opening up soon. Please be aware it has been reported that free childcare will be ending on July 12.

DROP OFF & PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

As there has been no change to the Department of Education guidelines current drop off and pick up arrangements remain in place. For the safety of all we ask all families to follow all road rules, be considerate of others and exercise great care during these times. Thank you for your cooperation.

DROP OFF PICK UP TIMES AND ZONES



Drop off and Pick up Locations and Times

The drop off and pick up gates remain the same for allocated surnames - ensure your child is always dropped off and picked up at the same gate

All arrivals at your allocated gate between 8:40 - 9am

Pick up times for A-K 3pm - 3:15pm

Pick up times for L-Z 3:15pm - 3:30pm

All students who walk or ride home independently will be dismissed at 3:15pm

McEwen Drive Front Gates

Drop Off: 8:40-9:00am (A-C) (L-M) - Surnames

Pick Up: 3:00- 3:15pm (A-C) -Surnames

3:15-3:30pm (L-M) -Surnames

Council (Gym) Car Park Gate

Drop Off: 8:40-9:00am (D-G) (N-S) -Surnames

Pick Up: 3:00-3:15pm (D-G) -Surnames

3:15-3:30pm (N-S) -Surnames

Kereford Place

Laneway Gate next to Kindergarten and School Playground Gate

Drop Off: 8:40-9:00am (H-K) (T-Y) - Surnames

Pick Up: 3:00-3:15pm (H-K) -Surnames

3:15 - 3:30pm (T-Y) - Surnames

Council Oval Back Gates

Accessible via Irvine Close and Council Oval

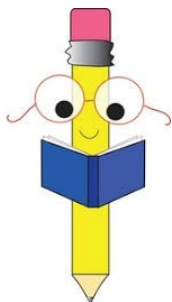
Drop Off: 8:45-9:00am (A-K) (L-Z) - Surnames

Pick Up: 3:00pm (A-K) - Surnames

3:15pm (L-Z) - Surnames



PREP 2021 TRANSITION PROCESS AND SCHOOL TOURS



Due to the Covid-19 restrictions schools are unable to hold any tours of the school until further notice. The Sunbury Network of Primary Schools intend to hold tours and information sessions during Term 3, depending on advice from the Department of Education at that time. These dates which are currently being finalised will be promoted on school websites, Facebook pages, local childcare centres and kindergartens as soon as they are confirmed.

2021 enrolment packs are now available. Please contact the office on 97444566 or email kis-met.park.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au to request a copy.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through the COVID environment.

SCHOOL BANKING

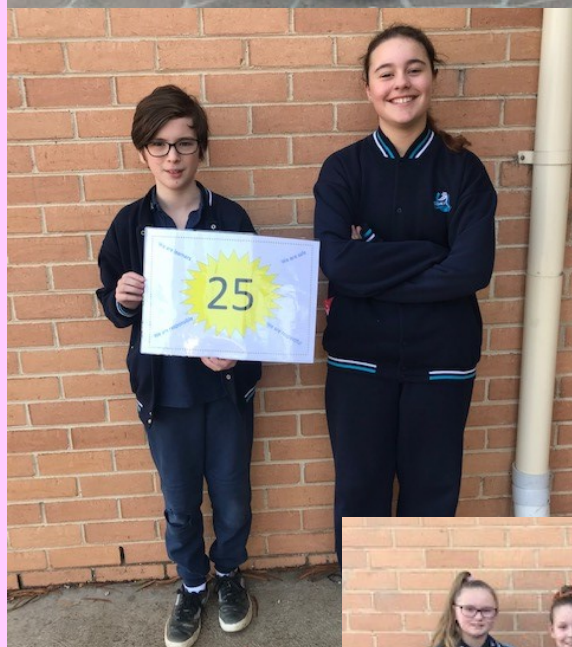
School banking is currently on hold due to COVID-19

Please keep an eye on the Newsletter for updates on when this will resume

Congratulations on your awards



TEAM YATTA





Department of Education and Training

Office of the Secretary

2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne Victoria 3002
Telephone: 03 9637 2000
DX210083

Dear parents and carers,

Term 2 in 2020 has been like no other school term in Victoria's history, and so I am writing to thank you for your support.

As you know, this week Grade 3 to Year 10 students joined Prep to Grade 2, VCE and specialist school students in face to face learning. It is great to see our school communities come together again.

In responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic over the past few months, the Department of Education and Training has asked a lot of our teachers and schools, and we have also required your support as parents and carers.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary effort you have all made in working in partnership with your teachers and schools to support your children while they have been learning from home.

When I wrote to you a few months ago as we transitioned to remote and flexible learning, I acknowledged that it would be a challenging time for everyone, but that it was important to work closely together to provide the best possible support for students.

Many of you have since told me that there have been difficult, rewarding and challenging experiences during this unique and uncertain time that we have been through together. I thank you for your support, commitment, patience and perseverance.

But despite difficulties, I've been impressed to hear inspiring stories of education innovation. The innovative and creative approaches adopted during remote and flexible learning have been outstanding, and many schools will bring new approaches with them to on-site schooling.

Many school communities have forged even stronger relationships and partnerships — with families and teachers gaining a greater mutual appreciation of their shared contributions to school education.

Our schools now have a range of precautionary measures to protect the health and safety of your children, your family, teachers and staff, and your local community.

I hope these measures, along with the knowledge that the Victorian Chief Health Officer and Victorian Government have approached the return to on-site schooling with the utmost precaution and careful planning, have helped ease any anxiety about the return to on-site schooling.

The changes at your school are consistent with health advice, including enhanced cleaning in schools and frequent handwashing. Your school has also asked you to practice physical distancing during drop-off and pick-up times.

Your children may be feeling anxious about returning to school. Reassure your child that it's safe for them to go back to school and reinforce what they've been practicing at home around hand hygiene

and coughing and sneezing. Reassure them that extensive cleaning is being carried out in schools and public transport to keep them safe.

Please remember the health advice: if you or your child is unwell, please stay at home. This is vital to ensuring the effective management of the pandemic.

Information about how to speak to your child about coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found here:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/talkingtoyourchildaboutcoronavirus.aspx>

Visit the Department's website for the latest information about coronavirus (COVID-19) at:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/departments/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you once again for working with your schools to support your children while they were learning at home and for your patience during the staged return to on-site schooling.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Atta', is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Jenny Atta

Secretary

Department of Education and Training

insights

Let kids off the leash for greater confidence and resilience

by Michael Grose

“Did you as a child or teenager enjoy more freedom to move around your neighbourhood than you give to your kids?”

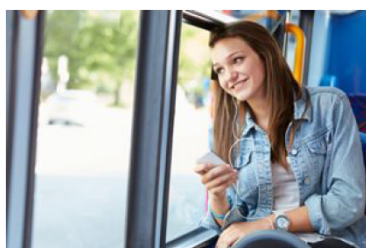
I often ask parents this question at my presentations and the answer is usually overwhelmingly affirmative. I then ask:

“Put your hand up if you benefitted from this freedom in any way including developing self-confidence, gaining independence and learning how to solve your own problems.”

Almost every parent present raises a hand.

Deep down we know that giving kids more freedom is good for their overall development, yet we so often struggle to give kids the same liberties to roam that many of us enjoyed as children ourselves.

Recently Tim Berryman, principal of Fitzroy Community School, [gave a speech](#) urging parents to be brave and give their children more freedom.



The speech obviously struck a chord, as more parents in his school now allow their children to travel to school independently, as well as walk to the shops, the park or friends' homes without an adult.

Bravo to the principal for taking a stand and three cheers to the parents who changed their ways and gave their kids the opportunity to roam away from home without adult supervision.

In my book *Spoonfed Generation* I wrote how it was the edgier escapades – such as climbing walls, exploring drains and building cubbies from scraps scrounged from a nearby wood yard – and not the safe experiences that shaped me and made me less fearful as a child. These types of experiences in unpredictable environments taught me about being resourceful, assessing risk and confronting my fears.

I would strongly argue that although I benefited greatly from a very good formal education at school it was these unorganised activities that helped me reach my full potential. Unfortunately, these are not the type of experiences many of today's children and young people enjoy.





Not all risks are the same

There are a number of reasons why today's generation experience less freedom than previous generations. These include busy after-school schedules leaving less time for wandering and the centralisation of shops and parks reducing opportunities for walking. However it's the perception that the world is a more dangerous place that seems to be most pertinent. This is despite there being little evidence to suggest that stranger danger is on the rise.

The wish to keep kids safe is now paramount for many adults, but it comes at the expense of children's and young people's natural developmental need for unpredictable experiences away from constant adult supervision.

We need to be careful we don't throw all risk into the same basket. We need to separate risk-taking in terms of unsafe/unhealthy risks (e.g. playing chicken with cars on busy roads) and safe/developmental risks (e.g. using traffic lights to cross busy roads). It's evident that children who are exposed to safe risk-taking usually are less fearful, less anxious and more able to take on new

challenges and experiences.

Parents need to be brave

Perhaps one of the hardest parts of parenting is letting go of our primal need to keep kids safe from pain and harm. The wish to protect is in the DNA of most parents, yet we can't let that innate desire restrict children's basic developmental need to explore, to be curious and to pull away from parental protectiveness.

As Tim Berryman said so eloquently in his speech, "We don't need to reflect for long to consider all the disasters that could befall our children in the park, travelling to school or going to the shops. (But) if we are aware of the cost of this fear, and instead keep it in check, we will help to nurture a more empowered child, laying out the ground for a more empowered adult."

Just as we want our children to be brave and face their fears, we too need to face down some of the unwarranted fears that we have for our children's safety. Navigating fear is a part of parenting just as it is part of growing up. It makes us feel uncomfortable. But when we face those fears, confidence and competence grows and anxiety dissipates. This principle is just as pertinent for parents as it is for our kids.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including Thriving! and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It, and his latest release Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.