Notice No. 5

27 January 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the 2015 school year! We look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible over the next few weeks as we start working together to bring about continued improved learning outcomes for your children.

On behalf of the staff we extend a particularly warm welcome to all students and families who are new to our school. We trust that your association will be both enjoyable and productive. Many opportunities exist to be involved in your child’s education and the wider life of the school through volunteering. DECD now requires that all volunteers successfully undergo a Criminal History Screening Check (formerly ‘Police Check’) before being allowed to volunteer - even if only listening to your own child read. The school pays for the screening process. Application forms are available from the front office. Please attend to this as a matter of urgency as the process can take some time to complete.

Welcome to the following 2015 staff appointments:
- Joe Adamo: teaching Yr 5/6 this term while Chris Hassiotis is on leave. Joe will teach PE and Science in terms 2, 3 & 4
- Josh Kolesnikowicz (Mr Kole): teaching PE and Science in term 1
- Gaby Freer: NIT The Arts (Wednesdays and Fridays)
- Cherie Buhagiar: Administration Officer at the front desk

Welcome also to pre-service teachers Hannah Spence and Mike Webb who will be mentored by Mrs Pick and Mrs Ferris respectively. Please make yourself known to our new staff members.

Fire Friday fundraiser – January 30th
You may have seen in the press recently that a group of students from Reidy Park Primary School, Mt Gambier have organised a fundraiser to support the RSPCA to rehabilitate animals that were injured in the recent bushfires. It’s called ‘Fire Friday’ and will occur this Friday 30th January. Students are asked to dress up either as an animal or come along to school in ‘fire’ colours – or dress in any other way they wish to signify that bushfires present a real danger to wild animals that live through a bushfire. Students are asked to bring a monetary donation which will go to the RSPCA to support the ongoing work of treating animals from the bushfires in the Adelaide Hills and the South-East of the state. We have also decided to have a ‘Fire Drill’ on Friday as a timely reminder that we need to be
prepared in case we need to evacuate at any time. You can check out the Fire Friday Fundraiser’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fire-Friday-Fundraiser/835000866563587 (we’re on it!).

Diary dates
A calendar will be sent home this week. Several important events and dates this term are:

- Reception – Yr 5 Swimming: Monday 9th – Friday 13th February (Week 3)
- Acquaintance Night & Governing Council AGM: Wednesday 18th February (Week 4)
- Parent-student-teacher Interviews: Monday 30th March – Thursday 2nd April (Week 10)
- Sports Day: Friday 10th April (Week 11 - last day of term)

NB This year Easter occurs during the school term Friday 3rd April – Monday 6th April

School values
The staff and Governing Council believe that it’s time to re-evaluate our stated school values which are currently:

- Purposeful and diligent effort
- Co-operative and constructive behaviour
- A caring community

Whilst these values have served their purpose we believe that a re-visit is necessary to reflect contemporary society and 21st century learners. We are using the National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools as a starting point to decide our new values which we anticipate will be more relevant to students and all members of our school community through better conversations and greater understanding. In alphabetical the values are:

1. Care and Compassion
   Care for self and others
2. Doing Your Best
   Seek to accomplish something worthy and admirable, try hard, pursue excellence
3. Fair Go
   Pursue and protect the common good where all people are treated fairly for a just society
4. Freedom
   Enjoy all the rights and privileges of Australian citizenship free from unnecessary interference or control, and stand up for the rights of others
5. Honesty and Trustworthiness
   Be honest, sincere and seek the truth
6. Integrity
   Act in accordance with principles of moral and ethical conduct, ensure consistency between words and deeds
7. Respect
   Treat others with consideration and regard, respect another person’s point of view
8. Responsibility
   Be accountable for one’s own actions, resolve differences in constructive, non-violent and peaceful ways, contribute to society and to civic life, take care of the environment
9. Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion
   Be aware of others and their cultures, accept diversity within a democratic society, being included and including others

We welcome your thoughts. Please feel free to provide written comment or have a chat with us or any member of staff. Your opinions will be taken seriously and will be considered when we finalise our new School Values this term.

Regards,

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