March 3rd 2016

Congratulations POOLE!

Well done to our students for their enthusiastic participation in our recent House Athletics Competition. The behaviour of all students on the day was exemplary and they are to be congratulated for their endeavours and displays of sportsmanship.

Congratulations to Charlee and Makaveli, the Poole House Captains, and to all members of Poole House on winning this year’s house athletics.
Peer Teaching Workshop for “I Sea I Care” Ambassadors

On Tuesday 23 February Chloe, Charlee and Haylee participated in a Peer Teaching workshop at Hallam Primary School. The day was facilitated by Mandy Robertson from the Dolphin Institute. Throughout the day our ambassadors learnt about marine life and some issues that are threatening our marine life as well as public speaking and presentation skills. They are eagerly looking forward to delivering the lessons to our grade 1 and grade 2 students in the near future.

Graffiti Incursion (Seniors)

On Wednesday 17th February, Senior students attended an incursion discussing graffiti and the effects it can have on society. Nathan (the multi-talented presenter) played a variety of characters as he educated the kids about legal graffiti and the destructive consequences of illegally grafittiing private or public property. The students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and this week have completed follow-up activities reinforcing the message.
Cyber Safety Incursion

On Friday the 26th February, the grade 3-6 students were visited by Australia’s Cyber Safety expert Susan McLean. Susan warned us about the dangers online and how to keep safe. We learnt that one way to keep safe online is to make sure that the sites we visit or belong to are age appropriate. The most important thing we learnt is that we need to report anything inappropriate and to always tell our parents if we feel upset or worried about anything online.

Middle and Senior School Teachers

Student Free Day

School Council has approved Tuesday 15 March as a Student Free Day. On this day teachers will be involved in planning activities relating to the strategic direction of our school for the 2016 school year. In addition they will be undertaking professional learning focussing on Abilities Based Learning and Education Support (ABLES), a highly-effective and unique curriculum assessment and reporting tool that:

- allows teachers to assess readiness to learn for students with additional needs
- generates reports that help to plan for personalised learning
- provides guidance material and strategies to help teach students based on their individual learning needs, with links to the appropriate curriculum level and resources
- tracks student progress and achievements.

Students are not required to attend school on this day.

Open Door Policy

The school is very proud of the “Open Door” policy it has created so that students and their families feel welcome at the school. The open door policy allows parents to be involved in classroom activities, attend open evenings and information sessions, participate in decision making forums, attend parent education programs and so on.

The “open door” policy allows parents to remain in contact with the school and encourages important communication links between home and school. Even though the school has an open door policy, it is important for parents to remember that it is necessary for an appointment to be made if you wish to talk to a member of staff. Often a parent will wish to talk to a staff member immediately before or after school. These times are extremely busy times for staff as they are often planning work for students and finalizing things for the day ahead. After school, staff frequently have meetings and professional development activities that they must attend.

To ensure that your issue is dealt with in a thorough and appropriate way, it is vital that an appointment is made. This allows the staff member concerned to set aside the appropriate amount of time required to speak with you about the issue.
The appointment can be made by phoning the school, or by making the appointment with the teacher concerned directly.

**Labour Day Holiday - Why do we have a day off on Monday 14 March?**

A reminder to all that Monday 14 March is Labour Day, a public holiday. Students are not required at school on this day. Labour Day is an Australian public holiday originally called Eight Hours Day. It celebrates the achievements of organised labour on behalf of the worker to bring about the 8-hour day in the late 1850s. Previously workers were required to work long hours each week . . . 10 to 12 hours a day six days a week. While a change was made to the hours worked each day, the five day work week we enjoy today took almost a century longer to be adopted finally in 1948. If you look closely you may spot the numbers 888 on many union buildings across Australia. The numbers are in support of British socialist Robert Owen who believed that people should have 8 hours to work, 8 hours for recreation and 8 hours to sleep. This philosophy helped foster The Eight Hours Movement. The first Labour Day parade was held in Melbourne on April 21st, 1856. Labour Day is celebrated at different times across Australia because each state achieved the 8-hour day on different dates.

**Student Accident Insurance / Ambulance Cover Arrangements**

Parents and guardians are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance / transport and any other transport costs.

**Private Property Brought to School**

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property students, staff and students are requested not to bring any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.
On hot days, it is important to remember that children should never be left alone in a car. The temperature inside a car on hot days begins to rise as soon as the door closes and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside. Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death. Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks. Victorian legislation makes leaving a child unattended in a car a criminal offence, with penalties ranging from fines of $2165 or three months in prison.

If you are travelling with a child in a car and you need to get out, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses. Despite a recent drop in temperatures, parents are still urged to be aware of the dangers of leaving children alone in motor vehicles, so it you need to get out of the car, even for a moment, always take your child with you. No Exceptions. No Excuses.

A recent survey conducted by the Victorian Coalition Government found that despite sweltering through one of the hottest summers on record, one in three parents admit to leaving their children alone in a parked car. The research also demonstrated most parents underestimate how quickly the temperature inside a parked car can rise and the devastating impact this has on a child. Even if the outside temperature is 30 degrees the temperature inside can reach up to 50 degrees in a matter of minutes. The Victorian Government is reminding all parents travelling with a child that if you need to get out of the car, even for just one minute, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.

A reminder to parents and carers:

- A car’s temperature starts to rise from the moment the door is closed and can be double the outside temperature in minutes.
- Even when it’s 30 degrees outside, your child could be sweltering in up to 60 degree heat.
- It is not worth the risk – if you are travelling with a child and you need to get out of the car, even for just one minute, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.
- Young children are more sensitive to heat than adults and their body temperature can reach dangerous levels quicker than expected.
- A young child’s body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult, placing them in extreme danger of life threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other health risks if left alone in a parked car.

Never leave a child alone in a car. No Exceptions. No Excuses.

For more information, see: Kidsafe Victoria
CYBERSAFETY

Last week the middle school students attended an informative session on Cybersafety. Most students are developing a sound understanding about the ways they can stay safe online at home and school.

Some of the most important points were to follow age restrictions on social media sites, keep high security settings, use complex passwords (not the name of your dog!), do not share your password with anyone other than parents/carers, do not interact with strangers and tell a trusted adult if you feel unsafe.

Students have taken home an agreement about Cybersafety to discuss with parents and carers, sign and return to school. There will be a session on March 22nd for parents and carers, who are encouraged to come along for what promises to be an informative evening.
PLANKS

On Monday 29th February, students from all areas of the school participated in a creative problem solving exercise incursion called Planks. Students learnt about the most effective way to build towers and structures in terms of durability and had lots of fun while practising and working together in groups or pairs.
## DATES TO REMEMBER:

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