



St. Margaret's
Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Term Four, Week 7
November 18th, 2021

From Brian's Desk

Leadership and Management News

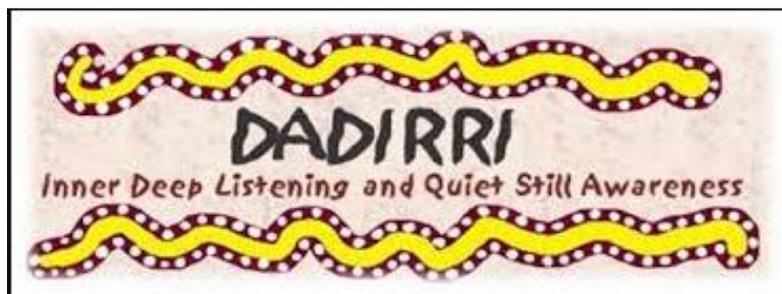
Dear Parents, Friends and Students,

Our whole school excursion to the You Yangs is scheduled to be held next Monday, November 22nd. We had previously planned to hold this excursion in September to acknowledge the anniversary of the the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Indigenous Child, however COVID lockdowns prevented this from occurring. We are grateful to local Wadawurrung leaders who have been so accommodating and able to make alternative arrangements for this school event to take place.

This cultural immersion excursion will commence with an educational talk from Stephanie Skinner, a traditional land owner, emphasizing the spiritual and cultural importance of the land to indigenous people. Wadawurrung People will lead us in an acknowledgement of country and a traditional smoking ceremony. Students will then participate in a cultural walk of the You Yangs.

Parents are permitted to attend this excursion and we ask that you organize your own transport to the You Yangs meeting us at the turn table for a 10.00 am commencement.

Please note in accordance with School Operations Guidelines parents will need evidence of full vaccination status and are required to QR code on arrival. We also ask that they walk with their child's group and avoid intermingling with other children.



Middle and senior students at St Margaret's are familiar with 'Dadirri' as a form of prayer, meditation and inner listening. Aboriginal writer and senior elder Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann describes deep listening as follows;

“Dadirri is inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness. Dadirri recognises the deep spring that is inside us. We call on it and it calls to us. This is the gift that Australia is thirsting for. It is something like what you call ‘contemplation’.

“In our Aboriginal way, we learnt to listen from our earliest days. We could not live good and useful lives unless we listened. This was the normal way for us to learn – not by asking questions. We learnt by watching and listening, waiting and then acting.”

...continued over

Leadership and Management News

“My people are not threatened by silence. They are completely at home in it. They have lived for thousands of years with Nature’s quietness. My people today, recognise and experience in this quietness, the great Life-Giving Spirit, the Father of us all.”

Dadirri also means awareness of where you’ve come from, why you are here, where are you going now and where you belong. It can be used as a tool to quieten the mind as it teaches about “the quiet stillness and the waiting”.

St Margaret’s Community of Trust Touchstone ‘Be Present to yourself, the environment and others’ informs us to ‘be here with your doubts, fears and failings as well as your convictions, joys and successes, your listening as well as your speaking’.

So, how do we as parents further promote a healthy relationship with our children?

Well, first of all there is listening: We need to listen to hear, really hear, what is being said. We need to listen to understand and learn without comment, even if we do not agree with what is being said to us. We need to listen with respect, completely focussed on what’s being said and trying to find links between our point of view and the words we’re hearing. And then there’s speaking: We need to speak without judgement, without pinning labels or offering criticism. We need to speak to open hearts and minds, not to defeat or put down. We need to speak to enlighten and make known our true feelings. We need to speak about the current topic and not draw on past history.



Class teachers will provide parents with further details and requirements about this upcoming excursion via Seesaw.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend ahead.

Regards

Brian

Parents & Friends’ Association Social Event – Thursday, December 9th

The Parents and Friends’ Association are planning to hold an end of year social event on Thursday, December 9th, commencing at 5.00 pm. Please mark this date in your diary. More information to follow.

Year Six Graduation Monday, December 6th

Year Six Graduation will be held on Monday, December 6th. Information regarding this event has been forwarded to families with more details to follow.

School Community News

Statewide Rollout of Rapid Antigen Testing in Schools

Please find information that was forwarded to Catholic schools in relation to the statewide rollout of rapid antigen testing in schools.

Please note that this only comes into effect when there is a positive case identified by the school.

From Monday 15 November, the Victorian Government will implement the statewide rollout of a rapid antigen testing program for eligible students impacted by a COVID-19 exposure at school.

This program will enable unvaccinated or partially vaccinated primary close contact (PCC) students to safely return to school after seven days, rather than 14 days.

All schools that have close contacts as a result of a confirmed case on site will be able to take part in the program.

Rapid Antigen Testing Program Details

To make rapid antigen testing available to students who are eligible PCCs, schools will need to opt in.

The rapid antigen testing program is an opt-in program for PCCs whose contact with the confirmed case was through community contact, not household contact. It is not available for household PCCs.

The Department of Education and Training will provide schools that opt in with rapid antigen self-test kits to enable identified PCCs to get tested – there will be no need for schools or families to purchase them.

For families participating in the program, the PCC student must quarantine at home for seven days. On day six of quarantine, the PCC student must get a standard (PCR) test at a local COVID-19 testing site.

If the test is negative, they must provide the result to the school and collect their rapid antigen tests.

Students will then be required to return a negative rapid antigen test result each morning they are attending school between days eight to 14. Tests do not need to be done on non-school days. The test result must be reported to the school using a web-based form, completed prior to arriving at school.

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School Community News

Reconciliation 2021

Congratulations to the Year 3 students who recently made their First Reconciliation.



Upcoming Dates

November

- 19 Special Lunch - Subway
- 19 All books returned to the Library
- 22 You Yangs Whole school excursion
- 23 Years 5-6 Swimming Program
- 26 2022 Prep Orientation 1 (with parents)
- 29 Years 3-4 Swimming Program
- 30 2022 Prep Orientation 2

December

- 6 Year 6 Graduation
(please note change) of date
- 6 Years 1-2 Swimming Program
- 7 Step Up Day P-6 - Year 7 Orientation
- 9 P&F Social Function
- 13 Beach Picnic (Dec 14 back up date)
- 15 Students' Final Day

Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won't tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff.

~Catherine M. Wallace~



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