From the Resource Centre

Hello,

If you haven’t been into the library recently here’s a chance to look at photos of our Premiers Reading Challenge Display. As children complete reading 12 books and record them on their record sheet, they come into the library and choose a piece of paper puzzle to find and glue on a photocopied book cover. We are hoping for all children to be able to complete their reading challenge to enable the class to fill in the whole book cover with puzzle pieces. Congratulations certificates and medals arrive for the students later in the year.

The Resource Centre will be closed during week 10, packed and moved to room 14 for term 3. You may keep library books during the holidays but will need to encourage your children to do their returning and re borrowing by the end of week 9.

Thank you

ROAD SAFETY

Morning and afternoon traffic is very busy in and around the school. To be safe for our students and your families please be cautious and follow the conventions of our roads.

We appreciate your understanding and consideration of others on the roads in and around the school.

Come and play together and meet other families. Port Lincoln Junior Primary School Playgroup

We welcome all families with children 0 - 5 years to join us at our Friday morning playgroup.

CANTEEN

SPECIALS

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

Pies $4.00
Sausage Rolls $3.50
Mini Pasty $2.50
Pkt. Sauce 30c

Please note: A Hot Dog will be given when these are ordered on other days

Dates to Remember

Healthy Recess - Thursday 18th June
Assembly - Wednesday 24th June Rooms 7 & 26 hosting
Aboriginal Family Morning Tea - Thursday 25th June 9am
Last Day of Term - Friday 3rd July 2:30pm

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A note from the Principal

Last week our students were introduced to Professor Martin Westwell, a scientist from Adelaide who actively promotes the teaching of science across the curriculum. Science exists in all areas of our life such as washing, cooking, gardening, driving the car, fishing, surfing, football. Students are excited by Science and our work with the Scientist in Residence project recognises the role of science in our daily routines. This work has fostered a partnership with students and teachers at Port Lincoln High School encouraging teachers to share their teaching practice and inviting students to work together building new skills and understandings for all participants.

Liz Matheson and Marlene Henschke from the External Review team have been working in our school this week to evaluate the processes we use to improve student achievement. The reviews will be held in all public schools as part of our accountability processes. They met with staff, students and members of the community to deepen their understanding of the school and our work. The panel will identify areas for further improvement in a report early next term. This will be made available publicly via our website. I will provide further information in our next newsletter.

Our reporting processes this year include two Learning Reviews, at the end of terms 1 and 3, and two written reports at the end of terms 2 and 4. Our focus on powerful learning has seen a shift in our teaching and the way students demonstrate their learning from the printed page to collaborative work samples displayed in classrooms, electronic mediums and individual demonstrations of student understanding of concepts and knowledge. As I visit classrooms, I am excited to listen to students as they talk about their learning and show me class Maths journals, displays, electronic books, models and experiments. Students are showing higher levels of engagement in learning tasks, producing more complex work and are the developing skills to work together, problem solve, manage their impulses, discuss and accept other points of view, all important skills for their future. As a result we have found it difficult to find work samples that can be included in display folders, so we are trialing a year without home packs. I am sure you will be pleased to see your child progressing with the skills required for the 21st Century.

I encourage you to visit classrooms and talk to your child about their learning.

It is fantastic to see students attending school regularly, thank you for supporting our focus on high levels of attendance and giving your children the best opportunity to learn and be connected at school. We currently have an average attendance rate of 90.8%, we are aiming to meet the target of 93% for all schools, we hope you will help us to improve our attendance rates and meet the DECD standards.

Regards, Debbie Hemmings

Professor Martin Westwell visits the JP

For the last 2 years Mrs Beljon and Mrs Davey have been involved in the Scientist in Residence Program working with Professor Martin Westwell. As part of the Science curriculum some year 2 students made a video, invited Professor Westwell to visit our school and do some Science with us. These same students began the day with an interview to find out first hand what the role of a Professor involves. He was very impressed with the marble runs designed by room 2 and 26 and was excited to see work that room 21 had been doing with the beans they have planted. All classes had the opportunity to visit the ‘Old Things’ exhibition in the Science room which stimulated a lot of discussion about “how old is old?” some of our students worked in teams with the year 3s to do a problem solving task involving gardening and cooking at the Primary School. After lunch a group of year 1 students went on a tour of the High School Aquaculture Centre to learn more about Barramundi. It was a very exciting day and once again reminded us that Science is involved in everything we do.

Last week at staff meeting we looked at Kidsmatter topics including catering for students with Anxiety in the classroom and child Trauma. As a part of this we watched some clips of Anxiety and Trauma and then looked at activities we can use to help regulate and give ways to soothe through calming activities these included: Using Kinetic Sand, blowing bubbles, using sensor toys like squishy balls and bubble wrap, play dough, seeds listening to relaxation music and using an App on the IPAD called Smiling minds. The exploration of these activities gave teachers an insight to the use of different sensory items that can aid to calm and relax students in a soothing way. The following articles also will give you an idea of how anxiety can be in different forms and some strategies to use.

How anxiety affects children

In addition to feeling highly anxious, children’s thinking is usually affected. The threat or danger they are concerned about appears to them to be much greater than it actually is. Thinking about the situation that causes them to be anxious makes them more worried and tense. Children with anxiety may develop their own strategies to try to manage situations that cause them distress. Often this involves trying to avoid the situation or having a parent or other adult deal with it for them.

Avoiding a situation makes it more likely that the child will feel anxious and be unable to manage it the next time. This behaviour makes it more difficult for the child to cope with everyday stresses at home, at school and in social settings. Anxiety can also result in physical difficulties such as sleeplessness, diarrhoea, stomach aches and headaches (sometimes referred to as somatic complaints). It can also involve irritability, difficulty, concentration and tiredness.

General principles for assisting children with anxiety disorders

Increase children’s helpful coping skills

Anxious feelings are fed by anxious thinking. It is important not to dismiss children’s anxious feelings, but to help children see that the situations they are worried about may not be as bad as they think.

Teach by example

Showing children how you cope positively with feeling anxious or stressed and remaining calm positive when they are feeling anxious can help them to feel more confident.

Avoid taking over

Children with anxiety are usually very happy for someone else to do things for them. However, if adults take over, it stops children from learning how to cope by themselves.

Encourage children to ‘have a go’

Having a go helps to show children that they can cope. Praise or reward them for every step they manage to take. The website is also a very good website to read and find strategies and ideas with parenting and supporting your children.

https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families

Please contact me if you would like more information as I have photocopied fact sheets available. If you wish to talk to me more about anxiety please feel free to make a time to come visit me.

Volunteer Training

We have just hosted our first training for volunteers. People who wish to work in classrooms/ support on excursions on a regular basis are encouraged to do the training. If you are interested please contact the school to enroll in our next session.

When: Wednesday 24th June 2015
Where: Port Lincoln Junior Primary School
Time: 9:10am-10:30am

Congratulations to all students for their excellent attendance this year, it is great to be with friends learning together.

Attendance Alert: When students miss school for 1 day every week = 10 days a term = 40 days a year.

This is close to missing an entire term of school every year. By the start of year 6, this means 1 year of school has been missed!