

# NEWSLETTER

**Term 3**  
**July 19th, 2018**

## Exceptional Educational Experiences

### DATES TO REMEMBER

School Council @ 7pm	Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> July
Bike Ed Week	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> July
Cooking	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> July
Yr 6 Back & beyond camp at 15MC	13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug
School Council @ 7pm	Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug
Ski camp yr 4-6 (optional) 3 days	in last week of Aug
Responsible Pet ownership visit	Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug
Music Viva cluster performance @ Whitfield	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Sep
School Council @ 7pm	Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Sep
End of term 3	Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Sep

### THANK YOU!

Thanks for the welcome back that my family and I have received, it is great to be back in the Valley. A huge thank you to Claire Bradbury for the great job she did as acting principal, it involves wearing many hats (principal, teacher, administrator). The work she has done, much of which is behind the scenes has made my return that much smoother, thanks Claire. Thanks too to Kaylene for teaching the 3-6 class 3 days per week. I am enjoying the new classroom set up and seeing how the students have progressed over the last 12 months. Dianne, Pam and Leigh also need thanks for continuing to do a great job in educating our students and helping the school run well. Finally, thank you to the parents and community for being involved and supportive, whether through council, fundraising, classroom-excursion help, hot lunches and the learning you do with your children at home. Everyone's efforts over the last 12 months have meant that our students have a fantastic environment in which to learn and grow. Thanks again.

### OSHC

Please phone **0448 298 467** to make bookings for Outside School Hours Care. Please also use this number for afterschool arrangements as this phone is always checked just before dismissal at 3:30pm.

### BIKE ED MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>-27<sup>TH</sup> JULY

All students will need to bring their bike in good riding condition and helmet to school. Glenn Clarke will come and set up a bike course on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and will demonstrate the course to the students. The trailer will remain at the school for the remainder of that week, with the course set up for the students to have a go at this.

### Students need to have a working bike and helmet at school on Monday morning.

Please check tyres, brakes, chain, seat and handlebars to make sure they are in working order. Bikes can be dropped off at school today or tomorrow and locked in the sheds if that is more convenient for you than Monday morning.



### SAME DAY REPORTING OF UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES

From the start of this term, the new Department of Education policy regarding the reporting of unexplained absences comes into effect.

Attached to this newsletter is information regarding this policy.

Most parents are pretty good at informing us of their child's absence, but as a small school (without office staff five days a week), this policy will impact staff that will have to chase up unexplained absences during the day.

**Please text 0428 298 286 or phone 57 298 286 for all absences by 9am please.**

This notification will assist the staff at our small school greatly. Thank you ☺

### 'THUMBS UP' AWARD

The Principal's 'Thumbs Up' Award recipients are students that have been seen doing great things at our school. The latest recipients are:

**Mike:** For a great effort with his writing and improving his spelling.

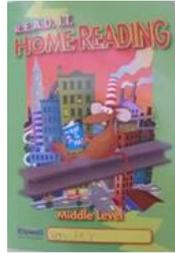
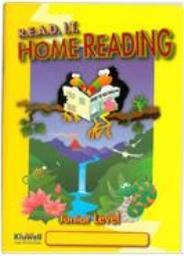
**Claire:** For her great participation in lunchtime games and in the classroom.

## HOT LUNCHES

A big thankyou to the Richards, Waite, Rumbelow and Manning families for the hot lunches at the end of last term. Thanks also to the Guy and Fitzgerald families for yesterday's meal. Hot lunches are provided for just \$3:00 per child, please remember to send this along on the day.

## HOME READING

We have a number of students who have already reached their 150 nights' certificate.



### Congratulations 75 nights home reading:

Mike, Nina, Ruby, Owen, Normie, Toria, Corrie

### Congratulations 100 nights home reading:

Johann, Tobias, Emily, Emilio, Judd, Amilie, Milly

### Congratulations 150 nights home reading:

Isabelle, Zoi, Wirra, Claire, Kalika, Charlotte

## SKI CAMP

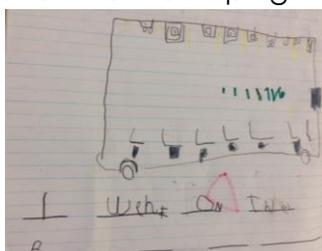
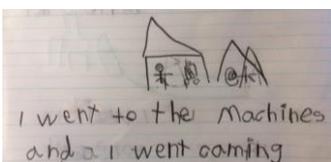
A note regarding ski camp has been sent home today. Please read and send back the form to let us know whether your child is attending or not. The numbers are tight and we are hoping to offer it to our year 4's, but can only do so once we confirm which 5/6's are going. This camp is not compulsory, but it is a great experience.



# Literacy corner

### Foundation students holiday writing.

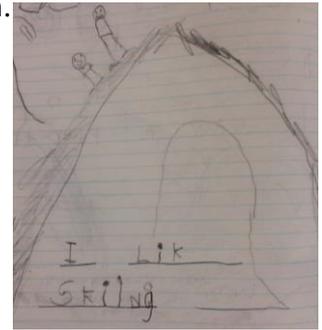
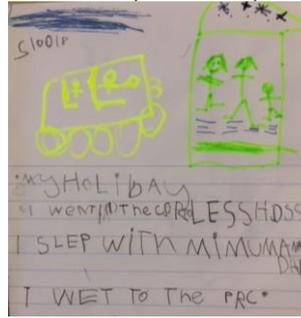
My brother had a birthday. He got little Lego. I went to Melton. I went on the trampoline. I went to the machines and I went camping. By Johann.



I went to the shop. I went on the bus to the bakery. By Tobias.

I went in the car to Les's house. I slept with my Mum and Dad. I went to the park. By Nina.

I saw a turtle. I saw a crocodile. I liked skiing with my Dad. By Joah.



### New Foundation Student – Joah

Welcome to Joah Van Bergen who started at school this week. His favourite thing about school is "...learning stuff and playing around".



### Grade 1 & 2

Some of the grade 1 & 2's made lists and then wrote about their holidays.

- Melita's
- OSH

At Melita's house we broke some ice on the bird bath. It was very cold. By Aroha.

- Lego
- X-box
- Wii
- Outside
- Beechworth
- Peter
- Pancake
- Park
- Bus
- iPad
- Cookies
- Bread

By Kody

- Deer Hunting
- Evie
- Zoo
- Farm

On the holidays, Jacko shot a deer. I cut a deer's head off I saw blood.

Evie had to go to the hospital, she had a bad fever.

I went to the zoo. I saw a snake and kangaroos.

I went to the farm and I rode my motorbike. By Mike.



# **SAME-DAY NOTIFICATION OF UNEXPLAINED STUDENT ABSENCES**

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The [School Attendance Guidelines](#) specify that from the end of Term 2 2018, government schools must contact parents/carers as soon as practicable on the day of an unexplained student absence.

Protecting the safety and well-being of children through the reporting and monitoring of absenteeism is the responsibility of both parents/carers and schools. Parents/carers have an obligation to notify the school of their child's absence and schools are required to notify parents/carers on the day of an unexplained student absence. This responsibility needs to be underpinned by shared understandings and expectations about the procedures for the promotion, monitoring and follow-up of student attendance as outlined in the school's *Attendance Policy*.

Clear communication and building a positive and collaborative relationship between schools and parents is critical to the successful implementation of same day notifications. In addition, in order to implement this requirement, it is essential that schools have accurate and current parent/carer contact details.

## **Contact details**

*There are times when we will need to contact you, including on the day if your child is absent and you haven't informed the school as to why. Do we have your most up to date contact details? If not, please contact the school on **57 298 286** or **0428 298 286** or [whitfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:whitfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) so we can update our records. Please include parent/carers' name, address, phone numbers, email address and emergency contact details. Please remember to contact the school if any of these details or your circumstances change.*

## **1. Notify the school of your child's absence**

*Protecting the safety and well-being of children through the reporting and monitoring of absenteeism is the responsibility of both parents/carers and schools.*

*Please remember to call the school on **57 298 286** or text on **0428 298 286** early in the morning if your child is going to be away or late for school so your child's absence can be recorded correctly.*

## **2. Same-day notification of unexplained student absences**

*Our school will text/call you as soon as practicable on the day if a student is not at school and you haven't notified the school as to why. If you are notified by the school that your child is away without a reason, please contact us as soon as possible by texting **0428 298 286**, calling **57 298 286** or emailing [whitfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:whitfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) to let us know where your child is. If we cannot reach you because we don't have your correct contact details (i.e.: message notification fail, disconnected number), then we will make contact with any emergency contact/s nominated on your child's file held by the school, where possible, on the same day of the unexplained absence.*

*Please remember it is your responsibility to contact us to provide an explanation for your child's absence from school, and where possible, please inform us in advance of upcoming absences.*



## EVERY DAY COUNTS

### **New Attendance Requirements**

*If your child is sick or absent, you are required to notify the school as soon as possible **on the day of absence**, by texting **0428 298 286**, calling **57 298 286** or emailing [whitfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:whitfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)*

*Notifying the school of your child's absence either prior to, or on the day that they will be away, helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and will fulfil your legal responsibility.*

*From the end of Term 2 2018, all Victorian government schools are required to contact parents/carers as soon as practicable on the same day of an unexplained student absence. If your child is absent on a particular day and you have not contacted the school to explain why, the absence will be marked as unexplained.*

*This system also promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education, they learn new things every day – missing school puts them behind.*