Junior School / Early Learning Centre Newsletter

Friday 3 October 2008

Dear Parents and Carers

There has been a lot of information recently in the media about cyberbullying and about parents and children being 'cyber smart' with devices such as mobile phones and the internet. As you know the school takes this issue very seriously, with computer use agreements and a policy on the use of electronic devices and we also try to have regular guest speakers for boys and parents (eg Greg Gebhart from Netalert came last term).

In the holidays I attended a Conference in Adelaide held by IPSHA (Independent Primary School Heads of Australia) where the topic of 'the wired child' was again a hot topic of discussion. As we know children - 'the digital natives' are often far better at navigating the land of 'Cyberia' than their 'digital immigrant' elders but they still need to be taught how to be critically literate of the new technology and how to use it safely and responsibly. The main messages for parents are:-

- Learn with your child, surf the net together just as you would kick a football or play in the park, if unsure acquire the knowledge you need to guide and assist your child. Get to know the services and websites your child uses
- Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use and use filter software. (limit times !!)
- Be involved, know how your children are using their phones and internet (Learn how to decipher text messages or chatline language eg P.O.S. parent over shoulder)
- Try to put the home computer in a family area where it is easy to supervise
- Try to get to know your child's 'online friends' and 'buddy list' contacts just as you get to know his other friends. Children are now using the social aspects of technology more frequently than in the past.
- Help your children to make smart choices about who and what they find online.
- Help your children use the internet as an effective research tool (eg before the ICT revolution we were often question rich and answer poor. Now we are often question poor but answer rich.)
- Teach your children that information on the internet is not always reliable.
- Teach your children 'in etiquette'
- Teach your children ways of dealing with disturbing material and encourage them to tell you if anyone says something/does something that makes them feel uncomfortable or scared.
- Report suspicious and illegal activity and sites to the proper authorities eg to report prohibited content [www.acma.gov.au/hotline](http://www.acma.gov.au/hotline) to report illegal activities. If child is in immediate danger or risk, call 000 or your local police. If child is not in immediate danger report online to the AFP at [www.afp.gov.au/online_forms/ocset-form](http://www.afp.gov.au/online_forms/ocset-form)

• Make a list of recommended sites for children
• Frequently check to see where your children have visited on the internet and/ or how they are using their mobile phones.
• Talk to your children about their online explorations and take online adventures with them.

Remember! The best protection is parental supervision and guidance!

Jenny Manthey - Head of Junior School/Early Learning Centre

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Footy Colours Day

Insight, plus hindsight, equals foresight.
Russell Murphy
Early Learning Centre

Kindergarten
Kindergarten had a very interesting and varied day on Monday. Chess was a highlight with Angus and Liam playing very professionally, and then we celebrated "Footy Colours Day"!

Prep
Harry and Jack Whitton from Prep T - Saint Kilda fans on Footy Day!

Year One
Yesterday it was Footy Colours Day. We got to have all our footy stuff. We got to go up on stage. It went for 60 minutes. We went in alphabetical order. Mrs Smith wore her Blues jumper. You did not have to wear your footy jumper. You could wear your soccer jumper. It was fun!  
Selby Allen

It was yesterday and we had Footy Colours Day. It was Prep to Year 6. It was in the Auditorium. I felt good when I went up on stage. We celebrated the end of the AFL season. I dressed up as a Sydney Swan’s player.
Nathan Plunkett

George Mazengarb and Callum Macdonald in their Footy jumpers

Year Two
On Thursday 25 September 2G went to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to take part in the Big Draw program. We were lucky to have three artists to show us around art work, explain the artists techniques and create our own master pieces. We were able to create as many as four pieces in the one and half session!

Alex, Jack and Hamish

After School Care
After School Care will be operating on Show Week break day (FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER). They will be having lunch at Mures (included in the cost of the day) and going to Battery Point Boat Park.
Junior School

Year Three
Name Symmetry
By Alec Kelly and Angus Calvert

Year Four
Year 4 have had a very interesting and exciting start to third term. We have started our latest unit of work on ancient communities and have looked at what we already know about ancient communities, what we would like to find out and how we can find it out.

We have been investigating energy and have really enjoyed constructing flic flocas and learning about stored energy. We had a guest speaker at Assembly this week and we learned some useful information about how to respect the electricity around us.

Footy colours day was great fun and we enjoyed being able to wear our colours to support our teams.

We have started some new maths challenges everyday and they are really making us think and listen. Don't be worried if we ask you a FAT question as we have found this is the best way to get more information!

Year Five
Synonyms

Clever
As poor as the homeless
As strong as a bull
As thin as a pencil
As smart as a dolphin
As fit as a cheetah
As bald as a window
As dumb as a mole
As white as an Albino
As ugly as an hippo
As neat as an illustrator
As proud as a monkey
As cute as a tiger cub
As stinky as a skunk

Jack Rasmussen

Clever
As poor as a hermit
As strong as a demon
As cute as an angel
As smart as an elephant
As thin as a starved wolf
As white as a cloud
As fit as a colossal squid
As dumb as an amoeba
As bald as a penguin

As neat as a minister
As proud as a donator
As ugly as a Peugeot 205

Thor Holloway

National Walk to Work Day
Friday 3 October
Walk to Work Day is an annual event held around Australia which promotes regular walking and a cleaner environment. You can register at walk.com.au

Coming Events

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS COMMENCES SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER

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<tr>
<td>6 Oct</td>
<td>Sunhats are compulsory from today</td>
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<td>7 Oct</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra/Melb trip commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Oct</td>
<td>SRC Plain Clothes Day - Gold coin donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Oct</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra/Melb trip concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>P-6 Assembly Year 5 hosts</td>
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<td>14 Oct</td>
<td>ELC Student Led Conferences</td>
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<td>15 Oct</td>
<td>Year 3 and 4 Soiree</td>
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<td>16 Oct</td>
<td>Year 5 and 6 Soiree</td>
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<td>17 Oct</td>
<td>ELC/JS Newsletter</td>
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<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>JS Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Oct</td>
<td>Year 3 &amp; 4 Student Led Conferences</td>
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<td>28 Oct</td>
<td>Year 5 &amp; 6 Student Led Conferences</td>
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Future dates for add to your calendar

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<tr>
<td>23 &amp; 24 Oct</td>
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Year Six
The boys in Year 6 are studying ‘Government’ this term. Next week many of them will travel to Canberra and visit both Parliament House and the Old Parliament House. In both places they will participate in role-play situations where they will experience the way that decisions are made by governments.

In class, discussions have been held about ‘Laws’. Here are some of the boys’ thoughts.

‘I think that laws are necessary to help people do the right thing. They guide people and show them which way to go.’

‘Without laws the world would go crazy.’

‘Laws are the base so that people can live fairly and peacefully together.’

‘Laws are necessary. They exist to help us feel safe.’

‘Laws are based on the decision of the majority of people.’

‘Laws are made by the government to protect the people – their well-being, their security as well as the environment.’

‘Where we don’t agree with a law we should try to change it, not just break it.’

NAPLAN Reports distributed at the beginning of Term 3 2008
NAPLAN reports for students in Years 3 and 5 who sat the national tests in literacy and numeracy earlier this year, were posted last Friday.

Students in government, Catholic and Independent School were tested. This is the first time all parents all across Australia will receive results in a common reporting format.

Your child’s report shows national information including how your child performed in relation to other students in their particular year group, and against the average score for each of the Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

A parent information brochure was distributed with the report.

Parents are invited to contact their child’s teacher in order to discuss any aspect of the tests.

ELC/JS Relief Teachers needed for Term 3 2008
At this time of year it is extremely hard to find relief teachers. If you would like to be added to our ELC/JS Relief List please contact Mrs Caroline McCreary via email caroline.mccreary@hutchins.tas.edu.au or Mrs Judy Smith via email judy.smith@hutchins.tas.edu.au with all your details plus a copy of your Tasmanian Teachers’ Registration.

Footy Colours Day raised $343.70 for kids with cancer to get Back on Track. Many thanks.