



“Learning Together”



A community of active thinkers who can achieve their dreams.

Caring, Respectful, Learners

Issue No. 14

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Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers

This week's edition.....

I hope this week's "Learning Together" finds everyone safe and well. In this week's edition we share some fantastic learning from our Grade 5/6 students. We learn a little bit more about Casey Middleton as well as celebrate the published work of one of our many talented parents, Emma White. There are also some tips for family health and well-being as well as a great persuasive writing piece done by Nathan T!



National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)—Virtual Tours and Excursions

Just because we are stuck in isolation with stage 3 and 4 restrictions, doesn't mean we can't visit some of the great places in Australia or around the world. Many organisations have "virtual tours" that can be done from the comfort of home—without the need to be wearing masks or social distancing in long queues. The NGV is one such place that has a number of online tours that families can enjoy together. There is a great display called "Marking Time" that includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork. Follow the link here to enjoy the artwork and learn more about this wonderful culture.

<https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/virtual-tours/marking-time/>

Michael Smith (Principal) - "Learning Together"

Is your current Grade 6 student travelling by bus next year?

If your child is in Grade 6 and will be travelling by bus to secondary school next year, it is **essential** that you submit your bus application ASAP. If you need a form go to the Drouin Secondary College website. Under the enrolment tab there is a link at the bottom that takes you to transport information.



IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 18th September is the final day of **Term 3**. We are awaiting news from Premier Andrews and Minister Merlino about the return to onsite schooling in Term 4.

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GETTING TO KNOW DSPS STAFF

Name: Casey Middleton – OHSC Coordinator, Education Support, Pre-Service Teacher

Eye colour: Hazel

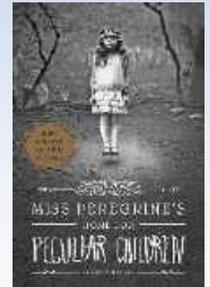


Family / Pets: Mum (Janine), little sister (Chloe), partner (Ben) and my very cheeky dog, Jasper.

How long have you been at DSPS? This is my 11th year. DSPS is kind of like my second home.

What does a perfect weekend look like for you? Anything relaxing - visiting friends, going to a market, day trips, shopping or reading a good book.

What's a great book you've read recently? I'm hooked on the "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" series. They're amazingly written and full of suspense!



Do you have a favourite movie? That's a difficult question. I watch a bit of everything and don't think I have just one favourite.

If you could visit anywhere in the world you've never been, where would you go? It's on my bucket list to one day go to Egypt and Peru.



What's your secret talent that no one knows about? I've always loved drawing. I have many folders of my work hidden away at home.

What's your favourite season and why? My favourite season is definitely Spring. I love how the days are slowly getting longer and warmer. I'm not a fan of the heat or the cold. Spring is my happy medium.



What's your guilty pleasure? I've got a little bit of a sweet tooth. If I go out for breakfast or lunch I'll usually hunt for pancakes or waffles on the menu.



What is the best piece of advice you've ever received? "Would you rather be the person at the end saying, 'I'm glad I did that', or 'I wish I'd done that'?"

Remote Learning can be a lot of fun. Here are some samples of learning activities for students in Grades 4/5.

REMOTE LEARNING 2.0 IN 5/6



This term 5/6 have been creating Digital Reader's Notebooks. A reader's notebook is a place where students can set goals, keep track of their reading and learn to take notes while reading.

Some of the pages we have created in our notebooks help us to assess ourselves as readers, ask deep questions to clarify meaning, and making meaningful connections.

MY STICKY NOTES

Use the "sticky notes" to keep track of any interesting ideas, connections, questions or thoughts that you want to remember about the text that you are reading.

TEXT TITLE: Wundersmith

Good readers ask questions before, during and after reading.

BEFORE Why would Hawthorne want to learn how to pickpocket when he already has a great knack?	BEFORE He probably wants to learn how to pickpocket for the same reason everyone else would want to, to steal!
DURING What is the point of being scared of a 12 year old, just because she is a Wundersmith but only one person made that word seem bad and she never wants to be like him?	DURING Because they think she looks creepy and acts suspicious.
AFTER Why are the patrons trying to control the scholars when they want to stay at Wunsoc?	AFTER They are trying to take them away from Wunsoc because of Morrigan because they think she is going to hurt them but the scholars know she won't

Alyssa keeps track of her questions before, during, and after reading a text.

Fill out the chart with what you like about reading on one side and what you don't like about reading on the other side.



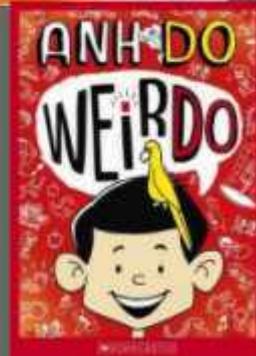
What I Like About Reading	What I don't Like About Reading
I like that you can get lost in a good book and enjoy the story.	Well sometimes I get bored at times because it might not be my favourite book.
I like that you can be comfy and enjoy it.	Reading is a mix of enjoyment and just something you do on a everyday basis
One thing I like about non fictions is that you can relate to the character or the events easier.	Sometimes You have to read it for even fun things so I guess reading is sort of fun.
Overall I enjoy reading a lot!	

Charlotte has reflected on herself as a reader to help her connect with the texts she chooses.

The front cover of Archie's Reader's Notebook, shows the type of texts he likes to read.



Hi my name is Archie like when spongebob throws things I find it funny. Topics I would like to read is funny and Sporty books that I like reading are fish in a tree, Frankie Fish. I like reading Anh Do's books, all of these make me laugh a lot.



CAN YOU SOLVE THIS MATH PUZZLE?

$$4 \times 3 \div 2(5+1) = ?$$



- A. 3
- B. 36
- C. 1
- D. 51
- E. ___

5/6 have just started having fun with order of operations. I wonder how many grown-ups still remember BODMAS and can solve this puzzle?

Kira's reading log helps track information about Kira's reading. A reading log helps to develop good reading habits and set goals with stamina and genre in mind.

Reading Log					
Date	Book Title	Pages Read	Genre	Stamina	Reflection: Things you wonder, connections you made, lingering questions, predictions, inferences.
10th August	Dustin Martin	25	Biography	30 minutes	I wonder if Dusty ever gets nervous before a game
11th August	A girls guide to kicking goals	23	Biography	25 minutes	Do they ever wish that they done stuff differently when they were younger?
12th August	Dustin Martin	26	Biography	30 minutes	I wonder why the dreamtime match is Dustys favourite
13th August	A girls guide to kicking goals	30	Biography	28 minutes	I wonder what would of happend is they weren't friends
17th August	Icons of Footy	27	Biography	28 minutes	Why do they keep winning against Collingwood?
18th August	Esio Trot	35	Fiction	30 minutes	What is Esio Trot?
19th August	Dustin Martin	26	Biography	30 minutes	I wonder if Dusty ever wishes that his dad could be there and watch?
20th August	The magic faraway Tree	27	Fiction	28 minutes	I wonder what the other trees do or if they are just normal?
21st August	The magic faraway Tree	25	Fiction	26 minutes	I wonder what other creatures are in the tree

Clover the Cow

illustrated by EMMA WHITE

We're pleased to announce a new book release right here in South Gippsland! How exciting—Ashley and Mark's Mum, Emma, has illustrated a picture story book! This is a great achievement as only the very best of artists are asked to illustrate books. So congratulations to Emma - we can't wait to get our library copies.

"Clover the Cow" is a new picture book for primary school children, with the added bonus of extra sections to cater for readers and learners of all ages. Clover is a calf who lives in the rolling green hills of South Gippsland. Her adventures take her around the farm where she discovers various nasty weeds. Along with her friends she learns that farmers, and even other animals, work hard to keep weeds like ragwort, blackberries and thistles out of her pasture. Following the story of Clover's adventures are some more facts about weeds. Then there's a section about dairy farms with lots of information and pictures to show what happens to milk after it has left the farm gate – the many and varied products that are created right here in South Gippsland!

The fictional story of "Clover" was written by Jackie Wilmann of Poowong and illustrated by Emma White of Drouin. We hope that you would like to buy a copy for yourself. "Clover the Cow" is available for \$15 at the Poowong Post Office, by emailing poowong@live.com, sending a text message to 0418-595429 or writing to "Clover", C/o PCCC at P.O. Box 9, Poowong 3988.



A **Persuasive Text** is a form of **non-fiction writing** which aims to convince the reader of a certain point of view. Advertisements and newspaper columns are good examples of persuasive text. This persuasive text is by Nathan T and aims to convince the reader that Drouin South Primary School should hold a "Bring Your Pet to School Day".

I think Drouin South Primary School should have a bring your pet to school day. The benefits of a bring your pet to school day ^{are} pets can play with their own kind, students and teachers ^{can} have more time with their pets and ~~th~~ they can help you students learn. These are good reasons ~~because~~ why schools should have ^a bring your pet to school day.

^{at school!}
~~Pets~~ First of all, pets can play with each other. Pets won't feel lonely. How would you feel if you were a dog, ~~stuck~~ stuck at home, with nothing to do? Why school, ^{you} you may ask? Well, there is plenty of space ^{and} ^{different} areas to play in. Animals can find their own kind to play with.

Secondly, students and teachers can have more time with their pets. Pets are fun. They entertain people and other pets. If your pets were absent at school none would miss them. Recess and lunch time would be more fun. More time with animals should be fun.

Finally, pets can help students learn. Knowing how to care for a pet is important. For example learning about how much food and water to give pets is good for maths. Pets can keep people calm and concentrating. Pets can help with learning.

Drouin South Primary School should have a bring your pet to school day. This will bring fun, play and learning to school in a different way.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

FAMILY RITUAL IDEAS



that **TEACH** important **LESSONS**

Rituals That Teach Responsibility

- Assign each family member a specific task when setting the table.
- Create a rotating chore chart on a whiteboard that changes each Sunday.
- Choose a particular time each week when the entire family comes together to clean the house.
- Find projects that the entire family can collaborate on (shelling peas, painting a wall, etc.)



Rituals That Promote Kindness & Compassion

- Practice Loving Kindness Meditation: think of your loved ones and send them positive thoughts. Say, "May you feel safe. May you feel happy. May you feel healthy."
- Find a place to volunteer as a family (a nursing home, an animal shelter, etc.)
- Have each family member share one kind thing they did that day.



Rituals That Boost Positivity

- "Family cuddle time" - when everyone arrives home, pile into bed together and cuddle for five minutes.
- Play "High, Low, Buffalo" - each family member shares the high and the low points of their day, then anything else they would like to share ("Buffalo").



Rituals That Build Strong Family Connection

- End each evening with a calming massage before bed.
- Choose a few favorite songs to use as "goodnight songs."
- Choose a few favorite stories that you read each night.
- Say, "Goodnight, nose!" while twacking your child's nose, then, "Goodnight, toes!", and so on.
- Before saying good-night, say, "Mommy loves you. Daddy loves you. Grandma loves you," and so on.
- Have each family member contribute something to dinner preparation.
- Take turns cooking everyone's favorite meals.
- Sample dinners from different cultures each month.
- Have weekly "theme" dinners, like Taco Tuesday, Pizza Fridays, etc.



Rituals That Develop a Sense of Belonging

- Create special greetings and farewells like "See you later, alligator!"
- Have a personalized handshake with each of your children.
- Go on a hayride each year around the holidays.
- During the holidays sing songs that hold significance to your family.
- On New Year's Eve, watch family videos to reflect on the year.
- Keep a "Gratitude Jar" throughout the year.
- Make a special cake for each family member's birthday.
- On birthdays, allow kids to eat anything they want for breakfast.
- Invert and celebrate family holidays like Kid's Day.
- Go on monthly (or weekly) nature walks.
- Create a theme night like a board game night or a movie night.
- Have pancakes each Sunday morning.
- Camp out in the living room monthly or every so often.



4 steps to a successful Family MEETING

Big Life Journal

1. ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

The ultimate point of family meetings is to connect and listen.

- Pair meetings with incentives (post-meeting dessert, board games, or other fun activities)
- Let kids choose their roles (recording secretary, leader, or snack maker, etc.)
- Keep meetings short (about 15-30 minutes).
- Stay flexible and never coerce kids into participating. Instead, invite them to share if they'd like to.



2. ESTABLISH RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Kids do best when guidelines are clear. Consider ground rules, such as:

- A day, time and meeting place that works for everyone
- Frequency of meetings (once a week is recommended)
- Who will fill the roles of "leader" and "note taker" each week
- Only one person talks at a time
- No electronics
- Be kind
- Everyone gets to participate



3. CREATE AN AGENDA

Agenda can be simple and brief, with no more than 3-4 steps. Generally, it can cover:

- a brief opening activity
- discussion time
- positive closing activity



4. BE REALISTIC

Expect challenging moments. Each difficulty is an opportunity to grow your "family brain" by tackling the challenges together.

- Resistance to participating - Remind them this special time was created for them to influence what happens in the family.
- Issues are not resolved - Know that simply by talking about what's happening, you're making a difference.
- Parents run the show - While your kiddos are speaking, simply breathe and focus on what they have to say.

