



Issue No 11

12 August 2020

# Smithton Primary School

RESPECT ❖ ENCOURAGE ❖ ASPIRE ❖ LEARN

DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
*learners first*



## Kinder Grey

To celebrate all things colourful we ended Term 2 with a Rainbow Dress Day!



Mila spotted a rainbow in our playground

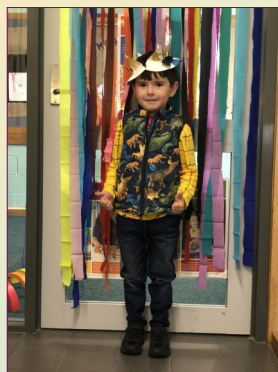
This created much discussion around rainbows and how they are made and what colours make up a rainbow. Layla, Evannah and Nate spotted rainbows at home with their families.

We found out that you

need rain and sun  
for rainbows

there is no pot of gold,  
that's just a fun story

they are actually a circle but  
the ground gets in the way



## Hello Everyone,

I'm feeling a bit like the Grinch this week in our Newsletter, but I want you all to know that my intentions in being at SPS is to improve the place. To not just allow things to happen that shouldn't be happening and in order to do that I need the support of the school community. It's hard to believe it is Week 4 of Term 3 and things are beginning to become more and more normal (post COVID19) at SPS. There are many good things going on in the school and as you will read there are also a few things that we need to tighten up on over the next fortnight.

## Uniform

Since returning to school after our 'Learning From Home' phase, it has been noticed by members of the school community that our uniform standards have slipped. What is meant by this is that some students are wearing non-uniform items to school and thinking that this is ok and acceptable. As always, at SPS, we want to work closely with families to make sure families are supported. We acknowledge that 2020 has been an odd year and so in order to tackle this issue of uniform, we will be setting a deadline for all uniform issues to be sorted. The deadline is the date of the assembly (25<sup>th</sup> of August). By that date we expect that students will be wearing their school uniform to and from school each day. Items that have been noticed that we will be focusing particularly on are:

- Jumpers/ Hoodies and t-shirts – any non-SPS uniform types
- Shorts – students are wearing shorts that are too short.
- Hair colour – we have students arriving with bright hair colours

On the 25<sup>th</sup> and after, if any student arrives to school out of uniform they will be sent to the office to be loaned a set of uniform to be changed into for the day. They will then change out of these at the end of the day and return to the office. This is not a punishment at all, but more of a way for us to support families. Please feel free to contact me or your child's teacher about any issues or concerns. We always aim to be fair with the way we handle all students and if you notice any student 'out of uniform' please know that there is a reason for this that has been discussed with myself (might be a skin irritation or an issue with size availability at the time etc.).

## Boyfriend/Girlfriend

We have noticed that there is more and more talk from our students (mainly 3 - 6) about having boyfriends and girlfriends at school recently. I want parents to know that our stance at SPS is that it is not possible for us to 'stop students having boyfriends and girlfriends,' but it is possible for us to teach our students about appropriate behaviour. So I want all parents to know that if we see students hugging, leaning in, sitting on laps, being too close to one another or even kissing... that we take that seriously and will be contacting the parents of students who choose to do those things (as well as applying consequences in the school at the time). The aim is to teach our students that school is not a place for this type of behaviour, regardless of whether parents are happy or not happy for this to be occurring with their own children.

## Assembly

Our first (in person) Assembly in our Assembly Hall will be on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. Parents and Guardians are welcome to come. The only thing to keep in mind is that there will need to be physical distancing in place which will limit the number of adults we will be able to have in the Assembly Hall. You will notice that we will have chairs set up for adults at the back of the room and that they will be separated. All adults will need to sign a Health Screening Form at the office (takes a couple of minutes), so you will need to allow time for this. In order to have everyone in and seated by 1:30pm, I encourage adults to arrive earlier (1:10pm) to make sure we are organised and ready. The purpose of the Assembly is for all students to have an opportunity to share something they have been learning about in class.

## Growing Up Program

A big "thank you" to Judy from Family Planning Tasmania, who has spent three days in our school with our Year 3-6 students. They have been learning about many aspects of relationships, puberty, cyber-safety and reproduction. Judy has done an excellent job of teaching this important information in a factual and sensitive way.

Once again, thank you for your support and willingness to partner with the staff at Smithton Primary School to ensure that we can all be the best that we can be. If you ever have questions, concerns, encouragements or any comments... please know that you are welcome to come and share those with me.

Thanks,

Josh Smith

(Principal)



## Maths Relays

Well done to the students who won the 'Golden Abacus' in both the 3/4 and the 5/6 Maths Relays last week (pictured). This week we have a representative team heading out to Forest Primary School to compete with the other schools in the cluster. Congratulations to all students selected to represent the school at the Cluster Maths Relay.



## Entering and Exiting the school

We are currently trying to improve the way students enter and exit the school so that it is as safe and efficient as it possibly can be and I just want to make sure we are all on the same page with a couple of things:

**Bikes/ Scooters** – children who ride their bikes and scooters to school, should not be riding them at from the moment they begin to cross over Grant St onto the footpath closest to the school. At the end of the day as they leave, they should not be riding them until they have crossed the road (at the crossing) and have made it to the footpath on the other side of Grant St. By law, children must wear a helmet when riding bikes and scooters, including to and from school. If you see a child riding their bike or scooter before or after school, please let me know.

**Walking** – Children get so excited either to come to school or to leave which sometimes causes them to speed up. So I am just wanting to remind everyone that we walk to the buses, or to our cars.

**Using the crossing with Mrs Moles** – To cross Grant St, all members of the family need to use the crossing. This is not only the safest way to get across a busy street, but it also teaches our students that wherever they are, they should choose to use the safest way to cross a road. We are teaching the children also to say as they cross the street, "thank you Mrs Moles and have a nice afternoon."



**PLEASE  
WALK  
DON'T RUN**



# 3/4 Irvine

Last week had an afternoon from the 50s, with good music, dancing and games outside.



**SCHOOL IS COOL**  
*every day counts*

Attention: Parents and Carers of students in (Year 4, 5 & 6)

## Student Wellbeing Survey

The wellbeing of our students is important to us.

To get an understanding of how students across Tasmania feel about their own wellbeing, students in Year/s 4-6 Smithton Primary School will be taking part in a wellbeing survey.

The Student Wellbeing Survey is part of the [Department of Education's Child and Student Wellbeing Strategy](#).

The details for the survey are:

**When:** 27th and 28th August

**Who:** 4, 5 & 6

**What do I need to do:** You and your child don't need to do anything. The survey will be done in class time and will not require your child to prepare in any way.

A letter with more information has been sent home with all Year 4, 5, & 6 students, including Frequently Asked Questions and a form to sign and return to the school if you do not want your child to participate in the survey.

If you would like further information, please contact Josh Smith.

Thank you for supporting us to ensure that all our learners are safe, feel supported and are able to flourish, so they can engage in learning.



## Pre-Kinder and Launching into Learning

It has been brilliant to see families come in through the office area and make their way down to the Pre-Kinder/ LiL area over the past few weeks. The little ones are just so keen to be here and engage in the amazing programs that have been designed and are being ran by Miss Maddie Hine. Being down in the rooms, the environment is so friendly, inclusive and supportive. It has been brilliant to see parents and guardians (as well as the children) becoming more comfortable each week and building positive connections with one another.



## Student Absences

If your child is away from school for any reason it is important that you contact the school to provide a reason. Information is recorded electronically by the Department of Education to monitor absences. Parents may be required to provide a medical certificate for students who are absent with illnesses for 5 or more days in a calendar year.

- Ring the school office on 6452 1955 on the day your child is away
- **Text the school office on 0427 016 460**
- Send a written note to the school office
- Email the school on [smithton.primary@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:smithton.primary@education.tas.gov.au) on the day your child is away

**IMPORTANT:** If you happen to forget to notify the school regarding your child/childrens absence and you receive a text from the school please reply to the text as to why your child/children are absent.



## Drink Bottles

**Please remember to bring a drink bottle to school.**

**Kids Need Water!**

Water is essential to life and kids need plenty of water in order to feel good, focus, concentrate and think. Water will also give your children the necessary energy and brainpower to help them learn easier and better.



## Dates To Remember

### AUGUST

Every Monday 9:00am	Mother Goose online
Every Tuesday	Pre-Kinder- for children turning five in 2021, 9:00am to 10:30am Student Banking Day
Every Thursday 9:00am to 10:30am	Pre-Kinder - for children turning five in 2021
Every Friday 9:00am to 10:30am	Launchpad
Friday 7th and 14th	Grades 5/6 Winter Sports
Friday 21st	Country Gold Selections
Tuesday 25th	Whole School Assembly

### SEPTEMBER

Every Monday 9:00am	Mother Goose online
Every Tuesday	Pre-Kinder- for children turning five in 2021, 9:00am to 10:30am
Every Thursday 9:00am to 10:30am	Pre-Kinder - for children turning five in 2021
Every Friday 9:00am to 10:30am	Launchpad
Friday 4th	Grade 3/4 Expo
Friday 25th	Last day of Term 3

### School Stream Changes

Due to new privacy standards School Stream requires App Users to authenticate their account via email or mobile phone number.

To authenticate your account click on the three horizontal bars on the top left corner of the home page, click on Account and add your email/mobile number.

School Stream will then send a verification code to your email/mobile. After the you enter the code it will tell you that you are verified and for you to enter your first and last name.

NOTE: If using email and you do not receive the verification code check your junk mail.

### School Satisfaction Surveys

Annual School Satisfaction Surveys for parents and staff are being conducted during August 2020 across Tasmanian government schools.

The surveys provide an opportunity for parents and staff to give important feedback on what the school does well and where we can improve. Questions cover a range of topics about our school.

All responses are secure and anonymous.

Parents selected to participate in the parent survey will receive a letter in coming days.

We encourage you to complete the survey to give our school a clear direction for future programs and services for students.

Please contact the office if you wish to use a school computer to complete the survey.

### Be Safe Be a Friend



Be **REAL**

Respect  
Encourage  
Aspire  
Learn



Be a Learner



### CONTACT DETAILS

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