International Research demonstrates a strong correlation between students’ learning, long-term life outcomes, attendance at school and appropriate participation in education programs. For this reason, the Department of Education and Training has very clear policies and guidelines in relation to student attendance at school. These policies are the Education and Training Reform Act 2006, the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007 and the Education and Training Reform (School Attendance) Regulations 2013.

The Victorian Government “Everyday Counts” initiative promotes the fact that regular school attendance enables students to maximise their full potential and to actively participate and engage in their learning. It is important that children develop habits or regular attendance at an early age. Students who are regularly absent from school are at risk of missing out on fundamental aspects of their educational and social development. Children with attendance of 80 per cent or less (that is, 40 days or more absenteeism per year) may be significantly disadvantaged in their learning.

The Education Act requires that children of school age (6-17 years) residing in Victoria are required to be in full-time attendance at a government or registered non-government school unless they are receiving approved home tuition, correspondence education, or have been granted an exemption by the Regional Director.

As outlined above the need for students to attend regularly at School is vitally important, with poor attendance leading to students experiencing a great deal of anguish and frustration as they fall well behind their peers in learning and become increasingly disconnected with their classmates and friends on a social level. Please make sure that your child attends school as regularly as possible to ensure they have the best opportunity to excel and be part of everything that School has to offer. Your cooperation and effort in this matter would be greatly appreciated and make a world of difference to your child’s future.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February:

Wednesday 8th February
- Grade 1 Parent/Friend information event - 3.45pm in the Grade 1 Classrooms

Thursday 9th February
- Grade 2 Parent/Friend information event - 3.45pm in the Grade 2 Classrooms
- Meal Deal – pizza/Garlic Bread and Dixie Cup ice-cream

Friday 10th February
- Grade 3-6 Swimming Trials at KooWeeRup

Friday 17th February
- Confirmed date for Whole School Picnic at Phillip Island.

Monday 20th February
- District Swimming Sports at KooWeeRup Swimming Pool

March:

Friday 3rd March
- Grade 6 Excursion to Sovereign Hill

REMINDERS:

Sun Smart hats must be worn by all students when playing outside. This is a compulsory part of Term 1 uniform. Students who do not bring a hat to wear will be asked to spend Recess and Lunch undercover.

School Tours for perspective Foundation Students for 2018 will take place on the 7th, 14th and 21st of March. Limited placements available. To book a tour, please contact the Office on 0359 988 323.
**Thumbs Up**

🧧 To our School Captains (Chantelle and Kai) and our Vice Captains (Caitlin and Aiden) for a fantastic effort yesterday in running their first School assembly. Well done guys!!!

🧧 To Mrs Smith and Mrs Friend for all of the wonderful work they do in the office and for ensuring everything was up to date to start the year.

🧧 To all our new little Foundation Students who have completed a wonderful first week at School. They are doing a fantastic job!

🧧 To Mitchell King for putting up the flags and collecting the mail each morning. Great Job – Mitchell!

🧧 To the Schultz family for donating sandpit toys. Thank you!

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**School Council Meeting**

Our first School Council meeting for 2017 will take place on Wednesday, 22nd of February. This is our last meeting of our current School Council prior to the election of our new Council for the 2017 School Year. All parents and friends of the school are more than welcome to attend this meeting and, if you are interested in being part of School Council in 2017, please let Allan or Virginia in the office know.

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**Meal Deal this week is Pizza, Garlic Bread & a Dixie Cup for just $4.**

**Please place your $4.00 in a lunch bag with your child’s name and Grade clearly written on the bag.**

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**Late Arrivals to School**

Student punctuality is equally important at School as attendance. At the beginning of the day students are informed of the day’s program; events and important instructions are often given. Students arriving late to school (after 9.00 am) also disrupt their class, as they get organised and settled for the day. Your co-operation on this matter would be greatly appreciated. 9.10 am is the cut off time for late arrivals. After 9.10 am students will be recorded as being late for school. (Along with attendance, i.e. number of days absent on the Report – June and December the school will record the number of days students arrive late to school.)

A student arriving late to school must be signed in at the office by a parent or guardian and their late arrival will be recorded on the daily attendance roll.

Parents/Guardians must provide a reason for their child arriving late to school.
Swimming Trials – Friday 10th February

With the District Swimming Carnival coming up on Monday 20th February, forms have been sent home for grade 3-6 students who wish to try out for our swimming team which has won the Carnival three years in a row! Our school swimming trials will be held on Friday, 10th February at Koo Wee Rup pool. To try out, students need to be competent swimmers capable of swimming a full lap without assistance (at least 30 metres, at the Zone Finals the required length is 50 metres).

Students are able to select which strokes/events they would like to try out for on the day.

Students attending the trials will need to pack their swimming items (bathers, towel, goggles etc.), as we will leave school at the start of lunch time, and arrive back to school in time for the end of the school day.

Any parents who wish to come along and support the students are more than welcome. We have arranged for a bus to take students to and from this event but some private transport might be required. Permission forms must be returned prior to the day to attend.

Anaphylaxis and Asthma Plans Need to be Updated

All parents and guardians are reminded that if your child/ren has an Anaphylaxis or Asthma Plan that you need to have this updated annually by your GP and then forward a copy to your child’s teacher or the office. Your prompt attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated and will assist the school greatly in its management of your child if an asthma attack or anaphylaxis episode occurs at school.

Student Medication

If you completed a Medication Request Form last year for your child/ren and wish to continue having medication kept at school the Department of Education requires you to complete a new Medication Request Form.

The Medication Request Form is available at the Office. Medication cannot be given to students without this form being completed.

We are unable to give students medication that is past its expiry date so please come into the office and check if the medication we hold for your child is still within its expiry date.

Medication to treat asthma or anaphylaxis does not need to be accompanied by a Medication Request Form as it is covered by a student’s Asthma Care Plan or Action Plan for Anaphylaxis.
BOOK CLUB NEWS

Don’t forget to get your book club orders in by Friday, 10th February. This will ensure that orders are placed with Scholastic by their due date and are delivered to the school quickly.

There are spare catalogues in the office.

CSEF

The Education Department has introduced a CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund) for families who are entitled to a Health Care or Pension Card. IF you hold a current Health Care or Pension Card and would like to apply for CSEF please see Mrs Smith or Mrs Friend in the office.

Please note these funds can ONLY be used for School Camps, Sports or Excursions. If you have any questions, please see Mrs Smith in the office.

FROM THE OFFICE

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

If a student lives more than 4.8km from this school and this is their nearest school, the parent may be entitled to Conveyance Allowance. Please see Virginia at the office for a form to fill in.

PERSONAL DETAILS

If any of your personal contact or medical details have changed please let the office know. It is very important that we have up to date student information in case of emergencies.

TISSUE BOXES

Every year we ask our school families to donate 2 boxes of tissues for students to use in their classrooms. This helps us immeasurably by keeping our school costs down each year. If you haven’t already donated, could each family please supply 2 boxes of tissues (can be any brand) and hand them into the office.

DISABLED CAR PARKING

Just a reminder that the Disability Car Parking Section in the School Car Park is designed for those who have a Disabled Sticker on their car. Please do not park in this spot unless you have the correct sticker.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

Our School Newsletter is completed every Wednesday and is usually available from the school’s website in the afternoon. Hard copies can also be sent home with your child. Please see the office if you would like a hard copy.
School Picnic

The School’s Annual School Picnic is taking place on Friday, 17th February. This is a traditional event held by the Cardinia Primary School Parents’ Club for the Cardinia Primary School community. It is a tradition that has been taking place for over 70 years in one form or another. It is held at the start of the year to give parents, students and staff the opportunity to meet and greet in a more informal atmosphere and is a terrific way to kick off the school year and to get an understanding of the fantastic work that our Parents’ and Friends’ Club does for the school and its students.

Students who require transport to this event need to be at school by 8.45am and wait near the main entrance of the school (Hall Car Park). All transport will be leaving the school at 9.00am and returning to school as close to 3.30pm as possible. Families who are going direct or providing their own transport do not need to come to school but can drive directly to the picnic area, meeting us at the venue at around 10.00am.

*** Remember if your child requires a lift and is 7 years or under then you will need to provide us with a booster seat for the trip. This is a legal requirement. ***

A Brief Outline of the Day:

10:00 am Everyone arrives and rolls are taken by class teachers. (Mrs Esler teacher in charge).
10:15 am Slip Slop Slap takes place and announcements made.
10:30 am Start our walk along the beach
11:00 am Buddy sandcastle and beach sculpture competition.
11:45 am Roll Call and students remain in the picnic area
12:00 Noon Lunch time for all – sausages in bread, corn, watermelon and cordial.
12:30 pm Beach activities – games and a paddle in the water
2:00 pm Pack up, and return to school for those students requiring transport

Things to Bring:

Water bottle/drink cup Change of clothing / towel Snack
Bathers – worn under clothes Sun Screen Hat
T-shirt or rash vest to be worn at all times – even when in the water. (No singlet tops.)
Appropriate footwear for the beach. **No bare feet under any circumstances.**

Please don’t bring:

Any extra beach toys, except a plastic bucket and/or spade. No flotation devices or boogie boards.

Friday, 17th is a normal school day for students attending the picnic and as such they will be under the supervision and direction of staff from 10:00am to the conclusion of the picnic at 2:00pm. All students are expected to be part of the planned activities and parents and friends are more than welcome to join in. At 2:00 pm all children are expected to exit the beach area and we will pack up. Families who are staying longer can return to the beach area after the clean-up has been completed.

If you require another permission form please see Mrs Smith or Mrs Friend in the office. Included on the permission form is a map indicating where we will be conducting the picnic. For those who have been with us previously, it is the same site as previous years.

Students are not required to wear their school uniform for this activity.
How do I raise an issue or make a complaint?

It is very important for any school to know if any families or individuals have any concerns about the school their child/ren are attending so that the issue can be addressed, misconceptions corrected or issues followed up. Cardinia Primary School is no different and it’s important that such concerns are taken to the school directly and that the school should always be the first point of contact. We need to know if you have any concerns about your child’s education or well-being. Teaching and learning works best when parents and teachers talk to each other and work together to solve any problems.

Here are some tips when contacting the school.

- Plan what you want to say, so you can clearly explain what the problem is (you might want to take notes).
- Have some ideas as to how the problem could be solved.
- Talk about the problem with your child’s teacher/s or principal by telephone or organise a face to face meeting. Most problems can be solved this way.
- If you still have a concern after talking to your child’s teacher/s you need to speak to the principal.
- Remember you can be supported at any meeting by a friend, colleague or representative from a support organisation if you wish.

GIRLS’ FOOTBALL 2017

Registration is now open for the Pakenham Pink Lions Girls’ Teams u12s, u15s & 18s. Registration night is TONIGHT Wednesday 8th February from 5pm at the Pakenham Football club (senior ground) with half price for all girls’ teams.

Hope to see you all there for a sausage sizzle and a kick of the footy. For further information contact admin@pakenhamjfc.com.au

Student Enrolment Information Forms

Over the next few weeks we will be sending out ‘Student Enrolment Information Forms’ which contains information provided to the office when your child/ren enrolled. To ensure our details are up-to-date, please change or modify any information that is incorrect and return the forms to the office.

MUSIC WITH MICHAEL

Michael Wallace has returned to Cardinia Primary School to continue his music lessons on Thursdays. We have limited spaces for students who are interested in Electric guitar and drums. If you would like your child to attend please see Virginia or Sue at the office. The cost is $8 per session payable upfront at the beginning of each term. Students participating are expected to catch up on the work they miss during class time.
Social Media

Many parents are misguided and tell their children to set up the account with an older age for ‘safety’. This is NOT a guarantee of safety, sets a poor example and puts the child outside the secure part of the site. You are far better to set up an account with your child together, with clear rules and guidelines, rather than have them set one up at a friend’s house behind your back.

Social networking is certainly not all bad, although the media can focus on negative aspects. Embrace social technology with your child and ensure that you have an account on all sites your child does.

What are some ways to assist children and young people in social networking?

Please remember that to assist your child to be safe on social networking sites you must:

- Ensure that they comply with the age restrictions (DO NOT let them on Facebook under 13 years of age)
- Ensure that they understand how the privacy and security settings work
- Ensure that they can change their passwords and they know how to report a problem
- Ensure that they know where to go if they have an online issue
- Set up an account yourself and be your child’s friend (this is not going to ensure safety but is part of what is expected of you as a parent)
- Know your child’s password
- Have house rules about what your child can post and when they can add new ‘friends’ (must ask you first) and ensure they know and understand them.

Where can I find out more about specific social media sites?

Many social networking sites create their own help guides. These guides provide tips and advice specifically for parents. You can download these guides from the site’s Help or Support section, for example:

- Help Your Teens Play It Safe - Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/safety/groups/parents/)
- Control Your Experience - Twitter (https://support.twitter.com/articles/470918-families)
- Other Social Networking Websites

Is the social networking site your child is using not listed here? No problem, simply Google ‘Parent’s Guide to [Insert Social Networking Site]’.
Cardinia Primary School Choir
Tuesday lunchtime 1.40pm
In the library. See you all there!!!
Moving beyond asking, “What did you do at school?”

By Michiel Groze

Ever found yourself asking your child the same bland question about school?

“So, how was your day? What did you do at school today? What did you learn?”

If these are your default questions the chances are that you’ll get a one or two word reply along the lines, “Fine!” “Good!” “Okay” “Nothing much.”

These answers don’t really tell you a lot. On the other hand, these types of questions don’t ask a great deal.

So how can you move beyond the mundane when you talk with kids about their school days?

Set the atmosphere
It helps to create the right atmosphere for conversations. A quick “How was your day?” as you pick a child up from after-school is a rapport-builder or mood checker, but little more.

If you drive you may learn a bit on the trip home, particularly if you keep the radio off and are able to keep some distance between kids and mobile devices. Alternatively, walking home together may loosen up your child’s tongue and put them in the mood for talking.

Give kids a chance
Most kids need some time and space to unwind before expecting them to talk about their day, particularly if you are going to launch and ask them questions. This makes sense as most adults would feel annoyed if they were assaulted as soon as they walked in the door about their day. “How was your day? What did you do? Who did you see?” Ahh! Stop!

Create conversations rather than ask questions
The dinner table makes a great place to talk, if all televisions are off, mobile devices are left behind and you take the time to make it more than a pit stop. One way to kick off a conversation is to ask kids if they’d like to hear about your day. From my experience kids are often interested in the most mundane things that go on in an adult’s day so don’t think you have to make it sound grander than what it is. This gives kids permission to talk about their own day; your story can stimulate conversations which provides openings for kids to ask questions and share a little or in some cases a lot about their own day at school.

Interesting questions lead to interesting conversations
The questions you ask to prompt a conversation will often say a great deal about you and what you value. If you focus only on academic or learning questions then it indicates that’s what you value.
parenting ideas

Moving beyond asking, “What did you do at school?”

It helps to take conversations and your questions in different directions to get a multi-faceted window into your child’s school life but also an indication of your child’s interests, social skills and welfare. Here are some examples of question starters that may prompt different responses from kids about their time at school:

1. Tell me what made you laugh today?
2. Who did you play with at recess today?
3. Did you do anything that was brave?
4. If I spoke to your teacher, what would she tell me about you?
5. What did your teacher talk about today?
6. Is there anyone in your class who needs to be in time out?
7. Where’s the best place to hang out/play at school?
8. Tell me one good thing that happened to you today?
9. Who were you nice/kind/friendly to today?
10. Did anyone push your buttons today?
11. What did you do that you were proud of/happy with today?
12. What’s something you learned with a friend today?
13. What’s your teacher’s most important rule?
14. If today was a musical instrument what would it be? Why?
15. If you were a teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?

Next time you ask a clichéd and dull question about your child’s day stop yourself before you utter the words. Instead think outside the square and ask questions that may stimulate a response beyond “Fine” or “Nothing.” And remember they may not feel like talking, which is fine too. Like adults, kids need to be in the right mood and the right environment if they are going to share a meaningful conversation about their day.

Visit our website for more ideas and information to help you raise confident and resilient young people.

Special note: I’m thrilled to announce that my latest book Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children is out. It’s available at parentingideas.com.au
Kinder, Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2 & Older Kids Groups

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