

Strathaird Primary School News

07/02/2023

Edition 1



Strathaird



Primary School

School Values

Respect

Honesty

Responsibility

Compassion

Contact Us:

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www.strathairdps.vic.edu.au

Principal Page

WELCOME BACK

A very warm welcome to the new school year, we hope you enjoyed a happy, relaxing holiday break. It has been great to welcome back our Years 1-6 students last Monday and to see their happy, smiling faces again. We are very much looking forward to a happy, learning filled year.

We extend a warm welcome to our Prep students who commenced school last Friday and all the new students at other year levels. To everyone new to Strathaird, we hope you will be very happy being part of our wonderful school community.

There is so much to look forward to this year, in the next newsletter I will give an update on the building works.



STAFF APPOINTMENTS

This year we are pleased to welcome new and returning staff. Our new staff members are: Grace Ryan (Year 1); Katelyn Pinal (Year 2); Belinda McLean (Year 2); Jacinta Abson (Year 4); Keeley Miller (Integration Aide). We are also delighted to welcome back Hayley Harkin and Jodie Kaur from Family Leave. We are very excited about what each of these Staff members will contribute to our school during 2023.

SCHOOL VALUES

Last year as part of our School Review we revised our School Values and after input from parents, staff and students, the decision was made to adopt the following values:

Honesty – We are truthful in what we say and do, people can rely on us and trust us.

Respect – We value people's worth and qualities and treat them in a polite and friendly manner.

Responsibility – We make good choices and are accountable for our actions.

Compassion – We care about others, we treat them with kindness and we help people when they are in need.

These values, modelled, reinforced and implemented daily, support us to provide a positive, safe, respectful, caring school environment where our students thrive as learners to achieve to the best of their ability.

YEAR 6 CAMP

Students and staff are very much looking forward to the Year 6 Camp to Briars in Mt Martha to be held from March 22 March—24 March. This is a new camp location for our school and it promises to be very exciting. Permission forms will be coming out within the next two weeks. Final payment for the camp is due by 23 February.

PARENT -TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We are looking forward to Parent-Teacher Interviews next week. Parents are strongly encouraged to book an interview time with their child's teacher for **Tuesday 14th February between 3:30pm. and 7:30pm, or Wednesday 15th February between 3:30 and 5:00pm.**

Parents need to book Interviews using Sentral. If you need help booking Interviews, please contact the School Office.

Interviews at this time of the year give parents an opportunity to inform teachers of any relevant background information which may be of assistance in developing class programs for your child. Background information may include your child's strengths and qualities, areas of concern, learning needs, homework expectations and how parents can assist learning.

PANCAKE DAY

The school will be holding a special Pancake Day on Wednesday 22nd February 2023. This is a free event. This special treat for our students has been organised by the School with the help of some parent volunteers. Students will have a choice of a plain pancake, or lemon and sugar, jam or maple syrup topping.

Watch out for the Free Pancake Day Information coming home next week. you only need to contact the school if you do not want your child to have a pancake.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

There are 4 two year terms and 1 one year term for School Council which need to be filled.

The School Council is involved in many aspects of the school including approving policies and monitoring finance. School Council members need to attend eight meetings over the year and most positions are for two years. We encourage parents to please consider nominating, I feel sure you will find it a positive and rewarding way to contribute to the School.

The process and timeline for School Council elections is outlined below. If you have any questions, please contact me at School.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2023

All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

This year there are ***five Parent Member vacancies (4 two year terms and 1 one year term)*** on School Council.

- * The election process will commence with a call for nominations from **Monday 20th February.**
- * Nomination forms can be obtained from the School Office.
- * Nominations close and are due to the School Office by **4:00pm on Monday 27th Feb.**
- * The list of candidates will be posted outside the School Office on **Wednesday 1 Mar.**
- * If there are more nominations than vacant positions, a ballot process will take place. Ballot Papers will be distributed to all families on **Monday 6 Mar.**
- * All Ballot Papers must be received by the closing of the Ballot at **4:00pm Monday 13th March.**
- * Counting Ballot and Declaring Poll will take place on **Tuesday 14th March.**
- * The first meeting of the newly appointed School Council will be held on **Tuesday 21st March.**

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF ZONE

The pick-up and drop-off zone on Community Parade is only for quickly picking up and dropping off students. When all motorists comply with the instructions the zone works very well but when people do the wrong thing, others naturally become frustrated. **You must not park there or leave your car there.** The maximum time that your car can be in the zone is **two minutes.** Please also be aware the Council could be here at any time ensuring motorists are doing the right thing.



EARLY DISMISSAL / LATE ARRIVALS

Students are not permitted to leave the school without being signed out. Students must be signed in or out of school at the school office between 9.00 a.m. and 3.15 p.m.

RECESS AND LUNCHTIMES

Please take note of the following times if you need to pick your child up early. It is best to allow enough time to visit the office, sign the early leaver slip and then make your way to the classroom to pick up your child. Students will not be able to access their classrooms / collect their belongings during recess and lunchtimes.

Recess is for all students from 11 to 11.30am
Junior lunch eating time is from 12.30 to 12.45pm
Junior Lunch (Prep-Gr2) is from 12.45 to 1.30pm
Senior lunch eating time is from 1.15 to 1.30pm
Senior Lunch (Gr 3-6) is from 1.30 to 2.15pm

ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to read our school's collection notice, found on our website in the Policies section.

Do you have a sunsmart school hat?

School hats must worn until the end of April.

Hats are available from the school office - \$9 each.

Payment can be made with the QKR App, EFTPos at the office or with cash. (no change available).



Brainstorm Productions



On February 24th Brainstorm Productions will be presenting their student wellbeing performance 'Zanna and the lost code' for all year levels.

This exciting theatre experience engages students in conversations about values, respect and responsibility, and inspires them to build safer and more positive online experiences.

When Zanna and Eddie arrive at coding camp, they have the opportunity to create an app that will make the internet safer for everyone. They embark on a magical journey into their device to find the missing piece of code.

Through a series of exciting challenges, Zanna and Eddie experience the power of empathy, respect, kindness and resilience. When they launch the app, they discover that children all over the world can use it to be assertive, responsible and safe online.

Brainstorm Productions is one of Australia's largest and most respected theatre in education companies, performing to over 300,000 students every year. They offer a range of programs to help schools nurture healthy and harmonious environments, addressing issues such as cyber safety, bullying and resilience. They are also endorsed by the eSafety Commissioner as a Trusted eSafety Provider.

Learn more about Brainstorm Productions by visiting their website (brainstormproductions.edu.au) or following them on Instagram ([@brainstormproductions](https://www.instagram.com/brainstormproductions)), or Facebook ([@Brainstorm.Productions](https://www.facebook.com/Brainstorm.Productions)).

I hope all levels enjoy this production and can learn some interesting things from it.

Thank you, Corey Fleming

Assistant Principal



Reading at Home with Young Readers

Most classrooms have commenced take-home reading by now and it is a school expectation that all students read and record this every night at home. Nightly home reading increases and practises their skills that are taught in class. These books are usually easier than what your child will be reading in class with their teacher and there are important reasons for this.

Class teachers match students to appropriate levelled texts for classroom instruction. These texts are selected carefully in order to provide ample challenge for students but also where support can be offered for new skills and strategies to be gained. Reading at home has a different, but also important purpose. Please read below to find out why your child is bringing 'easy' books home.

Why Easy Reading?

- Readers are able to hear themselves read in a phrased and fluent manner, *“reading like we’re talking”*, when there are only a few or no challenging words or grammatical constructions. Reading fluently is a requirement for comprehension. **Comprehension (getting the meaning) is what reading is all about, the reason we read.**
- Reading is a complex and dynamic problem-solving process using a variety of strategies. Development of any skill requires repeated practice. The skills and strategies the reader has in place will act as the foundation on which new learning can be built.
- Easy books and books previously read, allow the reader to improve the speed and quality of the processing. Each time the reader has to stop to decode a word, the flow of language is lost and the meaning of the story is often suspended.
- Readers are able to reinforce knowledge of high frequency words which are repeated in many different books. **Studies show that children need to be presented with a word several times, in a number of contexts, in order to have real control of that word.**
- A familiar book is not a memorised book. It is a book that still challenges a reader to do some reading work, engaging with print and picking up new information. The practice of re-reading familiar books encourages confidence and fluency, and provides practice in bringing reading behaviours together.
- Children who enjoy reading want to read more! Children who read everyday gain significant benefit over children who do not. Exposure to new words, concepts and topics improves performance in many areas of learning. Your support with this is crucial, particularly in the early years of schooling.

With any book, at any level, you can focus on comprehension.

Occasionally, stop, and have your child predict what will happen next.

Once or twice, as you read the book, stop and check for understanding, ask “who” and “what.”

Having your child retell the story in their own words is a difficult, but necessary skill. The more practice they get, the easier it becomes.

Talk, talk, and talk about the books. Participate in this reading journey with your child; the pay-offs will last a lifetime!

Remember our primary goal is for your child to enjoy reading!

If you have any questions about the books your child is bringing home, please make a time to speak to your child’s teacher.



TERM 1 2023 - DATES TO REMEMBER

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
F E B R U A R Y			1	2	3
	6	7	8 Prep Photo Day	9	10 P-2 Assembly
	13	14 School Council Meeting 7pm PT Interviews 3.30pm-7.30pm	15 Community Reading Program 9.10-11am PT Interviews 3.30-5pm	16 Bookclub Due	17 3-6 Assembly
	20	21	22 Free Pancake Day	23	24 No Assembly Whole school Brainstorm Incursion
	27	28 2nd Hand Uniform Stall from 8.45am			

M A R C H			1 District Swimming	2	3 3-6 Assembly
	6	7	8	9	10 Curriculum Day - No School
	13 Labour Day - No School	14	15	16	17 P-2 Assembly
	20	21 School Council 7pm	22 Grade 6 Camp	23 Grade 6 Camp	24 Grade 6 Camp 3-6 Assembly
	27	28 Student Leadership Conference	29	30	31 P-2 Assembly

A P R	3	4	5	6 Last day of Term 1- 3.15pm finish	7 Good Friday
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Oakgrove Community Centre

Intergenerational Playgroup

From 9th Feb



NEW IN 2023

Thursdays 10.00-12.00pm

Cost: \$100 per family per term



Call 97042781 or Email office@oakgrovecc.org.au

Nature Playgroup at Oakgrove Community Centre

*Fridays, commencing 10th Feb
9.30-11.30am*

*Cost: \$90 per
child per Term*



For Bookings/Enquiries, please contact 97042781
or email office@oakgrovecc.org.au



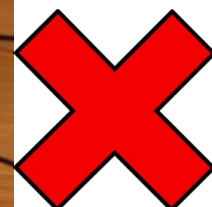
Sustainability News



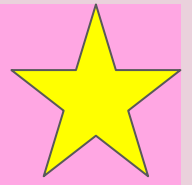
Strathaird Primary School is proudly a 5 STAR Resource Smart School. We aim to continually reduce the amount of water, energy and resources we consume and improve the biodiversity around our school. One aspect of this is reducing the waste produced in our lunchboxes.

We encourage all students and staff to have rubbish free lunch boxes. If your child brings rubbish to school we ask them to take it home again to dispose of.

A reminder that juice and milk drink boxes cannot be recycled in the City of Casey. Children really only need water to drink during the day. So we encourage you to avoid the use of tetra pack drinks.



Sustainability News



2022 Resource Smart School Results

We have some fantastic results from our 2022 data. To collect this data we log our billing data in each area each month into the Resource Smart School program which then compares our data to previous years and to other participating schools. In 2022 we had reductions in:

WATER



We've reduced our water use by 8,203 litres. That's equal to 251 shipping containers

WASTE



We've reduced our waste by 151 m³. That's equal to 74 standard shipping pallets of rubbish removed from landfill.

We have been working for many years to reduce our waste to below 0.3m³ per student per year. In 2022 we were able to reduce from 0.34m³ in 2019 to 0.24m³. Well done to all community members on a fantastic effort to reduce our waste and water usage.

Sentral for Parents App

The **Sentral for Parents** app allows families to:

- view academic reports
- explain past and upcoming student absences
- view calendar events
- book parent/teacher interviews
- receive sick bay notifications
- view school newsletters

as well as receive real-time notifications and messages from the school



Instructions for accessing the Sentral for Parent App

1. **Download** the 'Sentral for Parents' app. Depending on your device, visit either the Apple App Store, or the Google Play Store.
2. **Search** for Strathaird Primary School. Tap Next.
3. **Sign in** using your Sentral username (your registered email address) and password (that you created when Registering). Tap Log In.
4. You are now ready to start using the app.

If you have never registered on Sentral:

1. Click register here to register a new account. It will ask you to create a user name and password. Enter your email address as your username and create your own password. You will receive a verification email which **MUST** be verified in order to continue.
2. Once verified, log back into the app and use the access key provided by the school to link to your child's details. *The access key will be created for you once your child is attending.*

For a quick overview on how to access the Parent Portal, please watch this short video.

<https://vimeo.com/sentraleducation/review/431752138/968dcb15a8>

If you have questions about using the app, or need some extra help then please browse the list of FAQs at

<https://info.sentral.com.au/new-app-getting-started> or contact us for assistance.



From the Admin

Changes to permission forms and payments in 2023

This year we are aiming to go as paperless as possible with our parent communications and permission forms for excursions, incursions and activities.

What does this mean for me as a parent?

*Permission forms for excursions and incursions will now be completed digitally on the Sentral for Parents App.

*Paper copies will no longer be sent home, so it is important that at least one parent in each family has access to the Sentral for Parents app and that you have **NOTIFICATIONS** turned on.

***Sentral for parents will have a strict due date and no late permissions can be given once an event is closed.**

*Payments can still be made on the **QKR app (preferred)**, with EFTPos at the office or with cash, however cash payments for excursions and incursions can no longer be sent via the classroom teacher.

*All cash payments need to be made at the office between 8.30 - 8.50am OR afterschool.

*CSEF can still be used for activities. We aim to notify families of their CSEF balance on the newsfeed of the Sentral for Parents App. (this used to be handwritten on the permission forms). If you need to check your CSEF balance at any time, please contact the office via phone or email.

A reminder that we do not keep change in the office, so if you wish to pay cash, please make sure that you have exact money.

Are your details up to date?

Have you changed your home address, mobile numbers or work details?

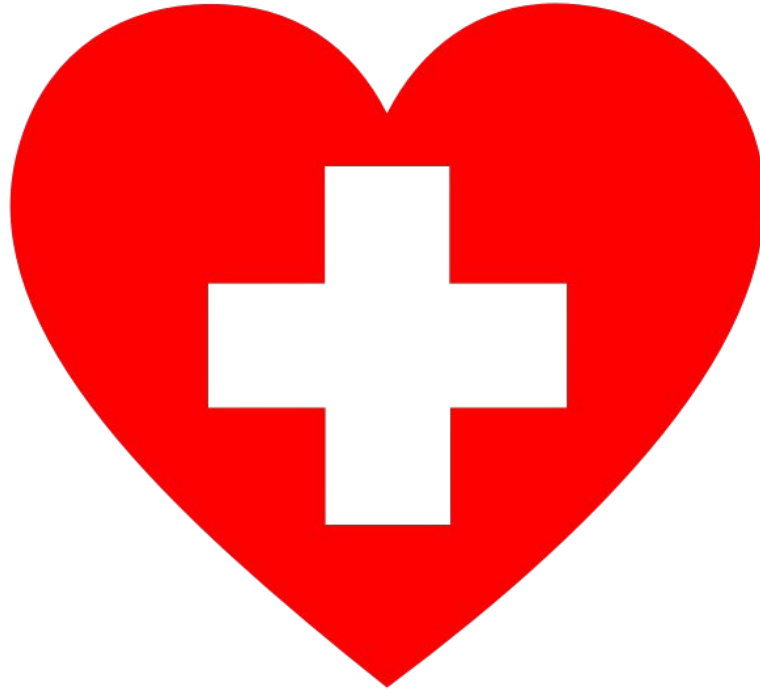
Do you have a new parent email address?

Do you need to change your emergency contact details?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please email the school office strathaird.ps@education.vic.gov.au and we will update the information on file.

From the Sickbay

First Aid Information and Medical Forms



Is your child's medical information up to date?

Please ensure your child's medical information is kept up to date. The school must be notified of any changes or new medical information.

Please contact Mia on 9705 3800 or visit the office to discuss these updates and complete any required paperwork.

All information will remain strictly confidential.

Save the Date



**STRATHAIRD
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**2ND HAND
UNIFORM SALE
TUESDAY 28TH
FEBRUARY**

**Stall will be
outside the School
Admin from...**

8.45am - 9.30am

**Payment is by
Eftpos Only**

Child Safety

Child safety and wellbeing at Strathaird Primary School information for families and the school community

The Victorian Government has announced new Child Safe Standards to further strengthen child safety across organisations, including schools. The new standards recognise the critical importance of families and the broader school community in maintaining and promoting child safety and wellbeing.

Strathaird Primary school has reviewed and updated our child safety policies and procedures to ensure they meet the requirements of the new standards. These are available to view on the school website on: www.strathairdps.vic.edu.au

We are committed to continuous improvement in our approach to child safety and wellbeing and welcome feedback from families and members of our school community on ways we can further strengthen our child safety policies, procedures and practices.

If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please contact

Julie Kennedy
Strathaird Primary School Principal

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parents will have the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher on Tuesday 14th February between 3.30pm and 7.30pm, or Wednesday the 15th February between 3:30pm and 5:00pm.

Parents need to use the Sentral Parent App to book Parent Teacher Interviews. You need to use the same log in details you usually do. If you have any access issues please see the office. The Sentral Booking system on the app opened on Monday the 6th February at 9am and closes on Friday the 10th February at 4pm. If you have a number of interviews to schedule, do not schedule these directly after each other as you will require time to move from room to room. Interviews will run for 10 minutes so please be prompt to keep them running on time.

Interviews at this time of the year are designed to give parents an opportunity to inform teachers of any relevant background information which may be of assistance in developing class programs throughout the year.

Points that may be discussed are:

- Child's strengths
- Areas of concern
- How you assist your child's learning
- Child's admirable qualities
- Special learning needs
- Homework expectations

Important Parent Resources

PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse.

No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.



It's everyone's responsibility.

Adults at school must listen and respond to concerns about child abuse.

If you suspect abuse of any child or young person, you have a responsibility to report it, even if you are not sure.

Further information & resources
www.education.vic.gov.au/protect



Attendance

Please ensure your children are at school on time. Students should be at their class by 8.50am ready to begin class by 9am.

If your child is absent, please notify the school through the Parent Portal on Sentral or call the admin on 9705 3800.

Every Minute Counts

Minutes late each school day	Days lost
5 minutes	• 3 days lost
10 minutes	• 6.5 days lost
15 minutes	• 10 days lost
20 minutes	• 13 days lost
30 minutes	• 19 days lost

But I was only a BIT late?



In a school Year

Top 5 online safety tips for kids

- 1 Set up your device to protect your information.
- 2 Explore safely & tell an adult if you see anything online that makes you feel yuck.
- 3 Limit who can contact you when you're playing games.
- 4 Stop all contact with anyone online who asks you to do anything you don't want to do. Report and block them.
- 5 Ask for help if anything online is bothering you.



How to report cyberbullying material

1

Report the cyberbullying material to the social media service



2

Collect evidence copy URLs or take screenshots of the material



If the content is not removed within 48 hours apply steps 3 and 4

3

Report it
esafety.gov.au/report



4

Block the person and talk to someone you trust



If you are in immediate danger, call 000 (triple zero)
 If you need to talk to someone, visit kidshelpline.com.au or call them on 1800 55 1800, 24 hours a day 7 days a week

Make good choices



Why do you like it?



Use devices near a grown-up



Time's up

Make good choices

Help children to think about the content they watch and how to manage their time on screens.

Message 1: Why do you like it?

Choosing to say kind things when connecting online is a life-long skill that can help prevent cyberbullying later on. The screen image can be a stimulus to discuss the types of things you should do when video calling, like saying hello with a smile.

Message 2: Use devices near a grown-up

Children need to be aware that digital technologies should be used with a grown-up nearby and in a shared space. Children should get used to the idea, from an early age, that devices should not be used in bedrooms.

Message 3: Time's up.

It is important to discuss with children how they will know when it's time to turn devices off and how they will transition to another activity.

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- What do you like to play on devices? What makes you like it?
- Where are these people using devices? Where are you allowed to use them?
- Have you ever been told you have been playing on a device for too long? How do you feel when that happens? What do you usually do?

Be safe



Play with the games and apps that are yours



Only talk with people you know



Some things should be kept private

Be safe

Help children understand personal information and how it can be protected.

Message 1: Play with the games and apps that are yours.

Devices should be set up so children know which content is for them and that other games, programs or apps may not be suitable for them. The screen image shows the folder where the little girl can find the games and apps just for her use.

Message 2: Only talk with people you know.

This picture reminds children that they should only video call when a grown-up is helping them, and only speak to people they know.

Message 3 - Some things should be kept private.

In this picture the boys are creating an avatar with their Grandad. Avatars can be a practical way of showing children how they can keep their real name and identity private by creating a character to represent themselves in games.

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- Do you play on your Mum or Dad's phone, tablet or computer? Do you have a special place for your games and apps? How do you know what is yours?
- Do you talk on the computer to your friends and family? Who helps you?
- Why do you think the boy in the last picture looks confused? If you were going to create an avatar for yourself what would it look like? Why?

Be kind



Say kind things



Take turns



Ask before you take a photo

Be kind

Teach children to be kind and respectful in digital contexts.

Message 1: Say kind things

Choosing to say kind things when connecting online is a life-long skill that can help prevent cyberbullying later on. The screen image can be a stimulus to discuss the types of things you should do when video calling, like saying hello with a smile.

Message 2: Take turns

Taking turns is a good way of managing time on screens and building self-regulation skills. The child in the background of this picture is sad because they have been left out of the game.

Message 3: Ask before you take a photo.

The little boy is taking a photo of himself with his family. The screen image depicts another time when he is asking his family if they would like to be in the photo.

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- Have you ever called your family or friends on a computer or tablet like the people in the first photo? What do you think they are saying? How do you know?
- Why do you think the boy in the middle photo looks sad? What could they do to stop him feeling sad?
- Do you always ask someone if it is OK to take their photo before you take it? Why?

Ask for help



Tell a grown-up



Check before you tap



You won't get in trouble

Ask for help

Teach children to ask a trusted grown-up for help with any issue using digital technologies.

Message 1: Tell a grown-up.

It is really important for children to know that if something makes them feel worried, scared or sad when they are using a device they should tell a grown-up.

Message 2: Check before you tap.

Before children use a device, they should ask a grown-up. The picture shows the little boy asking if he can play a new video he has not seen before.

Message 3: You won't get in trouble.

When children are playing with digital technology often things happen that they didn't expect. It can be the same for grown-ups too! Children need to know that if something unexpected happens, they should tell a grown-up. They should be assured that the grown-up will know it was important for the child to share the problem even if it happened because they made a mistake.

Key questions when discussing this poster could include:

- Have you ever seen something that made you feel worried, scared or sad when you were playing on a tablet? Who would you tell? What do you think they would say?
- Who do you ask before you play, watch or tap on something new on a device?

Our Vision Statement and Mission

VISION STATEMENT AND MISSION

To empower students to strive for personal achievement, embrace challenges and develop the skills and values that enable them to become lifelong learners and engaged responsible citizens in an ever changing global society.



School Values Awards



We value Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Compassion.

Honesty – We are truthful in what we say and do, people can rely on us and trust us.

Respect – We value peoples worth and qualities and treat them in a polite and friendly manner.

Responsibility – We make good choices and are accountable for our actions.

Compassion– We care about others, we treat them with kindness and we help people when they are in need.

Our school motto is: Success, Pride, Self Esteem, chosen by school council as fitting attributes that reflect our underlying values.

HOW WE ENACT OUR VISION STATEMENT AND MISSION

School Council provide Governance and direction through School Policies, the school's Strategic Plan and the implementation of that plan through the Annual Implementation Plans. The philosophy of our curriculum delivery is based on our vision statement and mission. We promote our values across the school and include specific presentations on values through whole school assemblies.

Extra curricula activities during lunch time include: library time gardening, music/choir, Years 2 sports fun, chess for grades 3, 4 and grade 5 and 6 and camps, are all aimed at developing this philosophy.

