Feeling Safe Together

Middle/Senior Students have been participating in the Feeling Safe Together program. The program is teaching our students that we all have the right to feel safe all the time.

Students have been participating in a variety of activities. Students have been given a range of scenarios in terms of personal safety and were asked to stand on a rope that had responses based on how safe they would feel during these particular situations. This created an excellent opportunity for students to discuss their thoughts and share their ideas with their peers. Students have also completed tasks that enabled them to understand feelings and the physical signs that are associated with those feelings.

The Feeling Safe Together program has been a great success for our students have enjoyed the hands on tasks they have completed. Foundation and Junior students are commencing the program next and we are sure it will be a great learning experience for them too! If parents have any questions about the Feeling Safe Together Program, please see your child’s teacher.

River Gum House Athletics

On Friday the 4th of March we have the River Gum House Athletics Carnival for the Middle and Senior school. We invite the River Gum Community to come along to Casey Fields Athletics Track to help cheer on our fantastic students. The students have been busy preparing and are looking forward to performing on the day.
Dear Parents,
You can visit our school website www.rivergumps.vic.edu.au for further information about our school vision and how we showcase our students owning their learning.

**School Council Election:** At the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23rd February we elected new office bearers for 2016. Congratulations to Vicky Methven our new School Council President, Ben Goetjens our new School Council Vice President and Lynn Fields our new Finance Committee member. We also acknowledge the outstanding work of retiring School Council President Sherryn Dunmore who has been elected as a community member for 2016.

**Whole School Assembly:** Our first whole school assembly for the year will be held on Monday 29th February at 2pm at the River Gum Performing Arts Centre. Our assembly will be led by our 2016 School Captains Mustafa, Ashley, Mary and Kaira

**Student Photos:** School Photos for 2016 will be taken on Tuesday 1st March. Please ensure your child is in full school uniform. Parents are reminded that the school has an arrangement with the photo company where if you wish to order photos taken on the day please feel free to contact the photographers directly. See the instructions on the last page for details.

**Student Voice:**

“Together we can for every child, every day, in every classroom”
ICT – Safety and Coding Skills

This term Middle and Senior students have been learning about ICT in their classrooms. They have been learning about being Cyber Safe and how to use coding to make programs. Here is what some students in R20 thought:

ICT Stands for Information and Communication Technology. In ICT we have been learning about never giving away our passwords to strangers, programming and coding, and using websites to guide us on our journey through the world of programming. Using the coding and program websites helps us with maths and writing. Some of the codes that we have been using are moving in various directions and repeating commands various amounts of times when an action is pressed. It has been a very amazing experience – Nik (R20)

During ICT we have been learning programming. While programming we used commands such as move forward, turn left/turn right, clear and many more. During our lessons we also learnt about Cyber Safety. I like ICT because it’s a fun way to learn maths and technology – Althea (R20)

Tip of the Week from the Kitchen Garden

Fruit Kebabs

Fruit kebabs are an excellent and fun way to encourage children to eat fruit. They are very simple to make and easy for little hands to hold. Just watch out for the pointy end!

We’ve been making fruit kebabs in the Foundation area this term, the students can’t get enough!
Reading Tip Of The Week
Promote high-quality language interactions

Think of yourself like a sports commentator. You are providing the play by play for the child in your life. Narrate the world around them, their interactions with toys, bath time, brushing of teeth. Talk about what is going on, what you are doing, what they are seeing, etc. Research shows that when children have higher levels of language stimulation in the first years of life, they have better language skills, including larger vocabularies.

Aphrodite Vantarakis
S.W.A.N: Foundation & Reading Recovery Teacher