



Dear Parents

13 AUGUST 2009

Our school as part of the Independent Schools system is a member of the Associated Independent Schools Victoria. The AISV provides, moderates, guides and audits independent school programs, curriculum and procedures. As a part of their service to member schools a regular newsletter advises of current educative trends and research. A recent such article quoted research from the United States that claimed in a study that students who accessed computers from home suffered an adverse effect on academic skill acquisition. "Professor Vidgor assessed the performance of students... before and after their families acquired a computer, finding that 'the introduction of home computer technology is associated with modest but statistically significant and persistent negative impacts on student math and reading scores'". The research indicated that 'one of the biggest problems with home computer use appeared to be that internet access and its associated web surfing and game playing, crowded out productive computer use and often, homework.' This report as quoted from The Age in an article by Peter Martin on July 20 2009, went on to suggest that access to computers improved other skills for students that are not measurable directly by standardized literacy and numeracy tests. I don't advocate either way on this research, however I remind parents to be aware and to, as much as possible, ensure that computer usage at home is productive and targeted. I do see the value of homework, musical instrument practice and physical activity as a better use of student time than "computer play". I leave this as a topic for family discussion and consideration

### Music:

Our Year 5 Band program this year has provided students with the opportunity to discover their, possibly, untapped talents. Each class has been tutored in specific instruments provided by the school and they have practised towards mastering a select repertoire of tunes. From this an invitation to join the Grainger Band has been accepted by a good number of students who will now have the opportunity to further their study and skills with upbeat and fun tunes that this performance band are renowned for. I wish the new members of the Grainger Band every success in the future.

### Family Life:

Our Family Life evening for Year 6 students and their parents is scheduled for next Tuesday 18 August. This presentation will begin in the Pavilion at 7.00pm. This program is a beginning to Sex Education and focuses on physiology and the most important aspects of family communication. I thoroughly recommend this evening to parents and students of Year 6 as an appropriate beginning to healthy communication leading into and surviving adolescence. Our presenter Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan is a Family Life Education presenter with many years of experience. RSVP will be appreciated so that we might ensure adequate seating. If you would like to enquire further about any aspect of this presentation, please feel free to ask.

Further to this topic of the growth and development of our students nearing adolescence, I have this week included a prompt sheet from the series produced by Child Psychologist Dr Michael Gross. I hope those to whom it is relevant find his suggestions useful.

### Traffic:

Again I thank parents for their driving patience and consideration in and around our school. Students I believe are adopting better pedestrian habits and drivers similarly are for the most part exercising due caution and safety. I continue to remind the minority that strict speed limits apply to the level of walking pace only through the school. I have also noticed a small number of parents stopping on the pedestrian crossing to pick up or drop off students. Please do not block the road ways or the pedestrian crossing in this manner.

### Book Week:

Today our students helped to launch our 2009 Book Week celebrations. Book Character dress up parade and a sausage sizzle were enjoyed by all. We have also reached our goal of \$1000 for the South American Orphanage, where Miss Heggie worked for part of last year. I thank all families for their generous support.

*(Continued on page 2)*

	<b>Don't Forget:</b>
MONDAY 17 August	CURTIS CUP—12.30pm North Oval
Wednesday 19 August	HOUSE ATHLETICS

**Book Fair:**

Our Book Week activities and Book Fair will run next Monday 18 August – Friday. Top quality books will be available for purchase to boost home libraries.

**School Photos:**

Next Tuesday all Junior School children who are part of teams, ensembles and choirs will have the opportunity to have their team photos taken. Uniforms as appropriate are to be brought to school on Tuesday. A draft timetable appears in this weeks' Weekly Bulletin.

**Illness:**

I continue to mention that flu and colds are still with us. Please continue to be vigilant and mindful so as to limit further spread. Thank you to those parents who are mindful of others in this regard.

Have a safe and enjoyable week.

Regards

**Jon Pittard,**

Head of Junior School



## Student of the Week



WEEK ENDING 7 AUGUST 2009		
Lochlan Matulis	2A	his contribution to creating a narrative about King Arthur
Abby Allsopp	2B	her fantastic transition to TPS and for having such an infectious smile
Tristan Meaker	3A	being very positive and more thoughtful about his work habits
Leah Ashley	3B	demonstrating resilience in her attempts to expand her friendship group
Jeremy Rodman	4A	his enthusiasm and knowledge during the "Planetarium" incursion
Jade Rooney	4B	being positive and enthusiastic during all learning tasks
Chelsie Priestley	5A	excellence in numeracy and literacy activities
Benjamin Stewart	5B	improvement in Mathematics
Travis Garrett	5C	his enthusiastic and conscientious approach to all learning tasks
Isobel Cannella	6A	her diligent application in ironing out her misconceptions regarding fractions
George Thomas	6B	a persistent attempt to improve his peer relationships
Andrew Bahr	6C	his diligence and application in all areas of the curriculum.
Sophia Rasch	6D	her excellent efforts in producing a wiki on Sustainable Future at TPS
<i>FRENCH</i>		
Zane Zovak	6D	excellent French sentence construction
Ivy Smith	6D	excellent French Speaking with actions
<i>ART</i>		
James LaBrooy	5B	his sound effort and hard work while producing his very colourful kite sculpture
<i>PE</i>		
Violetta Minzenmay	2A	her fantastic effort in Aussie Rules and her improved participation in all games.
Isabella Williams	4B	Super effort in sprints during our unit on athletics.
<i>MUSIC</i>		
Annabelle Warnock	3A	being an excellent all round student in every Music lesson.
Thomas Benton	2A	an enthusiastic, motivated and musical start to his Viola lessons.
The whole of 6B		their enthusiasm in participating in the King Arthur pantomime
Gerry Gao	6C	demonstrating commitment to regular practice and the achievement of a high standard in preparation for his Grade One Saxophone Exam
Thomas Acherrmann	3A	excellent progress on guitar
YR 2 STRINGS TROPHY	2A	<i>Thomas Benton: an enthusiastic and motivated start to his Viola lessons.</i>
YR 5 BAND TROPHY	5A	<i>Bailey Nathan-Park Trombone - excellent attitude and great musical potential.</i>



## STRING NEWS

**Year 2 String Programme** 2B students have been issued with their instruments and are getting comfortable with handling them and mastering early and important playing posture. They are all very eager to “play something” but it has been explained to them that the learning process is done “bit by bit” each week. We need to be able to sit or stand with correct posture as well as hold the instruments with the correct hand! So far we have played some games and sung songs to reinforce which hand is which! Parents please feel free to continue to “quiz” right and left hands/feet/ears etc at home to speed up the recognition process. We have also reinforced the names of the four strings on the violin, double bass (G,D,A,E) and the viola and cello (C,G,D,A). We have introduced some short pieces using “pizzicato” (plucking the strings) and will build on skills during each lesson.

**Students who have continued string lessons from 2A** have been invited to join the *Corelli Strings*, our Yr 3 String Ensemble. Music has been especially chosen and adapted for them to join this group who will perform at the Grand Music Showcase on 2 September. Ensemble playing develops interpersonal skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication, negotiation and working with others. At this early stage, the children are blissfully unaware of those skills, but they are being developed as the direct result of joining in! The Year 3 students are very much looking forward to helping and “mentoring” the new Year 2’s! Corelli Strings rehearse during the first part of Monday Lunchtimes. Instruments will need to be remembered on Mondays as well as lesson days. (A note to Mums and Dads: we need to help your child remember their instrument and music for rehearsals and lessons. While our aim is to work towards developing independence and responsibility, our younger students really need your help to be organized in the early years).

**PAGANINI STRINGS & CORELLI STRINGS.** Please put a circle in your diary for the evening of Wednesday, 2 September. Both of these string ensembles will be performing in the *Grand Music Showcase* at the Frankston Arts Centre. More details will appear later, but remind family members that this concert is one not to be missed! The senior *Chamber Orchestra* will also be performing two very exciting pieces: when you see them perform, remember that they too were once beginners in the Junior School ensembles!

**REHEARSAL DAYS** for Junior ensembles will be held on FRIDAY 21 AUGUST and MONDAY, 24 AUGUST.

These days are used as preparation for the Grand Music Showcase performances. They are intensive but a lot of fun. Because the children are playing their instruments for quite a large part of the two days, the amount of progress is outstanding. These days are a highlight in the musical calendar for our young musicians and we are all looking forward to the musical satisfaction that is a natural result of such workshop rehearsals. More details will follow.

Any queries can be directed to me at [sdowdell@tps.vic.edu.au](mailto:sdowdell@tps.vic.edu.au) or on 97887820


Sue Dowdell, Head of Strings


## *Help! My child is becoming an adolescent!*


The transition or pre-pubescent period (between the ages of 10 and 14) is one of change, challenge and uncertainty for both children and parents. It is a period of tremendous physical growth when children become very self-conscious about their physical appearance. It is often a difficult period as they feel that they are no longer children yet they are not adolescents either. For some, saying goodbye to childhood can be sad and scary, while others can't wait to embrace the future.


Parents too can be saddened by the end of childhood and may find it difficult to stand back and let go. In this period parents may have to change roles from being predominantly protectors of their children and learn to be supporters. It is also a time to control their parenting rather than trying to control their child.


### **Bright ideas**


 Be sensitive about what you do and say to children at this age. Insensitive or derogatory comments about a child's weight, complexion or other aspects of physical appearance can leave a lasting impression.


 Involve them in decision making about issues that concern them. Influence, guidance and stimulation are more effective than demanding, arguing and fighting.

 Provide children with space for privacy so they can spend time alone to draw on their own resources. Bedroom etiquette such as 'a closed bedroom door is a sign that privacy is wanted' can help provide the space that children need during this stage.

 Create opportunities to spend time with your child on your own. They appreciate the opportunity to spend pleasant time with you when they can enjoy your company. Share an activity, go to the movies together, or even go for a drive. This stage is a great time to build some goodwill with your child.

 Reinforce the attitude that they have control over the way they act, think and feel rather than being at the mercy of their emotions.

 During periods of transition children's self-confidence is often low so encourage your child as much as possible. Focus your comments on showing your confidence in them, their efforts, improvement and the contribution that they make to the family.

 Remember, in unstable and uncertain times what parents and children need most is each other.



## Extend Out of School Hours Care!

### Extend Adventures Holiday program!



Holidays are just around the corner again! Make sure you secure your booking so you don't miss out on our fun and exciting activities!

**Monday 21 Sept – Monday 5 Oct, 2009**

**8.00am - 6.00pm**

**\$55 full day / \$35 half day**

(per child MINUS CCB & the 50% CCR)

Visit [www.extend.com.au](http://www.extend.com.au) for more information, brochures and enrolment forms or call our enrolment hotline on 1300 366 437 today!



Of the week is **Alexandra R.** for being friendly and kind to others and always being helpful

### What's happening next week?

Team Leaders Sarah and Lauren have heaps of fun activities planned for next week such as a round robin and four square competition as well as being creative with nature crafts, flags and "About me" posters!

**After Care 3.00pm – 6.00pm**

Permanent: \$16.80\*

Casual: \$18.80\*

\*per child per session (Minus CCB and CCR).

*Are you missing out on the 50% Child Care Rebate that is NOT means tested?*

You may be missing out on up to \$7,778 per child per year!

Call the Extend Head Office on 1300 366 437 to confirm that you are linked to receive the CCR

### enrolment hotline

Phone our **friendly** customer

**service staff** on:

**1300 366 437**