Principal’s Message

Dear Families,

It has been a very busy time across the entire school over the last few weeks. As a principal, it’s a joy to see how hard all of the students have been working and the thought that they put into their work in the classroom.

Of course, this term marks another important part of the school year: the issuing of our first report cards. At the moment, all staff are busy trying to create a report that clearly reflects what your children know and do in the classroom, while also being easy to understand and read. These reports will be issued in the last week of term, and we will invite all families in for a ten-minute discussion so that we can explain and discuss the report with you.

Warm Regards,

Jacqui Bosman

Important News

Vesak Art Exhibition

We are proud to be able to say that the presentation of our school mural at the Vesak celebrations in Melbourne Town Hall was very successful. Many visitors came to look at our work, and there were plenty of positive comments about its quality. The mural will be exhibited at Hoa Nghiem Temple during celebrations on the 22nd of May, where some of our students have volunteered to talk about how it was created.

Canteen Changes

We are changing the way that canteen runs this term, in a way that we hope will make it easier for everyone! The canteen will now be open every day of the week during lunch, so that children can make an order on any day of the week that they like. A special menu will be
available on Thursday and Friday, during which they can order any meal on the Veggie Hut café menu for $5! We are sending home the menu with this newsletter, and extra menus are available in each teacher’s room during future weeks.

Please remember that your child is responsible for putting their lunch order in by 9:30am in the morning. If orders are not placed by this time, we cannot guarantee your child’s choice of meal.

**Homework Club**

A note went home on Monday to remind families that Homework Club is back! Homework Club runs from 3:45pm to 5:30pm on Wednesday and Friday, and is run by a pair of volunteers from Monash University. It is supervised by Ms Bosman. Homework Club lets students get some extra help in all areas of their homework, with students working for a set time with some short breaks to make sure that their brains are rested and ready to keep going!

If you would like your child to participate in Homework Club, please make sure that you let Ms Bosman know as soon as possible. The program will not be run if there are fewer than two students attending.

**After School Supervision**

Families are reminded that teacher supervision in the yard is until 3:45pm each afternoon. Please make sure that if you are at the school or temple, you supervise your child if they are playing upstairs- the reason for this is to give teachers time to finish up their work, plan and prepare for the following day or attend meetings.

Students who are in the yard after 3:45pm without a parent will be asked to come into the library, where they will be expected to read quietly or begin their homework until they are picked up.

**News from the Classroom**

**F-2 News**

If your children have been gathering seed pods they see outside for the last week or two it’s because we’ve been looking at How Things Grow in Inquiry. We’ve watered and observed mung beans, fenugreek and alfalfa sprouts in class each day and written about the changes we observed. When they were ready we tasted them and wrote about what they were like. They are decaying now and they smell!

[insert two sprouts pics]

In Maths we’ve been looking at different ways we can add numbers and have been exploring the number facts hidden in dominoes.
We created a beautiful lotus flower that you can see on our class window. We were talking about patterns and how to make them. Each of us created a piece on our own. When we put them together it was amazing to see how great they looked as a whole. Please come and have a look next time you’re at school.

3/4 News

In the 3/4 area, we have been working with division in lots of different ways, including how we use it in everyday life (sharing) and introducing long division. This is a topic that we will come back to throughout the year, as it’s one of the hardest to learn in Maths. Next week we are moving on to mapping, which is a great ‘hands on’ unit that will get everyone moving around, working outdoors and seeing how they can use mapping and directions skills in the wider world.

The 3/4 students have expressed a real interest in the history of the World Wars. Since we are focusing on non-fiction in our reading, this has turned into a major project for them, in which they are researching in order to create biographies, information texts and even ‘historical fiction’ based on their learning. The work that they are creating will eventually go up in our window.

Vietnamese Language News

In F-2, students enjoy learning and singing the 29 Vietnamese Letters song. They are encouraged to speak Vietnamese during the lesson and to use familiar vocabulary related to the classroom and home environment. In 3/4, students are developing their individual knowledge and be proud of themselves and their learning. Vietnamese lessons also focus on building students’ experience with the pronunciation and spelling of Vietnamese vowels, consonants and tone markers. Reading books are given to help students build up their reading skills and vocabulary. Our classroom also involves cooking activities where the children learn the names of ingredients and how to make ‘Canh Chua’. They always amaze me with how they learn and always support each other. At the end, I can see an empty bowl that is filled with happiness.