Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to Spring! We did get a brief glimpse of the warmer weather last week, despite the fact that this week Winter seems determined to outstay its welcome.

**Festival Choir**

On Wednesday night our fantastic senior choir, led by our talented Ms Hurst, performed alongside 400 other students at the Festival Theatre. It was a beautiful and very moving event. The sound of children’s voices singing together so harmoniously never fails to bring out the goose bumps. Proud parents cheered enthusiastically and younger siblings watched and clapped till their hands were sore, dreaming of the day they will be old enough to take their place up on stage!

A special commendation goes to our talented soloist, Jasmine K and our choreography leaders, Lily R and Tahlia S. Congratulations girls and thank you to each and every member of the choir for a very special and memorable experience.

**Student Free Day**

On the Student Free Day, September 8th, all Primary Schools in our Partnership worked together on a training and development session to transform learning tasks using questioning techniques. Having the opportunity to work with many other teachers is invaluable for all schools, but especially for small schools. Our main task for the day was to think about, and plan ways we can encourage students to develop their critical and creative thinking. Learning how to use different questioning techniques was beneficial. We learned about Socratic Questioning (probing questions) and ways to ensure student voice is incorporated into learning tasks. All teachers shared tasks and built their bank of strategies and tasks to use in the classroom. This was a very positive learning opportunity that will impact on the learning at Surrey Downs.

**Farewell Mrs McAuley**

The students, staff, Governing Council and families had the opportunity to say goodbye to Cathy McAuley at our last assembly and wish her all the best in her new position in Area Office. Two students from each class presented Cathy with a beautiful flower and shared their two stars and a wish with her. Of course, a win for the Crows featured highly! (Let’s hope the wish comes true for her this weekend!) Good luck Cathy. You will be missed by the Surrey Downs R-7 community.
Canteen News
The wedges and pin wheels continue to be popular choices and sales of both items have remained consistently high. Thank you to everyone who has supported the canteen and even just stopped by to say ‘Hi’ to Jane and her amazing group of volunteers. The alfresco dining has also been very popular (on the dry days) and students have enjoyed having another place to sit and chat with their friends. When the weather is nicer we will also provide a stereo, so music can add to the fun atmosphere.

To keep our canteen ‘on the radar’ we are reintroducing the money box initiative that we trialled last year. It will run from Monday of week 9 and conclude at the end of week 7 next term. It proved to be very successful and all the classes contributed. The students really enjoyed the challenge of trying to raise the most money to see which lucky class would celebrate with a pizza party!

For new students and families the rules are simple: each class has a money box provided by the Commonwealth Bank. It is mostly ‘fed’ with small change left over from canteen purchases, however last year children were keen to add to their class money box with change from home. This will again be permitted but please do not send any notes to classroom boxes. If donations of notes are offered, there will be a donation money box at the front office. This makes it fairer for all classes. At the end of the 9 weeks any money in the front office money box will be evenly distributed between all classes. The money raised by each individual class will then be counted and either divided equally between each member of the class to spend at the canteen, or the class might choose to buy a special lunch from the canteen (e.g. mini pies, wedges or chicken nuggets followed by an ice block or similar).

There is one more very special treat coming to you from the canteen early next week. This item has been requested nearly every year and luckily Jane has found a company to provide fruit based ‘SLUSHIES’ that fit the amber requirements of the Rite Bite Policy. At only $2 per serve you can enjoy a delicious grape, strawberry or tropical icy delight. So, come on Spring, bring back the warmer weather for us! Jane thinks they might be ready for sale mid-week, so pop in and see her at the canteen with your $2 and enjoy a frozen treat as you sit in the sunshine ☺

Staff Profile – Nicola Winkworth
What role do you have at Surrey Downs?
I teach the Junior Primary Special class.

How long have you been at Surrey Downs?
I have been here for 13 years.

What are your favourite things about working in a school?
Watching the children develop and grow over their primary school years.

What is your favourite food and why?
I love strawberries because they are delicious!

What are your favourite things to do outside of school?
Spending time with my family relaxing in our caravan.

Tell us something about yourself we would not have known before.
I can ride a motorbike and would far prefer to do that than have to do domestic chores.

Special thanks to Bethany and Allysha H’s grandparents for their very generous donation of two tickets for the Festival Choir as they were unable to attend due to illness. This very kind donation enhanced the experience for another student and their family.

Please support our local Neighbourhood Watch who are having a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings – Modbury on Saturday 15th October. They support our Year 7 Young Leaders Conference each year from their fundraising efforts.
We use roads and vehicles every day without giving a second thought about it. We don’t often consider that young children might be in danger in such a familiar environment, but they are. It has been brought to our attention that some of our community members may need a reminder of some of the following road safety measures.

Young children are quick and small making them especially vulnerable around roads and vehicles.

Take every opportunity to teach children about road and vehicle safety;
- When walking down the street, hold your child’s hand, explaining on the way the choices you make to get there safely. – E.g. why you walk on the footpath, where to cross the road and what you need to do before safely crossing the road.
- Emphasise the importance of ‘buckling up’ when getting into the car and be firm that everyone in the car must always wear a seatbelt or the appropriate restraint for their size and age.
- Be a good role model, children like to imitate and copy adults. Demonstrate road safety behaviours when driving, as a passenger or a pedestrian so that children can learn good habits from you.

Roads, footpaths, driveways and shopping centre car parks can pose a number of hazards for young children

Walking is an important part of a child’s life. It is important for their health, fitness, and their ability to get around their neighbourhood. Getting to and home from school may also rely on walking.

From 5 to 9 years, children should still be supervised at all times near traffic.

Tips to keep your child safe
- Hold hands when crossing the road.
- Set a good example for children around traffic. Children are always watching – they want to be grown up like older children and adults.
- Talk with children about traffic and road safety.

Guidelines for children of different ages

From 5 to 9 years
- Supervise your child at all times near traffic, particularly when crossing roads.
- Teach your child how to cross roads safely. Children must first stop at the kerb, then look and listen for traffic, and then decide whether it is safe to cross. (‘STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK’).
- Make the trip to school together along the safest footpaths, and use safe crossing places as a safe example for your child to follow.
- If you are picking your child up from school, have a safe meeting place, then cross the street with them. Never call your child over from the opposite side of the street.
- **Continue to make sure your child gets in and out of the car on the footpath side.**
- Explain words like ‘fast’, ‘slow’, ‘near’, and ‘far’. Talk about signs and traffic lights and the safe places to cross roads. Point out dangerous places and where not to cross the road (for example, near curves or bends in the road, and where objects might hide children from the view of drivers).
The Elephant Rope

As a man was passing the elephants, he stopped suddenly, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could break away at any time from their bonds, but for some reason, they did not.

He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. “Well,” trainer said, “when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it’s enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free.”

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn’t, they were stuck right where they were.

Like the elephants, many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before. Failure is part of learning. If you don’t fail you don’t learn.

Tell me, and I’ll forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I will understand. This proverb is talking about ways of learning by gathering data through all the senses. Everybody learns in a different way. Some learn by hearing; others by seeing. Some learn by getting involved. But all our senses - taste, touch, smell, hearing and sight, aid us in gathering data to help us learn.