

## Principal's Update

### Term 3 Week 3

6<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

#### Grandparents and Special Carers Morning

We had our Grandparents Day Liturgy and Morning Tea and as always it was truly wonderful to see so many grandparents and special carers here. We had a beautiful Liturgy presented by the children in Years 1 and 2 followed by open classrooms where the children were excited to show you all their wonderful work. Thank you for joining us on this very special celebration.



#### Pastoral Care / Cheese and Chat Meeting

The next Cheese and Chat and Parent Group Meeting is on this afternoon at 2pm in the Meeting Room. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

#### Learning Together Playgroups

We have our next Learning Together Playgroup tomorrow, Wednesday 7th August from 9 – 10:30am. The next two are on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

The playgroups are run by our Kindergarten Teacher Miss Mikaela Scott and all preschool aged children are welcome.

#### Book Week 2019

St Cecilia's celebration of Book Week will be held on Thursday 30th and Friday 31st August.

The theme for this year is 'Reading is my Secret Power'



**Book Week Parade:** Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 9.45am in the Assembly area

**Book Fair:** Thursday 29th August and Friday 30th August 8.15 - 8.45am and 3.05 - 3.45pm each day

**Yours sincerely**

**Mrs Yvette Owens**  
**PRINCIPAL**

## ***Social Media age recommendation guidelines and the law***

*We encourage you to read the article below concerning children using social media. It touches on such things as your child's digital footprint, the possible effect on mental health and the maturity of children to be able to manage social media. Time to clear something up that parents tell us is often used in talks about cyber safety.*

*We're talking about the age recommendations provided for social media apps, and children possessing accounts well below the 13+ suggestion. The refrain is constant. It's "illegal" for kids to have these accounts. Except it's not. It's not illegal. There is no legal remedy or punishment under Australian law.*

*It may be foolish because of the impact it has on a child's digital footprint, and it may affect the mental health of a child by being exposed to things they are not emotionally ready for, but possessing a social media app when you are below thirteen will not see any parties involved being arrested.*

*Almost all social media apps have a recommended age attached to them. Most of these hover around the 13+ mark, but some are 17+, some 14+, it varies. Familiarise yourself with these in the terms and conditions of use rather than what the app store says.*

*An age recommendation reflects the minimum age that a potential account holder should be. Content and concepts that appear within the app are therefore not considered suitable for a younger user. These recommendations are the BARE minimum that the developers of the apps can get away with. It's an extraordinarily easy thing to lie on social media sign-up details when providing a DOB.*

*There is a common misconception that these age recommendations have some kind of legal tie in. That someone can be prosecuted in some way for having an account on an app in breach of the recommendations provided. For a child, this is not the case.*

*While Australian law is set up to deal with R+ and X+ rating movie and gaming content, and can prosecute for children being exposed to such content - this does NOT apply to social media age recommendations.*

*Let's use Instagram as an example. There are an enormous number of kids well under the age recommendation of 13+ holding accounts on this app in Australia.*

*Safe on Social Media regularly see children in Year 2, happily providing their full name, age, additional social media account user names (Snapchat), and too much information in the bio area on Instagram on a public account – supported and sometimes even encouraged by Mum and Dad. It's incredibly risky to let a tween/child loose on this social media app before they are mature enough to manage it. And the rationale that "everyone else has it" is no excuse anymore.*

*Choosing followers, using privacy settings, and determining what sort of content is appropriate to post is beyond the level of maturity these children possess, but it's NOT illegal. Lying about their age online is a bad idea, due to the digital footprint left behind. In later years of life, it may be possible to determine that a prospective job applicant chose to lie about their age repeatedly in their digital life. This may show a pattern of deceit and bad character unattractive to a future employer, and is a very negative addition to an individual's digital footprint. Worse, this lying is often condoned and sometimes encouraged by parents.*

*The options are to report to Instagram (or other social media app) that the account holder is underage, and the account will eventually be deleted if the relevant form is filled out correctly.*

*This is how that can be done for Instagram*

*[https://help.instagram.com/contact/723586364339719?helpref=faq\\_content](https://help.instagram.com/contact/723586364339719?helpref=faq_content)*

*That is the penalty if someone chooses to act. The removal of the account. No fines, no charges, no safeguarding investigations for holding such an account – nothing. That these juvenile account holders have broken a law is a misconception.*

*It is not illegal. Age restrictions or recommendations are not enforceable under law.*

*The penalties for an "underage user" on social media are .....nothing.*

VIP EVENT - TODAY ONLY!  
**ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS**

**LOWES**

1 DAY ONLY

**20%\***  
**OFF**  
**SCHOOLWEAR**  
AND  
EVERYTHING ELSE



SHOP NOW >



**INSTORE & ONLINE THURSDAY 8TH AUGUST.**

\* Excludes gift cards, all suit packages & Schoolwear layby's. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Floor stock only.  
Styles and colours may vary from store to store.

No rain checks. Please choose carefully, exchanges and refunds only with docket. Includes existing 5% discount.  
Offer ends midnight (AEST) 08/08/19. Must use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount.