## DIARY DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21 July</td>
<td>Yrs 2, 3 &amp; 4 - 1:1 Program Information Night 6.30pm in the Yrs 6 rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22 July</td>
<td>Yr 6 Interschool Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25 July</td>
<td>Senior School Assembly 2.55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26 July</td>
<td>Foundation (Prep) Little Devils Circus Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 July</td>
<td>Yr 4 Colonial Show Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 29 July</td>
<td>Crazy Hair Day to support Cystic Fibrosis in return for a gold coin donation Yr 6 Interschool Sport Foundation Prep 2017 Transition - ‘A morning in Foundation’ 9.30am - 10.30am, meet in the Prep area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 1 August</td>
<td>Junior School Assembly 2.55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2 August</td>
<td>ICAS English Competition sitting date Foundation Little Devils Circus Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5 August</td>
<td>Yr 6 Interschool Sport Foundation Prep 2017 Transition ‘A morning in Foundation’ 9.30am - 10.30am, meet in the Prep area Patto Olympics Day - see attached flyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8 August</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly 2.55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9 August</td>
<td>Yr 1 Melbourne Museum Excursion 9am Foundation Little Devils Circus Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10 August</td>
<td>Curriculum Day - No students at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11 August</td>
<td>Yr 4 Polly Wollyside/Cook’s Cottage Excursion 9am Yr 2 Historical Society Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12 August</td>
<td>Yr 6 Interschool Sport Foundation Prep 2017 Transition ‘A morning in Foundation’ 9.30am - 10.30am, meet in the Prep area Science Night - Professor Bunsen Show 5.30 - 7.30pm in the school hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15 August</td>
<td>Yr 4 Camp Manyung departs 9am Senior School Assembly 2.55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16 August</td>
<td>Yr 4 Camp Manyung ICAS Maths Sitting Date Foundation Little Devils Circus Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17 August</td>
<td>Yr 4 Camp Manyung returns 2pm Yr 1 &amp; 2 Swimming Program at PARCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 18 August</td>
<td>Yr 1 &amp; 2 Swimming Program at PARCS Yr 5 Excursion to the Chinese Museum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

### WELCOME

I would like to sincerely thank the Patterson Lakes Primary School community for their very warm welcome! I have had the opportunity to visit all of the classes and meet many of the parents. I look forward to an exciting year ahead!

### PARENT OPINION SURVEYS

On Monday, 22nd July, 110 surveys will be distributed to randomly selected families in Prep - Yr 6. The school will use the information to support future school planning and improvement. Parent responses are completely confidential.

The survey is conducted anonymously and it is important to us that you complete the survey as honestly as possible. Your comments in the final, open-ended question will be scanned and provided back to the school. Please return completed surveys to the school by Friday, 29th July, 2016.

### ELECTION DAY SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Thanks to Louise and Stuart Lees, and Scott Dargan who worked tirelessly for the whole day at the Election Day Sausage Sizzle on Saturday, 2nd July. Thanks also to the many other parents and staff who generously gave their time to serve sausages and drinks which helped raise almost $1500 for the school. The money raised will be put towards new air conditioning for our school hall.

### CLASS CAPTAINS & WASTE WARRIORS

Congratulations to the following Year 3 - 6 students for being selected as either a Class Captain or Waste Warrior for this semester. Prep students are rotated daily, and Year 1 and Year 2 students are rotated each week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Class Captain</th>
<th>Waste Warrior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>Juliette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Sharnika</td>
<td>Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C</td>
<td>Diana</td>
<td>William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Lara</td>
<td>Ali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34Z</td>
<td>Jamie</td>
<td>Caitlyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>Dylan</td>
<td>Brayden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Charlice</td>
<td>Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Mia</td>
<td>Billy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4D</td>
<td>Hannah</td>
<td>Caleb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Madis</td>
<td>Paige</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Kayra</td>
<td>Cohen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Katie</td>
<td>Isaac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5D</td>
<td>Holly</td>
<td>Izzabelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6A</td>
<td>Emma</td>
<td>Josh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6B</td>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>Jett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6C</td>
<td>Melly</td>
<td>Hayden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6D</td>
<td>Tarrant</td>
<td>Caleb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who won our ‘Student of the Week’ awards for Weeks 1 & 2 of this term. Students will receive their certificates at their next assembly. Keep up the terrific work everyone!

Prep A – Ryan C for trying his best in all learning tasks.
Prep C – Jacinta F for working so hard on her learning. An amazing effort Jacinta. You are a superstar!
1A – Poppy L for always trying her best.
1C – Madelyn R for displaying excellence in and out of the classroom. Well done Maddy. Keep up the fantastic effort.
1D – Felicity R for always being a happy and helpful class member.
2A – Georgia D for working really well on her learning at school and home too!
2B – Holly R for working really hard to become a wonderful mathematician. Great job Holly!
2C – Alannah M for remaining on task and completing your work efficiently without being distracted. Keep up the good work Alannah!
2D – Qin V for always staying on task and producing excellent work. Well done Qin!
3A – Mitchell J for being a kind, friendly and valuable member of the grade. Your sense of humour and input to class discussion make a positive difference to the learning environment. Keep up the great work MJ. Well done!
3B – Jack C for great input into classroom discussion.
3D – Riley D for noticing a ‘Words of the Wiser’ signpost that helped him gain deeper meaning while reading. Fantastic work Riley!
3/4Z – Jaspar R for perseverance and team work during Maths fluid groups. You’re developing great problem solving skills, Jaspar!
4A – Ethan L for his energy, enthusiasm and ability to share knowledge during lessons.
4B – Amelia N for trying really hard to present her writing with beautiful handwriting. Keep up the great work Amelia!
4C – Sienna W for settling in to her new school really well. Well done Sienna!
5B – Mischa C for being persistent with her swimming and always trying her best in the pool.
5C – Mia F for always being kind and considerate to her teachers and peers. Well done Mia!
5D – Ruby K for continuing to be a fantastic monitor and for always being willing to help others with their work. Well done Rubes!
3D – Alex M for getting organised and staying focussed on all of his work in class. Keep up the great effort Alex!

SPECIALIST CLASS AWARDS for last week were: P.E – 2C, Music – 2A and Spanish – Prep B. Congratulations to these classes on their super efforts with our specialist teachers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>BIRTHDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ben S</td>
<td>21 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton Z</td>
<td>21 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talzyn R</td>
<td>22 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remi M</td>
<td>23 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly P</td>
<td>23 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayne H</td>
<td>25 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alannah S</td>
<td>25 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jade B</td>
<td>25 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas M</td>
<td>25 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walker M</td>
<td>25 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryder L</td>
<td>26 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meg D</td>
<td>26 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte T</td>
<td>27 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maisy N</td>
<td>27 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guy M</td>
<td>27 July</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CANTEEN NEWS

CANTEEN NEWS: MUNCH MONITORS

We have noticed lately the increasing number of children not getting their lunch orders due to it not being processed correctly through Munch Monitors....

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HIT THE CONFIRM BUTTON CORRECTLY WHEN ORDERING TO ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS NOT DISAPPOINTED....!!!!!

Thank you
SCHOOL FETE - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expressions of interest are sought for local small businesses who are interested in setting up a display or market stall at this year's school fete. There will be a payment required to participate but this will depend on the type of stall required.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our local small businesses to promote their services or products to the school community.

To those who are interested, could you please send an email to Kylie Brady at kylie@kb4travel.com.au. You will need to explain what you will be displaying/selling and if you have an association with the school or the Patterson Lakes community.

All applications will be assessed by the fete committee for suitability and will be limited in numbers due to the space available.

1:1 PROGRAM INFORMATION NIGHT

Dear Year 2, 3 and 4 families,

A reminder that we will be hosting a parent information evening in regards to the 1:1 program tonight, Thursday 21st July 2016 - 6:30 - 7:30pm in the Yr 6 rooms and we encourage all parents to attend.

Areas to be addressed at the session include:
- 1:1 Program Purpose
- 1:1 Program Policy
- Expectations and use of the device in the classroom
- Purchase of devices
- Questions

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We would like remind students of their responsibility in relation to the PLPS school uniform policy. The Patto uniform is a very Important part of the image we project to our school community and it is an expectation that all students are to wear their uniform with pride to, from and at school.

Non school uniform items (e.g. jackets, coats, beanies, etc.) can be worn to and from school, but must be removed once they arrive at school. Hoodies (even if they are blue in colour) are not part of the uniform and therefore cannot be worn underneath school jumpers or school jackets.

We ask parents to reinforce these expectations at home.

CRAZY HAIR DAY

Crazy Hair Day is an annual fundraising event organised by Cystic Fibrosis Victoria and is a fun way for schools to support and raise awareness and funds for those living with cystic fibrosis (CF). Here at Patterson Lakes Primary School we have two students who have CF and our Junior School Councillors have come on board and would like to support this cause by holding our very own Crazy Hair Day next Friday 29th July 2016.

Management and treatment of CF is lifelong, ongoing and relentless. A person with CF may consume up to 40 capsules daily to help digest food and may need to do up to three hours of airway clearance each day. Treatment generally involves:
- Intensive daily physiotherapy to clear the lungs
- Enzyme replacement capsules with food to aid digestion
- Antibiotic therapy to treat lung infections
- Aerosol mist inhalations via a nebuliser to help open the airways
- Salt and vitamin supplements
- A nutritious, high calorie, high salt, high fat diet
- Exercise – important to help clear the airways and build core strength.

All this before they even start their normal daily activities like going to school or work.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club Orders due TOMORROW
When families, schools and communities take steps to understand the child’s individual needs, build on their strengths, and provide supportive and respectful environments, children with additional needs can experience good mental health and their potential for learning can be maximised.

Some children with disabilities may have difficulties in forming and maintaining relationships because the impairments caused by the disability limit or restrict them from participating in everyday activities with their peers. Children with disabilities are also more likely to experience situations that negatively affect their mental health, such as bullying. Some children with disabilities have difficulty in picking up social cues that allow them to participate cooperatively with others (e.g., following the rules of a game, taking turns). Children with physical disabilities may find it hard to participate in games that other children play. Some children may find it difficult to approach their peers to engage in social activities. As a result, children with disabilities may lose confidence in their ability to make friends or to participate in activities that other children their age enjoy. The combination of these sorts of factors can lead children with a disability to be at risk of developing mental health difficulties, such as low self-esteem, and mental health disorders, such as depression.

**Kids Matter Parent Survey**

Wellbeing Leaders will be greeting you at the school gates in the afternoons of the next two weeks, asking you for some time to complete the survey. All feedback given will be much appreciated. Alternatively, you can complete the survey by going to the link [www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/parentsurvey](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/parentsurvey)

Thank you to the parents who have taken time already to complete the survey.

**My Friendship Recipe by Alanah S (3B)**

3B are reading the book Enemy Pie. Instead of making a pie for enemies they made a friendship soup/milkshake/pudding/cupcake in their procedural writing.

Congratulations to Alanah on her beautiful recipe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 cup of sharing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A tablespoon of fairness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 handful of love.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 teaspoons of adventure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ a cup of laughter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half a cup of understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 buckets of care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cups of trustfulness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 handfuls of trustworthy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 ⅛ of a cup of respect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100g of playfulness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 buckets of happiness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Method**

1. Sift a cup of sharing into a large bowl.
2. Pour a tablespoon of fairness in the large bowl.
3. Grab 1 handful of love and put it in a small bowl.
4. Scoop 10 teaspoons of adventure and put it in the grinder.
5. Toss ¾ of laughter in the grinder and turn it on.
6. Blend half a cup of understanding.
7. Sprinkle 20 buckets of care into the grinder.
8. Whip 2 cups of trustfulness for half an hour.
9. Grab 4 handfuls of trustworthy and put it in the large bowl.
10. Add 3 ⅛ of a cup of respect into the large bowl.
11. Scoop 100g of playfulness and put it in the large bowl.
12. Whisk 1000 buckets of happiness in the large bowl.
13. Add all the ingredients into a very large bowl.
14. Bake in the oven for an hour at heat of 150 degrees.
15. Let it cool for as long as it needs to then eat with friends or family.
Fun with the Staff
Annelise and Maddie had fun interviewing Mrs Morgan.

Mrs Morgan (Year 2 teacher)

When did you start teaching?
1980.

Did you do anything before you were a teacher?
I worked in a shop.

Do you have any brothers or sisters?
1 older sister Joanne and 1 brother Craig.

Do you have any pets?
Shadow the wonder dog.

What is your favourite TV show?
Love Child and Offspring.

What is your favourite food?
Cheese on toast.

What is your favourite sport?
Dancing.

What football team do you barrack for?
Hawthorn.

What do you like doing in your spare time?
Going to the beach.

If you had a superpower, what would it be?
To fix the world so everyone is happy!
Patterson Lakes Primary School

Science & Technology Night 2016

5:30 to 7:30pm, Friday 12th August 2016

$6.00 Entry to Professor Bunsen
FREE ENTRY to Marble Run & Robots

ROBOTS
Complete the construction of a dancing alien robot using some simple circuitry, an unbalanced motor, an old CD and some paperclips.
Program our new ‘Bee-bots’ to create an artistic masterpiece.

MARBLE RUN
Create a marble run that lasts longer than 10 seconds! Newspaper, sticky tape, duct tape, broomsticks, balsa wood, chairs, old pipes and hoses are allowed. Manufactured marble run toys are not permitted. YOU MUST ENTER THIS EVENT WITH AN ADULT HELPER. The marble run must be made during the course of the evening. We will provide materials but it would also be helpful to bring some of your own.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE
A sausage sizzle will be set up from 5:30 to 6:15 in the courtyard between the Science room and the Year 6 rooms. $2.00 for a sausage in bread.

PROFESSOR BUNSEN RETURNS
Everyone’s favourite mad scientist is returning this year with a brand new show! Please visit http://www.profbunsen.com.au/ for more information.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!!!!!!

You must return your permission slip no later than Monday, 8th August.

PLEASE NOTE: students must be accompanied by an adult to attend our Science Night.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Robots start in the Science room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marble run starts in the undercover court near the staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BBQ, starts near the Year 6 rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15pm</td>
<td>BBQ ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Doors open for Professor Bunsen show in the school hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Professor Bunsen show starts in the hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marble run and Robots end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Clean-up of the hall and evening close</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Marble Run 2016**

My family would like to make an entry into the Marble Run. In my team are:

1. __________________________  2. __________________________

3. __________________________  4. __________________________

5. __________________________  6. __________________________

(There is a minimum of two and a maximum of six participants. An adult MUST be in each team)

Parent signature: ___________________________ date: ___________________________

**Professor Bunsen Performance 2016 - $6.00 per head**

(the performance is between 50min in duration)

I would like [ ] tickets to see Professor Bunsen on Friday 12th August.

Student name: ___________________________ Class: ___________________________

(please place your order in an envelope and deliver to your class teacher or the office)
Patto Olympics

Friday 5th August

11.00am - 11.45am

Opening Ceremony

Students will parade for their country.

1.00pm - 2.00pm:

Fun Activities

Children are asked to come dressed representing their country, or colours of their country.
By wearing a CRAZY hairstyle and donating a gold coin you can help young Australians living with Cystic Fibrosis. Use your imagination and join in the fun for Crazy Hair Day. Curl it, colour it, twist it, tease it... all for Cystic Fibrosis!

**Crazy Hair Day**

**Our Crazy Hair Day Will Be Held:**

**Friday 29th July 2016**

For more information about Crazy Hair Day please contact Cystic Fibrosis Victoria
Phone: (03) 9686 1811    Email: events@cfv.org.au    Website: www.cfv.org.au
Pokémon GO?
The latest craze of ‘Pokémon Go’ comes with its own fun and risks especially for young primary aged children. It is rated 13 and over for very good reasons. We supply the following information so you can make informed decisions to protect and support your children from unnecessary dangers. The app takes children to places where strangers also playing are gathering. Stranger danger is very real as more and more people use the app and some not for the fun of the game but for other purposes. The following information was supplied by Common Sense Media. Org

Parents need to know that Pokémon GO is an insanely popular augmented reality game (based on the huge franchise of video games, card games, and other made) that requires an internet connection with GPS tracking and movement in the real world. Playing the game, which appeals to a wide range of ages, involves various safety and security issues. Privacy concerns are being explored and addressed, so it's best to consistently update to the current version and check your settings. Other risks include physical injury due to distraction, being directed to unsafe places or onto private property, and even becoming a target for assault or robbery (all of these things have already happened to players in the real world). A player’s location is tracked, stored, and revealed to nearby players, including both children and adults. The game requires a large amount of power and drains phone batteries quickly.

Its privacy policy indicates that user information -- including name, email, age, and location -- is collected; parents of children under 13 must confirm their child's account or contact the Pokémon Company International to refuse the company access to this information (this, plus the other risks, is the reason for our age rating).

The privacy policy was updated July 1 2016.
FOOTY DAY LUNCH
16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

On 16TH SEPTEMBER 2016 the canteen will be holding a Special 'Footy' lunch day for the whole school. If you would like to order a 'Footy' lunch please complete the form below and return with payment to your class teacher:

• NO LATER THAN 4pm ON 31ST AUGUST 2016
• NO OTHER LUNCH ORDERS ON THIS DAY
• LATE ORDERS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED
• PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHILD’S FULL NAME AND HOME GROUP VERY CLEARLY ON THE PAYMENT FORM BELOW AND ENSURE YOU PROVIDE EXACT MONEY AS NO CHANGE CAN BE GIVEN

PATTERSON LAKES PRIMARY SCHOOL
‘FOOTY’ LUNCH DAY
16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

CHILD’S NAME: ___________________________ GRADE: ____

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Number Required</th>
<th>Total Cost $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef Pie &amp; sauce</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop Top Drink</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken &amp; Vegetable Pie</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pop Top Drink</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Pastie &amp; sauce</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop Top Drink</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ENCLOSED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cash Only (No cheques accepted)
Due to the food and drinks being pre-ordered, money cannot be refunded.
“Individually, we are one drop... Together we are an ocean”

FEDERATION SQUARE
23 JULY, 2016
OUR SUNSET MY WORLD
A VICTORIA–WIDE EXHIBITION OF STUDENT ART
CELEBRATING WORKS by VICTORIAN STUDENTS - FOUNDATION to YEAR 10
CREATED WITH OUR HEARTS FOR THE DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN OF CAMBODIA
AS PART of the CAMBODIA AUSTRALIA–NEW ZEALAND FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL 2016
LIVE AUCTIONS - VICTORIAN STUDENT PAINTINGS - PHOTOS AND PAINTINGS by
YOUNG CAMBODIAN STUDENTS - BY VICTORIAN TOP AUCTIONEERS iSELL GROUP
VIEWING FROM 10AM - OFFICIAL OPENING FEATURING PERFORMANCES AND LIVE AUCTION AT 3PM

PROUDLY SUPPORTED by

RTR TOURS CO.

INFO: +61 449 760 050 MEDIA: +61 427 705 227

enquiries@haveaheartforcambodia.com

havaheartforcambodia.org
Helping kids with homework

For many parents homework is that time of the day when they routinely harass, hassle and harangue their child to JUST DO YOUR HOMEWORK! Here are some ideas that may help.

Homework causes more headaches for parents than it does for children. Some parents worry because their children don’t seem to do enough while others are concerned because they do too much.

But for many parents homework is that time of the day when they routinely harass, hassle and harangue their child to JUST DO YOUR HOMEWORK!

Okay, what to do?

The first step is to know the homework policy of your child’s school and understand what is expected of you as a parent. Most schools have parent interviews and information sessions at the start of the year. Next year, make sure you get a good handle on how your child’s teacher expects you to assist your child.

It is also useful to find out what your child’s teacher will do if your child doesn’t complete set tasks. Homework is basically an agreement between a teacher and a child so it should be up to the teacher to ensure the homework is completed. That means the teacher becomes ‘the bad guy’ and puts some consequence in place if the homework is not completed. Your role as a parent is to support the school if a consequence is put in place, such as completing work in recess or whatever the school deems appropriate.

Here are practical homework tips:

1. Establish homework time and stick to it each day. If children tell you they don’t have any formal homework then they can read, revise or organise their work. My feedback tells me sticking to a routine even when no formal homework is set is extremely useful and helps avoid battles.

2. Put the onus back on your children to take responsibility for their work. Ask children at the start of a homework session to state how much homework they will do. At the end of the session check it to see if it matches with their intentions as well as yours. If you are more concerned about homework than them, your children are not the ones responsible for their homework.

3. Homework is as much a time management issue as anything else. Encourage children to work reasonably quickly and efficiently. Have a set time limit, which they should stick to. There is little point slagging away once they become frustrated or tired. Give them an egg-timer or use a clock and get them to work hard for small chunks of time. A little work each night is more productive than packing it into one weekly session.

4. Help children decide the best time to do homework and then encourage them to stick to those times. Maybe on some days homework is tackled after dinner for any number of reasons. If doing homework straight after school is important to you then consider feeding your children ONLY after homework is completed. Food can be a huge motivator for some children! (As mentioned in point one, a homework routine is important but the timing can vary.)

5. Establish a good working environment for students. Make sure they have a quiet, well lit, well ventilated area away from distractions. A table or desk makes a good workspace, although don’t be surprised if they spread work all over the kitchen table. Some kids hate to be stuck away in their rooms and prefer to work at the kitchen table and can do so productively. Others are easily distracted and work in short bursts. Work out what is best for YOUR child.

6. Use the motivating factors of technology. The Internet and other forms of electronic learning are quick, convenient and give access to huge amounts of information. Nevertheless, children should still know how to access information from more traditional means such as books. Check with your child’s teacher as to their specific recommendations and preferences.

7. Encourage children to get organised. Help them think ahead to plan their homework around extra-curricular activities. A weekly planner or diary will help older students get organised. Assisting children to become organised is perhaps the best way parents can help at home.

8. If you are helping with a particular task, keep your explanation simple and practical. If you become frustrated or upset and the atmosphere becomes tense – stop helping.

9. Be realistic – don’t expect to solve all homework difficulties. When in doubt send a note to your child’s teacher letting him or her know the problem. The teacher will appreciate this good communication.

10. Communicate any concerns. If you have concerns about how much or the difficulty of homework your child is set, contact the teacher and arrange a time to discuss your worries. Such discussion is the basis of a true partnership between you and your child’s teacher.

The place of homework is routinely questioned by education authorities (now is currently one of those times in Australia) but my gut reaction is that children will always have homework. The name may change and the activities may vary but it will always be homework.

Schools generally try to make sure homework is varied, interesting, engaging and purposeful for children and parents.

Parents also need to be patient with both children (if they struggle) and schools that are trying to find a balance between too little and too much.
Lunch Orders are available online on Monday, Thursday and Friday. How do I set up an account to order online:
Go to: www.munchmonitor.com
Click LOGIN then REGISTER
Enter School Id: plps and Password: munch3197
Then follow the 4 easy steps to create your account:
STEP 1: Create a Parent Profile by entering information about yourself.
STEP 2: Add your Students to your account.
STEP 3: Transfer money to your account by clicking the Account Top-up button
STEP 4: Click MY ORDERS and you’re ready to Order lunches!
Orders can be cancelled on the day as late as 8.30am and should you have any concerns with your lunch order, please call Bellbrook Catering direct on 9796 5888.