## The Pines School Newsletter



Week 4 Term 3 13th August 2024

Respect, Belonging and Engagement in Learning

# Leadership News

We are now well into Term 3, and it has been great to see students having more opportunities to get out in the sunshine during play times as we approach Spring.

This term started with a Pupil Free Day. At this day, our staff participated in professional



learning to help them support our students to be successful. This included learning about supporting students with emotional regulation. Staff also learned about how they can work on the Education Department's focus to develop students as capable, compassionate, life-long learners. We have already done a lot of work on this at The Pines School and it was good to re-connect with this important work.

Term 3 is a very busy term, with lots of special events including Book Week, Grandparents Day, concerts, Festival Choir performance, sporting events and more! Please keep an eye out on Class Dojo for updates about the many special events this term.

### **Book Week and Grandparents Day**

This year we will be celebrating Book Week in Week 5. Book Week is a special week schools and libraries celebrate each year. During Book Week, we celebrate books and reading. Classes read and learn about some of the new books that have been nominated for Book Week awards. On Wednesday in Week 5, we will also have our much anticipated Book Week Parade.





Students are invited to dress up as a character from a book, or to match this year's theme 'Reading is Magic'. We will also celebrate Grandparent's Day on Wednesday Week 5 and look forward to sharing our learning and look forward to sharing our learning and performances with grandparents. More details about this will be added to Class Dojo closer to the date.

#### **Tournament of Minds**

Term 3 is also the time for 21 of our students in Year 5 and 6 to participate in the Tournament of Minds Competition. This is a six-week challenge that requires students to work as teams of seven to solve a real-world STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) problem. Students need to work Challenging the world collaboratively to research, problem solve, build and



develop a ten minute presentation. After the six weeks, each team presents their solution to judges and an audience at Adelaide High School. We look forward to seeing the ideas and solutions this year's teams develop and wish them all the best for their presentations at the end of Week 7.

## Pokémon Card / toys reminder

We have noticed that trading of Pokémon cards and toys is starting up again. While it is OK for students to bring these to school to play with during break times, trading is not

We wish all families a positive Term 3, and hope you enjoy all the special events coming up!



Dates to Remember

2024

TERM 3

Week 5

21 August **Book Week** Parade



## Week 6

30 August Pupil Free Day

## Week 7

2 September School Closure Day

**Principal** 

Mrs Cherie Collings

**Deputy Principal** Mr Sam Konnis

**Assistant Principal** Mrs Toula Girgolas

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Does your child hurt or intimidate you?

Do you feel you are losing control?Do

you want to handle conflict better?



# Reclaim respect and calm in your family

The *Who's in Charge?* group is an 8 week program for parents or carers of young people (8-18) who are beyond control, violent or defiant.

This is a FREE program

The group aims to:

- Provide a supportive environment to share experiences and ideas
- Reduce the guilt and shame that parents feel
- Offer ideas to help you develop individual strategies for managing your child's behaviour
- Help in understanding power in relationships and coping with stress
- · Explore ways of increasing safety and well-being

Next group: Wednesday's commencing 31 July 2024 for 8 weeks, 9:30am to 12pm Where: Port Adelaide Library, Community Room, 2-4 Church St, Port Adelaide

For any queries or referrals please call Trevor: 0410 698 907 or Centacare: 8215 6700

An initiative of Reconnect, City of Port Adelaide Enfield and Centacare Catholic Family Services









## **Benefits of Restorative Practices**

Restorative practices help to create and maintain safe and supportive education and care environments. Education and care settings that use a restorative approach to relationships and behaviour report improvements in:

- Feelings of community, belonging and connectedness
- A safe care setting: more supportive, fair, inclusive and respectful
- Attendance, positive and supportive relationships between children, students, staff, parents, carers and families
- wellbeing and behaviour
- Social and emotional skills including conflict resolution, problem solving, empathy and accountability
- Learning and academic outcomes.

Education and care settings that use a restorative approach to relationships and behaviour report reductions in:

- behaviours of concern, for example, bullying, harassment and violence, suspensions and exclusions
- absenteeism and lost learning time

#### The Problem with Punishment

Punishment does not work to change behaviour or make things safer. Research suggests that punishment can increase the risk of further behaviours of concern. When children and students are punished, they:

- Usually see themselves as being wronged and might feel rejected and that they are a 'bad' person
- Can dwell on their own feelings and can't see the harm they have caused to others
- Avoid taking responsibility for what they have done

Punishment, shame and humiliation negatively impact on relationships and engagement in education and care.

#### **Restorative Practices are not a Soft Option**

The restorative approach helps children and students to learn. Children and students get to understand the impact of their behaviour on others by hearing from other children, students, staff, parents, carers and families about how they have been affected by what happened. Through the restorative process, children and students:

- Face up to the consequences of their actions and help repair the harm caused
- Can be welcomed back into the education or care community
- Are supported to understand what they need to do differently next time and develop the skills for safer and more respectful behaviour

#### **Supporting Restorative Practice Conversations at Home**

Restorative questions help children and young people to:

- Think about what they did, understand how their behaviour has impacted others and take responsibility for their actions
- Repair the harm caused.

You can use the restorative questions with your child when something has gone wrong at school, at childcare, at home or in the community. You can reword the questions to meet your child's needs based on their age and stage of development. It might feel a bit awkward when you first start using the questions. The more you and your child practice using the questions when things go wrong, the easier it will get.

#### Questions that can help when your child has done the wrong thing

- What happened?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way?
- What do you think you need to do to make things right?

### Questions that can help when your child has been harmed by someone's behaviour

- What did you think when you realised what had happened?
- What impact has this incident had on you and others?
- What has been the hardest thing for you?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

You can reword the questions to meet your child's needs based on their age and stage of development. Taking your child through these questions will help them to understand that even when things go wrong and relationships have been harmed, things can be put right. Staff at your child's school might be able to help you with using the restorative questions.

Sourced from Department for Education (South Australia) 12th August, 2024







## **LOST PROPERTY**

Lost property is starting to build up.

Could parents please check lost property daily. It would be helpful for your child's name to be on items of clothing, drink bottles and lunch boxes. If items are misplaced we can return them to your child/ren classroom.



