Dear Parents,

I often get asked by new parents, “How can we best support the teacher?” This is a topic which is worthy of understanding.

Some may think it is through forcing children to do homework, getting them to school on time, making sure they have had a good night’s sleep or being adequately prepared. These are all valuable and important. If anyone believes that teaching children today is an easy job, then stop and think again. Children today are of the world, current and engaged. They are wonderful, delightful, full of joy and enthusiasm, willing to please and desperate to learn. Children are children.

Parents on the other hand are much harder to teach. They are filled with expectations, concerns, worries and confusions. They invest in their children through hope, trust, and dare I say it, pride.

When we look at the dynamic between parent, teacher and child we can see there are differences in all of the above. The dynamic which works between three is always difficult. If three children play together it is only a matter of time before two pair off and one feels left out. This is a natural human dynamic and also needs to be considered when thinking around the support of the teacher question.

If the ‘two’ dynamic is the parent and the teacher and the one left out is the child, the situation is as it should be. Both adults directed to and for the benefit of the child. The moment the parent and child side against the teacher, the child is the loser. It then becomes very difficult for the teacher to gain the respect and confidence of the child. If the teacher should make the error to side with the child against the parent then again the child is the loser as their loyalties will be divided.

So to really support the teacher, we need to understand the dynamics that are involved. If the child comes home with complaints about the teacher, which always happens, then the parent, being the adult and the responsible one should discuss the child’s dilemma directly with the teacher.

“I’ll speak to your teacher tomorrow dear, and we will get to the bottom of it!” is the sort of response that may be given.

We must remember at all times that the well-being and education of the children is at the forefront of our minds.
and actions and that we as parents and teachers are there to support them through all difficulties. As you have one child while the teacher may have 20 children, the focus and understanding of a problem can be very different.

I understand that nearly every situation that arises comes with unique and out of the ordinary conditions and we find ourselves quickly defending or opposing without a clear picture of the whole situation.

- So to support the teachers,
  • Ask – don’t blame (get all sides of the picture)
  • Limit emails, technology can be invasive and threatening
  • Respect personal space and time – making late night phone calls can be inappropriate
  • Respect mind space – before lesson is a vital preparation time for teachers and the mind space that they go into lessons with is vitally important to the outcomes of the lesson.
  • Arrange meeting times
  • Invite a third party if needed (Principal is always there)
  • Discuss concerns with Principal
  • Have clear and reasonable expectations.

There are always ways of working things out and clarifying situations. Some are quick and easy others are difficult and take a long time however the process is very important and maintaining high levels of communication and respect are paramount for successful outcomes. Perhaps we as a school could start to develop the Dr CC idea, which is Dignity, Respect, Care and Compassion

On another note............

I have received an official complaint from the Children’s Farm regarding Sophia Mundi parents parking in their reserved car spaces. I think that this happens mainly in the morning as the Farm employees are left with nowhere to park for the day. Please respect the reserved car spaces for other tenants of the Convent and The Children’s Farm.

Thank you for your continued support of the school. Norman.

Important Notices

There have been a number of cases of Conjunctivitis reported. If your child is thought to have conducted Conjunctivitis it is important that you keep your child at home until the eye(s) is completely clear.

There has also been a case of Head lice reported. Please ensure that you check your child(ren)s hair regularly and treat as appropriate.

Winter Music Concert

What a fabulous night last Wednesday at the Fitzroy Town Hall for our Secondary School Annual Winter music Concert!!! The grand old hall was aglow and packed to the rafters with parents, friends and siblings. “Once again, it was a wonderful and enjoyable night. I particularly love the choice selected, edgy, fun, some classical, some modern, and who would have thought that you could also make something wonderful from mere plastic cups! I also love how the teachers always contribute, putting themselves also on the line, and to see the children jump up and join in, joie de vivre all the way through. Thank you. I feel that the children really own this concert, such a creative collaboration and once again confirmation as to why I love this school and this education. I am still humming the choir songs put together by Nicola Eveleigh, such a joy.”

Kate Donovan (Parent)

Well done everybody!

Class 5 Elephant Nature Park Fundraiser

The students in Class 5 prepared an amazing spread of handmade crafts and baked goods, which showcased their many creative talents. Thanks to the wonderful support of our school community, within half an hour of trading our tables were empty and the funds raised for this worthy cause reached $558! After including the generous donation from the school canteen, we now have $1301.65 to contribute to the health and wellbeing of some very special and needy Asian Elephants. Many thanks to all for your contributions and especially to the students in class 5 who have inspired me with their kindness, compassion and enthusiasm for making the world a better place.

To see and learn more about the charity we are supporting, visit www.elephantnaturepark.org
An Invitation THINKUKNOW
Cyber Safety Evening
Tuesday 9 September

As internet access and social media escalate and invade our lives, adults are scrambling to stay aware of what their children are accessing online. Please come along to this presentation.

ThinkUKnow is an internet safety initiative which aims to raise awareness of the issues which young people face online and whilst using mobile phones. It is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Microsoft Australia.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn more about how young people have fun online, how you can help them to stay in control on the net, and how to report a problem.

All parents, carers and teachers are encouraged to attend. This presentation will cover topics such as how young people are using technology to have fun, online grooming, cyber-bullying, inappropriate content and e-security.

For more information, you can visit the ThinkUKnow Australia website at www.thinkuknow.org.au

Greetings from Germany

Dear Community,

It’s now about one month ago since I left Australia. But I don’t have much time to rest and to reflect on what I learnt and how the year at your school influenced me. There are many things going on for me in my life. I got accepted at the university in Magdeburg and I am currently looking for student accommodation. Magdeburg is nearly 4 and a half hours away from my home by car and 5 to 6 hours by train. I know it’s not such a big distance compared to Australia but it still means that I won’t see my family very often.

I am so glad that you accepted me so warmly as part of your community and let me help wherever I could as well as helping me whenever I needed help. If I had to describe my year at Sophia Mundi I would call it ‘Main Lesson Life skills’. I doubt that I would have learnt so many skills and gained so many experiences if I hadn’t have come to Australia. The year prepared me so I can adapt easier to new situations, new places and new people. And those things will be needed for the next years to come.

There is a saying that says “The world is a town.” I really believe it is and I hope to run into some of you behind the next corner. I certainly will never forget my time in Australia thanks to you all.

Love from Germany, Christian Röder

Community Pages

Parent Volunteers
There are a number of ways that those wishing to volunteer can help - As and when volunteers are required we will mention them here in the hope that something takes your fancy.

Volunteers Needed for the Library
Simple tasks required on a regular basis. As little as half an hour of your time would be really helpful as a support to Raquel in the Library.

Book Reviews Needed
We would like to offer reviews of our new library books. If you would be happy to write a review please email raquel.mcconnell@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au

Anthroposophical Health Column
With these much welcomed days of sunshine and clear skies we are reminded Spring is only just around the corner. The golden forces the sun generates meets our hearts in a way that enables some of the heaviness of Winter to lift. The warmth itself relaxing and opening us to support more social times and activities.

Whilst this metamorphous happens externally it is reflected internally in a desire to eat and drink differently and more lightly. The heavier meats, casseroles, cheeses and pastas of Winter may no longer feel as appealing. Whilst shoots and greens of every description substitute well here, providing fabulous cellular nutrition to re-energise our bodies and help excrete unhelpful by products of our richer winter meals.

It is great to see the canteen providing delicious ‘Green Drinks’ and the children eagerly collecting garden greens. So think salads, steamed vegetables, fresh fruits and nuts and green tea (Camellia sinensis) which is very palatable and wonderful as a regular, gentle liver support.

Rudolf Steiner and Ita Wegman in their nutrition lectures certainly encouraged us to eat both with the seasons and locally grown, bio dynamic foods and this as a guideline will never let you down.

Happy welcoming back the sun.

Trangias For Sale!
Jen Gibson has two shiny new Trangias for sale at $140 each. These are lightweight cooking stoves for Outdoor Education. The students will need these from class 7 upwards so get in quick!
Coffee and Cake Stall

The coffee and cake stall is a very popular stall with visitors to the fair and with the Convent organisers and does very well as a fundraiser for the school. This year it has been suggested that we make use of the schools very own coffee machine and latent talent to staff our own stall. If you know how to pull coffee or are willing to learn we need you! Ideally we need 5 or 6 people to man the stall at any one time. Why not start talking to your fellow class parents and see if this is something you would like to support? Meanwhile, as always, Bakers from across the school will be needed to produce those delectable treats!! Yum, yum, can’t wait. Any feedback or suggestions, especially from those with experience, warmly welcomed!!

Lemonade Stall

It would be greatly appreciated if those with lemon trees could squeeze and freeze for the ever popular lemonade stall. Too many lemons? Bring a box in and let someone else share in the work. No lemons, but a juicer? Let us know on springfair@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au

Many Thanks to Class 3 who have risen to the sausage and veggie burger challenge. Go Class 3!!

Craft Stall

Any would be crafters out there, please be inspired by the gorgeous toadstools made by Kirsten Dunkley, Class 1, for the Spring Fair Craft Stall. A small group, children in tow, are meeting in the aftercare room on Tuesday mornings after drop off where we are endeavouring to produce further delights. Please feel free to drop by.

There is also an option to use this space on Thursday mornings (let us know if you are interested).

If you can’t make it to a group or would prefer to work at home, we can provide you with materials. Just email: springfair@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au

Alternatively, if you are in need of inspiration you can pick up one of our craft kits from Reception. They come complete with pattern and materials.

Shiatsu Therapy for Pregnancy

The Australian Shiatsu College is holding a special day with a focus on the value of Shiatsu Therapy for Pregnancy.

The treatment will be given in class by final year students under full supervision.

When: Thursday 4th September 2014
Times: 1:15-2:45pm or 5:15-6:45pm

Please call to book your complimentary treatment.

Australian Shiatsu College
103 Evans Street, Brunswick 3056
Phone: 9387 1161

Rhythm Restores Power
Ta Ke Ti Na workshop
Facilitated by Michael Kokinos with Belinda Cody
Saturday 6 September, 2:30 - 5:30PM
Sophia Mundi School Hall

TaKeTiNa is a bit like greek dancing - it requires no musical experience and invites participants to go at their own pace. If you like music, voice and dance, you will love Ta Ke Ti Na.

Michael is a SMSS parent and works as a holistic physiotherapist from the Abbotsford Convent Wellbeing Centre.

For more information contact: michaelkokinos@hotmail.com or www.villageheart.com.au/Taketina

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