



Dear Parents,

After assembly yesterday we held the second parent discussion on how we can improve our communication on student progress. It was a great discussion and, combining both sessions' discussions, we have come up with the following initiatives to trial.

1. **Sending home term focuses and student goals.** This will come directly from our planning documents. Student goal would be what they need to do to work towards that goal.
2. **Explanation of results/assessments.** An explanation of the assessments that we use, for instance; what does a Lexile number mean and what is needed to get better. Also the new Fountas and Pinnell levels and writing checklist.
3. **Discussion Starters and Strategies.** This is something that would go home with the term focus and help families understand how they can help their children. It would be something like small thinking stems and tasks that relate to the term plan. Such as; when watching a movie ask 'why they think that character behaved like that?' Ask them to help with cooking but ask for 1.5 times the recipe.
4. **Send work home:** Simply photocopying work completed and sending it home. The parents that attended were particularly keen to see students' Big Writes. We also spoke about sending home pre and post-tests. It would be understood that not all parents would completely understand the task or scoring, but it will help bridge that gap between knowing what's going on at school.

We will look at using these ideas into 2019. We are redeveloping our assessment schedule to ensure it gives us the best data possible to inform our teaching. If you have anything else you would like to add to the suggestions or have any questions, please make sure you let me know.

This year has been a very big year for our professional learning strategy as a school. This has unfortunately meant that staff have been out of their rooms at certain times. On top of this, the Department has a new eLearning module that is mandatory for all Teacher Class to complete adding to their time out of the classroom. We understand this is less than ideal, but with our high classroom expectations and tighter curriculum work, programs continue to be taught and these days are definitely not just 'filler' days.

We were thrilled to hear late last week that we have been successful in obtaining a grant to develop a Memorial Garden to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Black Saturday bushfires. This will see the front of the school redeveloped with a new look and something to show the school's ongoing commitment to this wonderful community. We will need to hold a series of working bees this year to ready the area. This will mainly be removing the current plants and will more than likely take place after school rather than on weekends. Please keep an eye out for these dates and times.

**Adam Downes - Principal**

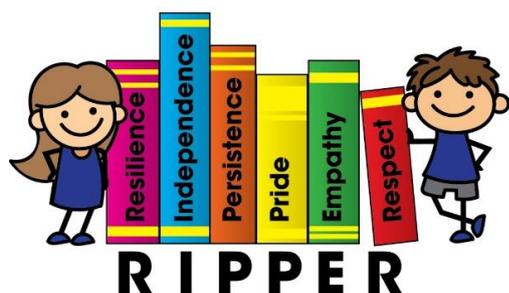
### **Library Books and Library Stocktake**

Can you please ask your children to check around home and to return all books by 30<sup>th</sup> November. We have had a number of overdue books from some students for a number of weeks and have sent home slips asking for these to be returned. Books which are still missing after stocktake will be invoiced to the family for replacement as many of these are newer items.

We are looking for a couple of parents to help with the library stocktake. If you are able to give up your time please let me know.

*Thanks - Karyn*

## Student Awards - Week Ending 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018



|        |                |  |
|--------|----------------|--|
| Prep   | Blake Fuller   | For showing improved independence with coming to the mat and being ready to learn.                     |
| 1/2    | Billy Kreun    | For extra persistence with reading and writing.  |
| 2/3    | Deegan Borg    | For always displaying persistence in his learning tasks.   |
| 3/4/5' | Heath Kamphuis | For consistently applying his learning especially in writing, taking on advice to improve as a writer. |

### DATES TO REMEMBER

|   |         |  |
|---|---------|--|
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov                    | Fri     | 5/6 Camp Payment Due In Full - \$290<br>Animal Aid Fundraiser - Gold coin donation |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Wed-Fri | Years 5 and 6 Camp at Phillip Island   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec                    | Tue     | Orientation Day  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec                    | Thu     | Year 6 Graduation Evening  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec                    | Tue     | End of Year School Concert   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec                    | Fri     | End of 2018 School Year - 1:30pm dismissal   |

### ANIMAL AID FUNDRAISER

Hi, I am Sophie and I'm in Year 4. I am very passionate about animals and I would like to organise a fundraiser at the school.

On Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of November we are having an animal dress up day to raise money for Animal Aid Gippsland. It will be a gold coin donation if you would like to wear an animal on your clothes or just casual clothes. The money that you give will help animals at Animal Aid Gippsland to get: re-homed, neutered, better care and toys to keep them entertained. I hope you are able to support this worthwhile charity.

*By Sophie Porigneaux*



## **Where in the World – Big Write Recount *By Kate Edgar***

The queue was long. Very long. It was Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, and all of the Traralgon South Primary School students were packed up into a squashy single file line. Year 6 to prep, all pupils crowded around the assembly hall, eagerly waiting for what was coming next. Each student was clutching a handmade passport, navy blue, bearing the Aussie coat of arms on the front. This day was full of amazing and unusual surprises, each one as exciting and as wonderful as the next.



Inside the assembly hall, Mrs Knowles was stamping passports. Traralgon South Primary School RMB 3815, they read in startling black ink. Bianca was borrowing Mrs Game's boomwhackers, and was cleverly using them as metal detector scanners. Once clear to go, the pupils sat down to watch the safety procedures and seatbelt fastenings, courtesy of Mrs Game and the whiteboard. Miss Bone was, like all the other teachers, dressed as a very fancy flight attendant. She wore tights, black, white and navy clothes, a coloured scarf, and (to top it all off) a pink flower tucked in her hair. She had the microphone in hand, and was speaking into it loudly and clearly. "All passengers shall watch the safety procedures and proceed to the gate marked on their ticket." All the children glanced down down, and sure enough, on their ticket they each had a gate from gate 1 to gate 5.

After the videos, the students in class 3/4/5 headed up to their class room (now disguised as gate 5) and took their seat marked on their tickets. From A1 to H3 they took their seats in rows, and once again Miss Bone was over the loud speaker. "The duration of your flight is approximately 40 minutes. During this time you may write an informational report about a location you are familiar with. I hope you have all had your preparation Big Write talk and taken notes on your country or place, because it will definitely help. You will find a sheet of paper and a pencil on your desk to write with, and remember to VCOP it! Our flight has begun!"

From America to Zimbabwe the pupils went, writing frantically in their precious 40 minutes. The most excitable and thrilling Big Write had begun!

## **Where in the World Big Write *By Abby Riddell***

Excitement was on a high as students lined up to pass immigration. Most students agree that the realistic but pretend plane flight gave this Big Write the winning edge it needed. Teachers put in a lot of effort into making this the best Big Write students could wish for, and, I think we can all agree that they greatly succeeded.



Students were first escorted to immigrating where a massive line greeted them! It certainly was a long wait, but most agree it was worth it. Once everyone was inside, the teachers, I mean flight attendants, turned on a safety video. Even though there weren't any lifejackets or seatbelts, this tiny touch made the plane flight seem incredibly realistic!

Once students were settled down, an announcement over the loud speaker addressed them about their gates. In gates, students were led to their planes, where they began to write, and write, and write! Silence filled the air, as the only sound to be heard was the sound of pencil to paper. As the silence surrounded students, and pages, and pages of writing were stacked, stack upon stack, their flight came to a close. Suddenly, the silence was replaced with an uproar of excited voices. There mightn't have been a destination for their flight, but this was certainly a Big Write to remember!

### **Big Write By Evan Pass**

On Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, Traralgon South Primary School held its fifth VCOP Big Write. Grade Prep-2 did a recount/narrative and grades 3-6 did an information report.

All of the students made passports; the teachers dressed up as flight attendants and turned the multi-purpose room into the gates to the plane/ classrooms.



Then at 11.50 am, we made our way to the 'Planes' and sat in the seat according to our boarding passes. Finally, at midday the writing started which was the time we took off and finished a 12.45 pm, which was the landing time. Overall, I think the Big Write was a big success for everyone.

### **Big Write By Isobel McAllister**

On Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2018, we had an amazing Big Write. The topic was "Where in the World", grades prep to two had to write a narrative or recount about a place and grades three to six had to write an information report about Place we liked or wanted to research and write about.

When we came in from snack Miss Bone was dressed as an airhostess, she handed our passports to us, then lead us to the Multi-Purpose room (or international departures). At international departures, we had to stand in a tremendously long queue to go inside, in the queue Miss Bone handed us our tickets. All the teachers had also dressed as airhostesses and Bianca did a metal detecting scan at the door to go in, (which was actually a boom whacker), we also got our passports stamped. When we got inside Mrs Game played an air safety video, after everybody was inside Miss Bone sent everybody off to their gates. My plane was at gate 5.

Our classroom looked unbelievable, it was set up in rows like a real plane and we all had seat numbers. My seat was 2E. Candles were set up like lights to light up the aisle, and then it was time to write. We had forty minutes to write our piece of writing. I wrote about Egypt and thought I was finished with three minutes to go but when I was re-reading I realized I had missed a whole sentence, so I had to quickly write the sentence to finish right on the buzzer.

When Big Write had finished we had to place the special rainbow pencils back in the box and do a perimeter walk. I really really liked "Where in the World" Big Write.

