



THE RIPPER TIMES

Weekly Newsletter of Traralgon South Primary School

PRINCIPAL REPORT...

Lockdown 3.0:

In recent days, the article below was sent to me by a friend and I have found myself contemplating this piece quite a lot since. Normally our school is a noisy and vibrant place, even more so on a Friday afternoon. However, the announcement of a sudden lockdown last Friday seemingly come from nowhere and the visible disappointment and sadness from our students left our classrooms quiet, almost sombre. The COVID-19 rollercoaster has since continued and we are again on-site from Thursday 18 February, resuming our 'normal' school program. However, the purpose of this message is to ask everyone in our school community to make a deliberate effort to check-in with those close to you, ask for help if you need it, and let your children know how proud you are of them. And please, reach out to me if you need!

I've lost a year with my kids battling over school and I'm done.

My seven year old and I were in the midst of our usual asynchronous day battle. I had his writing homework in my hand from school. He'd written several full, well-thought-out sentences.

But he won't do the same for me, at least not without a fight.

I told him he didn't have to write about his best day like his teacher asked, he could write about his worst. He could write about whatever he wanted as long as he wrote a few sentences.

He said he'd get in trouble. He said he was doing a bad job in first grade. He was on the brink of tears but didn't know why.

And it hit me.

Instead of getting frustrated and pushing the assignment, I sat down with him at his desk in his superhero bedroom.

I said "you won't get in trouble and you can't fail first grade. In fact, you're kind of a superhero yourself."

He sat up in his chair just a little and looked at me with disbelief.

I said, "Do you know that no kids in the history of kids have ever had to do what you're doing right now? No kids in the history of kids have ever had to do school at home, sitting in their bedroom, watching their teacher on a computer. You and your friends are making history."

Principal: Joel Blythman

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Traralgon South, VIC, 3844

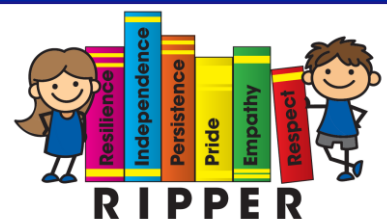
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A visible weight lifted from his seven year old shoulders, "What does that mean?"

I told him it means I haven't given him nearly enough credit for rolling with the punches. I told him how proud I am of him and his friends. That kids this year are doing the impossible and they're doing a really great job.

I apologized for not saying it sooner and more often. A little tear fell down his cheek.

We've thanked everyone from healthcare workers to grocery store employees but we haven't thanked the kids enough for bearing the burden of what we've put on their shoulders this year.

We've said kids are resilient, and they are. But they are the real superheroes in this whole scenario for having ZERO say in their lives but doing their best to adjust every day.

We closed his school-issued laptop and spent the rest of the day playing. This was supposed to be temporary and here we are a year later still trying to hold our head above water.

This is our home and I won't turn it into a battle ground anymore over something we can't control. Something that no longer makes sense.

Hug your little superheroes today and don't forget to cut them the slack we've given everyone else.

Written by Christine Derengowski

School Council Vacancies:

We are now calling for nominations for four parent members of our School Council. These positions are for a two-year term and will expire in March 2023. The closing date for nominations is 4pm Monday 22 February 2021, and these nominations can be undertaken by completing either a 'Self-Nomination Form' or 'Nomination Form' and returning it to the school. These forms are available from the General Office, but copies can also be provided via email should you prefer. Should we receive more nominations than positions available, ballot papers will be prepared and distributed.

Separate to the above process, we also have two parent member 12 month casual vacancies on School Council, with these becoming vacant following the graduation of the youngest child of the family. These positions can be filled through co-option and only when the abovementioned election process has concluded.

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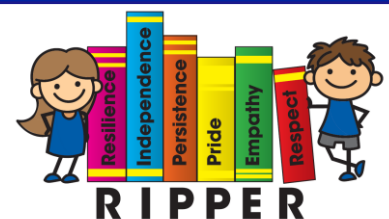
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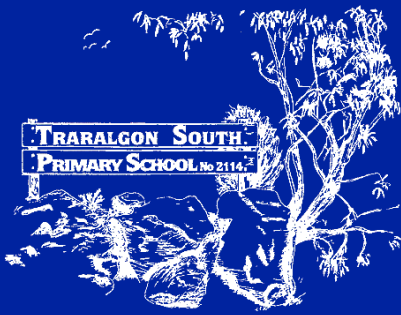
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Please contact me should you like any further information. I encourage parents to strongly consider joining our School Council and contributing to the exciting work of our school, thus supporting your child(ren) in their learning journey.

Reminder (re) 2021 Parent Payment Charges:

Please be reminded about the payment of 2021 school fees, due by 26 February 2021. This one-off \$160 payment allows classroom teachers to purchase all classroom consumable and essential student learning items for your child for the entire year, offering fantastic value at less than \$1/day. We also invite families to consider making voluntary contributions to our school, with this amount left to your discretion.

Full details of our Parent Payment Policy can be found on our website at https://www.traralgonsthps.vic.edu.au/uploads/1/0/8/4/10847507/parent_payments_policy_oct_2020.pdf, inclusive of payment methods and financial support options available for families.

Take care

Joel Blythman

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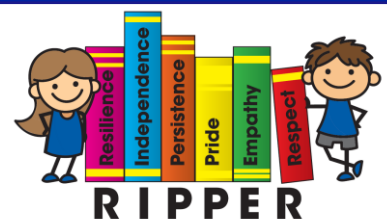
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DATES TO REMEMBER...

Prior to 26th February		School Materials Charges Due - For full details go to the documents tab or policies tab on our school website.
1st March	Monday	House Sports Permission Forms and Payment Due
5th March	Friday	Conveyance Allowance Applications Close
		Clean Up Australia Day
8th March	Monday	Labour Day Public Holiday
10th March	Wednesday	House Sports
17th March	Wednesday	District Sports
29th March	Monday	School Photos
1st April	Thursday	Last Day Term 1 - Early Dismissal 1:30pm

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