



SALTWATER
P-9 COLLEGE
wisdom begins with wonder

A note from the Principal



Dear Parents,

Children have all settled in nicely now and their assessments have been completed. We are now establishing routines and essential agreements across the school, these agreements will be made available to parents in a fortnight.

Year 1

Due to unforeseen circumstances our year 1A teacher can no longer fulfil her duties as a classroom teacher. I understand that there have been some interruptions in the classroom with numerous replacement teachers taking care of the class. However, rest assured that we have a plan in place and things will be rectified very shortly. We have advertised the teacher position and will be conducting interviews in the next week to fill that position. I anticipate that we will have a class teacher in place within the next one to two weeks.

In addition to this, I am also pleased to announce that we have recruited Gramatiki Alexiou as our Intervention and Extension Specialist and coach. Gramatiki will be working closely with our teachers and students in Year 1 and 2, supporting them in all areas of the curriculum.

Extension / Intervention & Lunchtime activities

These activities will begin shortly and will be offered to select students across all year levels.

Some of these activities include;

- Writing Enrichment Program (starting in the week beginning Monday 11th March)
- Art Therapy
- Art extension
- Maths extension
- Sport Incentive activities

I hope you all have a wonderful, well rested weekend and we shall see you all next week for another successful week of learning.

Jackie Daniali
Principal

News in Brief...

School Crossing Update

Thank you to the wider community who participated in the traffic/pedestrian surveys. The results of our surveys have met the criteria for a crossing and will now be submitted as a formal proposal to Vic Roads. It is still a possibility that this may not be approved by Vic Roads, however we would like to remain positive in the hope that it will be approved. It may still be a lengthy process but we will continue to proceed with it.

School Website

We are in the process of finalising our school website and online parent communication system. We will let you know when they are available.

School Photos

There are two days next week set aside for School Photo's
Monday 4th March- Class Photo's
Tuesday 5th March- Sibling Photo's

Students will need to be dressed in Academic school uniform. Please ensure they are photo ready.

If you child has P.E or Dance on one of these days they may bring their P.E uniform to change into after their photo has been taken.

Dogs at School

Dogs are not permitted within the school grounds at any time unless given approval by the Principal, in which an exception would be made for dogs that assist people with disabilities.

The sole reason for this is to provide a safe environment for students, toddlers and parents at the school.

It is not permitted to tether a dog at the school boundary fence. Owners must remain with their dogs, outside the school boundaries, at all times. Owners are responsible for the dog's behaviour and for cleaning up after their dog.

Introducing New Staff

It is with great delight that we announce the provisional appointments of our new staff member :
Gramatiki Alexiou
Intervention Specialist

School Council

Saltwater College will be calling for nominations for the following vacated positions on our College's School Council:

- Six parent positions
- Four DET employee positions

Parents are invited to collect a nomination form from the office on Monday, 4th March along with an information sheet. Nominations are to be submitted by 4pm on Monday, 11th March.

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

- A mandated elected DET employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category - members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

New Staff member

It is with great joy that I introduce myself to the Saltwater P-9 College community. I know I can have an impact and make a difference with student learning enabling Saltwater to become one of the best schools in Melbourne. In my professional career, I have worked at various schools but have spent the last 31 years working in various roles at Wembley Primary School. I have taught all year levels and I have also been privileged to have taught LOTE (Greek) for two years. I have worked as a facilitator leading many year levels where I have guided planning and helped in developing team goals. In the last 3 years, I have been working as an intervention teacher, where I have successfully assisted students to build on their learning, enabling them to gain confidence in themselves as learners, to show growth and reach targeted goals.

I come with a wealth of experience and knowledge that I can share with younger teachers. I look forward to working at Saltwater P-9 College, where I will be the Intervention Specialist. I strongly believe that every child can learn and this is what drives my work.

Targeting students' point of need is crucial to student growth. I know that I can make a difference and have a positive impact on the students.

I look forward to meeting you all.

Gramatiki Alexiou



News from the Specialists

Performing Arts

This week has been an exciting time in Performing Arts. Our classes are well underway, and the children are showing a lot of passion and commitment to the exercises that are being provided.

In Dance, Mr H has been focusing on building teamwork which also incorporates musicality, timing and following directions to a musical beat. This is combined with body awareness through stretching and control -- preps and their teachers are thoroughly enjoying themselves.

In Drama and Music, we've been learning about awareness of those around us, expressing how we feel, and being sensitive when providing feedback. The children have explored their inquisitive nature through interviewing and mirroring techniques and have shown their confidence through learning new songs, including one in Spanish.

Watch this space as we launch our extension program in the coming weeks.

The Performing Arts Team



Swimming

Swimming training will continue this Thursday 28th February and next Tuesday 5 March at 7:00am - 7:45am at Shawn's Swim School 35 Richards Rd Hoppers Crossing.

Followed by a team breakfast supplied by Anna Pace straight after swimming in the school's gym foyer.

The district swimming sports are Thursday 7th March at the Werribee outdoor pool.

Thanks,
Kelleigh

News from the Preps



IMPORTANT DATES

- Wednesday 27th February- Final Prep Wednesday off
- Monday 4th of March- Preps attend their first full week of school
- Monday 11th of March- Labour Day/no school

To Prep Parents,

Our Prep students have continued to make a very positive start to school. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new families who have recently joined us and we hope your child/ren are having as much fun as we are teaching them!

Hats

Can all parents ensure their child/ren bring their hat to school, and ensure it is labelled. It is the students responsibility to ensure they are taking care of their possessions whilst at school and if a hat is lost, parents will need to go to the school administration desk to see if it has been handed in. Any hats that are handed in to teachers will be placed in the child's locker for collection the following day.

Buddies

Our Prep students have had a great time over the last two weeks meeting and getting to know their new Grade 3/4/5 or 6 buddy. Students will continue this interaction on a weekly basis with their assigned buddy class over the year. They will engage in meaningful, fun activities that will further enhance all attributes of the learner profile.

The PYP (Primary Years Programme) develops young students as caring, active participants in a lifelong journey of learning. Through its inquiry led, transdisciplinary framework, the PYP challenges students to think for themselves and take responsibility for their learning as they explore local and global issues and opportunities in real-life contexts. Throughout the year, students will inquire into a central idea and lines of inquiry for each transdisciplinary theme in an engaging environment. There are 6 transdisciplinary themes, our Prep students will be covering 4 this year.

To kick start the term, the Preps have just begun their first unit of inquiry this week which will continue for 6 weeks, ending on the 5th of April. This unit will explore the Transdisciplinary Theme: Who We Are. Students will develop the Enduring Understanding (Central Idea) that 'We build a successful community when we work as a team'. This inquiry will explicitly focus on the key concepts of form (What is it like?), connection (How is it connected to other things?) and function (How does it work?).

These three lines of inquiry will guide student learning:

- Roles in a community (people and animals).
- Features of communities inside, around and outside our classroom.
- Respectful communication both verbal, non verbal and additional languages.

For each inquiry, students will be given the opportunity to bring in an artefact to support their understanding of the central idea. An artefact will allow students to make a personal connection with the inquiry and create opportunity for continual discussion within the classroom. Students will have the chance to present their artefact to the class, showing their connection to the inquiry, whilst developing their confidence. Lots of purposeful lessons have been planned for this inquiry, including presentations from a number of important community workers to further support student understanding.

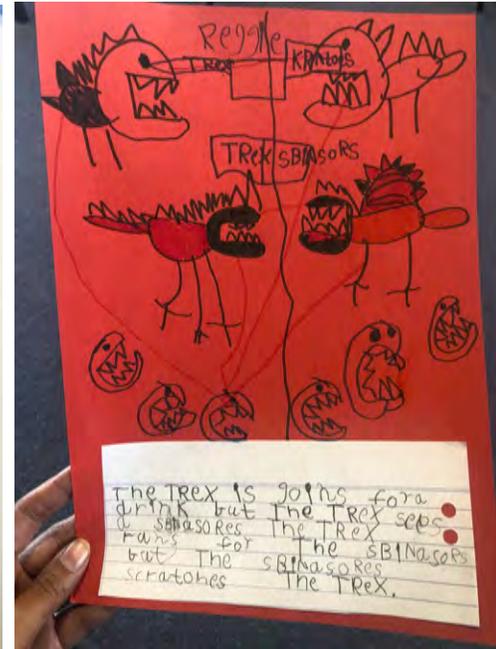
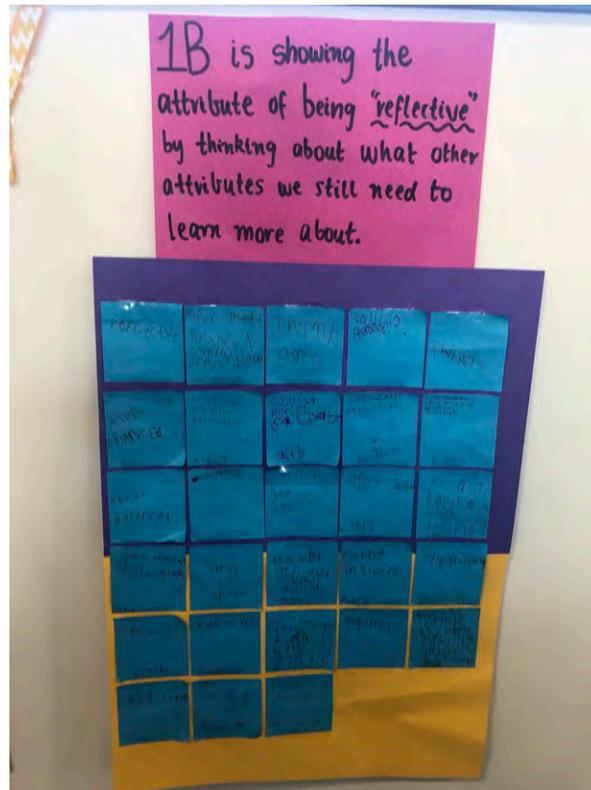
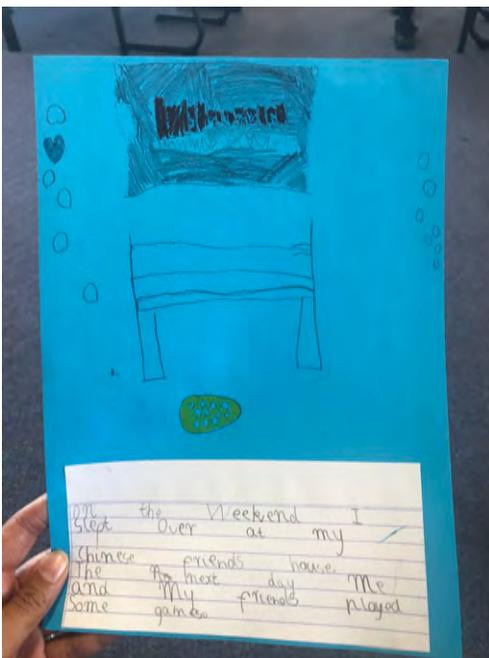
The Prep team would also love to invite parents into the classroom throughout each inquiry to share their expertise, knowledge and ideas. If you're interested in being involved or if you have any further questions about our inquiry, please contact your classroom teacher.

Thank you,
The Prep Team

News from Grade One

Wow how fast is this term going, we are already heading into week 5! We would firstly just like to say a huge thank you again for taking the time to come to the meet and greets that were held 2 weeks ago. It was highly beneficial getting to know the best strategies that will help us assist your child to the best of our abilities.

So far, the year 1 students have learned about what it means to embody the 10 attributes of the learner profile, being caring, thinkers, knowledgeable, risk-takers, inquirers, reflective, balanced, principled, open-minded and communicators and have begun putting together their classroom essential agreement. This will be displayed in the room as a reminder for each student to always be the best version of themselves and to help lead the way of them becoming globally-minded citizens.



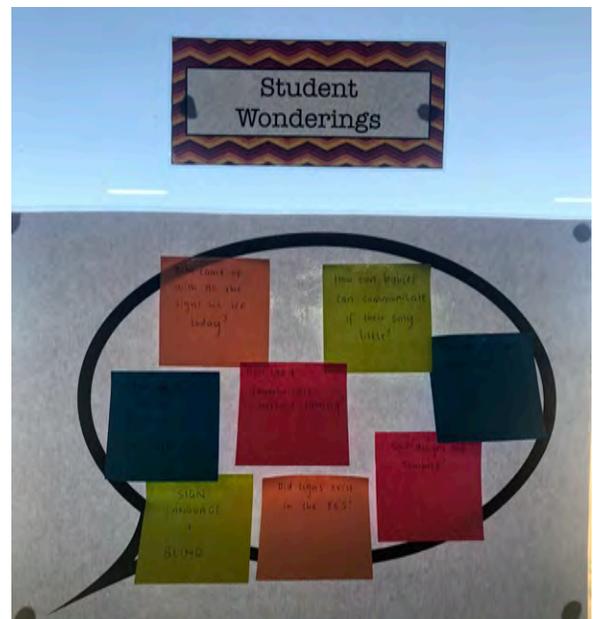
We also started looking into the writing process where the students were encouraged to write a short story, either a recount about themselves and their families or their own creative piece. Afterwards they began looking at what it means to revise their work by adding in more detail and edit their work by checking for things such as capital letters and full stops. They will soon move on to the publishing stage.

This week our first unit of inquiry commences with the central idea being 'signs, symbols and non-verbal cues are used to communicate' and we are so excited to see where student lead discussion and wonderings will take us!

Again, if you have any questions please feel free to come in before or after school.

Thank you and kind regards,

Denae Vines and Sheridan Jennings
Year 1 Teachers



News from Grade Two



We have just finished another fortnight of fun and learning in Year 2! The students have been busy learning about the attributes of the Learner Profile and working on our class Essential Agreements. Many students have demonstrated the attributes of Thinkers and Risk-Takers, as they help build our individual class agreements. We have also been enjoying Reading and Writing, particularly writing our picture-prompt stories. It's been great to hear the enthusiasm with which students have shared their stories with the class, and the supportive feedback other students have given. Our Writer's Notebooks also arrived, so we can't wait to start developing ideas and experimenting with different writing ideas. Don't forget to ask your child to show you the front cover of their Writer's Notebook, as they have been doing an excellent job of personalising their books!

Best regards,

Andrew McIntyre (2B) and Jessica Nardella (2A)

News from Grade Three

The grade Three's have had a fabulous start to Term 1 and have now completed 'The First 20 Days' program where classroom structures have been designed. The students are settling in well to Saltwater and are forging strong friendships with their peers.

Over the past week, Year 3 students have completed practice NAPLAN tests in order to identify areas for further improvement. Your child will be using their results to set personal learning goals in Reading, Writing, Spelling and Mathematics. These will then be worked on both in class and for homework, to ensure a smooth lead up to the NAPLAN testing in week 4 of Term 2.

In week 5, Year three's will be beginning their first Unit of Inquiry "Who We Are". This unit will focus on understanding the benefit of healthy lifestyle choices and how the systems in our body function. We encourage families to find time in their day to discuss what their child is learning within the Unit of Inquiry, in order to help further develop their understanding of these global concepts.



Important Reminders

If you missed the Meet and Greet Day, you can still arrange a time to meet your child's teacher. These meetings are important and highly beneficial in ensuring your child's needs are appropriately met.

Homework will begin in week 5 (beginning Monday 25/2/18) and will follow a fortnightly program. It is essential that students are completing this homework and parents are supporting them in establishing good study habits.

Now that homework has started and notes are being handed out, students must bring their satchels to school every day.

In term 1 it is required that all students wear a hat when playing outside. Please ensure your child brings a hat that it clearly labelled.

Assembly Awards

Each week two awards, based on the attributes of the IB learner profile, will be awarded by each classroom teacher.

In week 4, these awards were given to:

Blaine Scott (3A): For being courageous when speaking at the Saltwater College's opening ceremony.

Lazarus Akoika Savaii (3A): For being a risk-taker and consistently pushing himself to try new things.

Kevin Li (3B): For demonstrating care for members of our classroom as well as our school.

Yulin Han (3B): For being a great communicator within our classroom and sharing her ideas during discussions.

Assemblies are held every Monday morning and we invite any families who wish to attend to make their way to the school's gymnasium for a 9am start.

Year 3 Thinkers

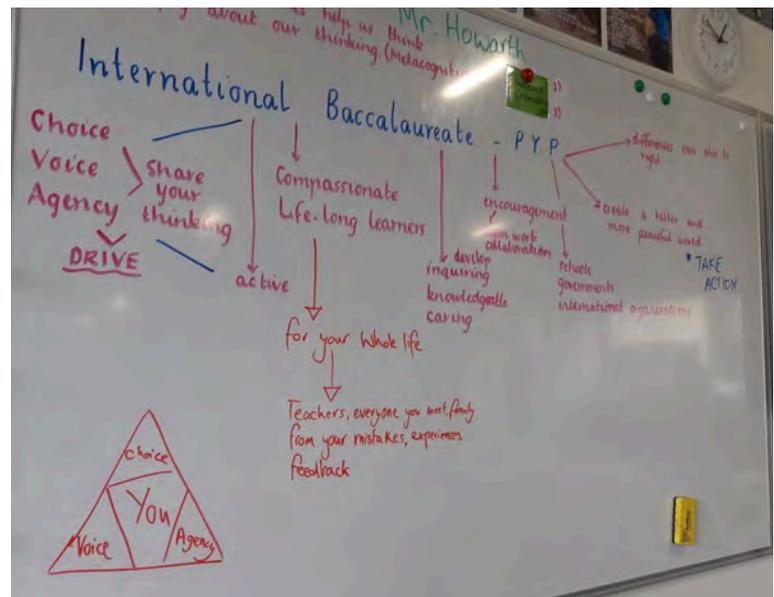
Whilst unpacking the attributes of the IB Learner Profile this week, students discussed what it means to be a 'thinker'. To test their thinking skills, they worked in groups or individually to solve tangrams. Whilst a challenge, students attacked the task with persistence and team-work.

News from Grade Four

The year 4 team have been busy bees over the past few weeks as we have been learning and wondering about International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program and our role in driving the learning through our wonderings and student choice, voice and agency. Mr Nicolaides was our guest to help us unpack the elements and facilitated our emergent questioning using the Compass Points. The year 4 students asked questions that they needed to know, things they were excited about, questions about their stance on the topics and things which they were worried about. These questions were collected by the year 4 teachers Mr. Howarth and Ms. Whale and were used assist planning our upcoming unit of inquiry 'Who We Are'. A reminder to year 4 parents that we have an excursion to the Immigration Museum on Friday the 15th of March to provoke student wonderings about global belief systems, cultures and our identity.

Students welfare and well being has been a focus supported through teaching and learning about the Zones of Regulation. In groups, students discussed the emotions and what strategies they could use to regulate their feelings and maintain control over their actions. Students lead discussion and shared their ideas and experiences, collaborating to make a well-rounded approach to regulate each emotion zone so in any situation they can be in the green zone. When students are in the red, yellow or blue zone it makes it challenging to be ready to learn.

Finally, we got to meet our buddies! An important part of any community is welcoming and supporting newcomers. As leaders of the school, the Grade 4 cohort takes great delight in modelling positive behaviours to the preps and showing them how to be a good student here at Saltwater. Over the course of the year, we will meet regularly with our buddies. We will help them with their learning, and be someone the preps can count on for support in the schoolyard. With a focus on empathy, we will understand how daunting school can sometimes be, and make sure our buddies are made to feel safe, secure, and supported.



News from Grade Six

As we nearly reach the halfway mark of Term 1, the Year 6 students have started their Independent Goal Setting after examining the misconceptions formed in their recent Naplan Year 7 Assessment. This assessment was conducted as a teaching resource for the students. I believe it is important for the students to be given the opportunity to analyse their own work, acknowledge the areas that they exceed in and identify areas for further improvement and clarification. Using the data gathered from these assessments, students have participated in a one-to-one conference with myself where we have set challenging yet achievable goals for the students to work towards.



From the Numeracy Assessment, as a collective group we all decided that our whole class focus will be on Fractions / Decimals and Percentages. Students have been creating 'Mini-Anchor' charts on 'What they know about Fractions'.



Part of our 'Learning to Learn' workshops, students have been engaging in hands-on rich learning tasks that encourage our young leaders to think outside the box. In a recent task about how the hemispheres of our brains work, students answered a set of statements that best resonated with them. The aim of this lesson was to highlight that each hemisphere of our brain is responsible for different actions and that all extremely successful people tend to be a balanced mix between the two types of thinking. For Example, Einstein was both able to think creatively "outside the box" (right brain) and to look at things mathematically/analytically (left brain). The intent of the lesson was for the students to explain how stepping out of their comfort zone will in-turn increase "communication" between the two brain hemispheres.



Student Reflection: Jackline 6A

Since I moved to Saltwater College I have loved being at school everyday because Saltwater College has wonderful teachers, a wonderful Principal and lovely peers. In 6A, I've also loved being a year 6 Leader because I like helping people in the yard and I've love being in 6A because I've made a lot of friends who are very caring and nice . I've also liked how the school is built. Saltwater College has caring people and risk takers. Even though the school is not done with its buildings , I still love being here.

Student Reflection: Tom 6A

When I got told I was going to Saltwater College I was not so sure about it because I had all my friends back at Carranballac College. But then my friend from Carranballac told me that he was going to Saltwater College and I was really excited to go and couldn't wait to come here. On the first day of school I wanted to get here straight away so I left the house at 8:30 and got here at 8:59 and was in the classroom. Now I am in the awesome class of 6A and have the most best teacher named Mr Nicolaides. (So if you see Mr Nicolaides in the school yard make his day and say hello to him).



Thank you,

Michael Nicolaides

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