

Fitzroy Community School

PRACTICAL POINTS FOR PARENTS

to be distributed with each January Newsletter

ARRIVAL TIMES and BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

Official start time is 8.40 am.
Staff are on duty as from 8am.
Children and staff are called to the (compulsory) morning meeting at 8.50am. Parents are welcome. Visiting teachers are welcome.

MORNING MEETINGS

Are an important part of our school life and ethos. Many important things are discussed. Our expectation is that children will be here in time to be called at 8.50am. Meetings occur on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

LUNCH

The children do not bring lunch to school. They make it here. Sometimes there is a hot meal.

This sharing of common food is a key feature of this school. It contributes to the development of living skills and to a family atmosphere.

We ask parents to support this practice with their children because of the community spirit it helps create.

Both vegetarians and omnivores are routinely catered for. If your child has special dietary or medical requirements please speak to Jeannette.

Staff, parents and friends, please understand that you too are invited to partake of school food and drink in the school kitchen at any time.

School adults please tidy up after yourself when using the kitchen. Any adults who remind the children to tidy

up after themselves are appreciated. Coaching of children in domestic skills is also appreciated.

THE SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

On Tuesdays, Arthur kindly goes to the Vic Market to buy a whole stack of goodies: fruits, veges, breads, meats, olives, cheeses and dips.

We like to offer soup once a week in winter, but need a volunteer to either make it at home, or at school with the kids. This job would be daunting if it were the same person each week, so if possible, we would like a parent or friend to offer this once or twice a year, or if they are really into this activity, once a term.

The cost of all ingredients will be met by the lunch fund, so any cooks will be reimbursed. If this idea appeals, please speak to Tim.

Any other lunch ideas appreciated, especially if the shopping and enacting of them comes with the inspiration!

DAILY FINISHING TIME

School finishes at 3pm. Please collect children for the homeward journey by 3:20pm. When your child has after-school gym or clay please be at school by 3:55/4.55pm to pick them up.

There is no supervision outside of these times and activities.

SWIMMING

First swim will be on Wednesday 7th Feb and every Wednesday thereafter. Bring bathers and towel. Make sure 8-hour sunscreen is applied before

school. While weather is hot, swimming is at Fitzroy Pool (Alexander Parade). In March we go to Brunswick Baths (Dawson Street).

LOLLY DAY

On Wednesday afternoons only, children may go to the corner shop for lollies. Prep to Year 4 must wait to be escorted by teachers or parents.

Small children typically bring \$1- on this day. There are to be no lollies or soft drinks at school at any other time. NO chewing or bubble gum EVER !

ROAD SENSE IS ESSENTIAL

in our school – new parents please note. We are an inner urban school and we front onto a busy street. We have many outings. Please ensure your children understand that the road is dangerous and that they are not to cross any street without an adult. Please also tell your child not to wait outside the front door.

Concerning BOOTS and SHOES and EXPENSIVE clothes

There tends to be a bit of an agonised search for footwear and other gear at the end of the school day, especially for small people and especially on hot days (when it has been removed!).

To avoid the necessity for a distressing end to the school day, we recommend good quality shoes from the opportunity shop, several pairs of. Same with socks and other clothes.

Besides, we do not want the children to think that shoes and clothes are the important element of the school day.

Most items do tend to resurface eventually, but not always. Also, socks do not need to match!

PARENTS, KEEP IN TOUCH!

Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time on any day - 100% access. Tea, coffee and bikkies always on tap. Parents who are not able to visit regularly are urged to take at least a couple of hours per term to spend time at the school.

If teachers have any concerns, they will contact parents. Similarly, parents are encouraged to initiate a chat with teachers or to make an appointment if desired — even if only for an update.

On two occasions, once in Term 1 and once in Term 4, there is a Family Day at the land – at the school campsite - to which families and friends are invited. Dates on Calendar. Map available for new families.

Also, every Wednesday afternoon, there is an adults' afternoon tea 3pm-4pm in the school kitchen - for any parents and/or friends who may wish to stay and chat. Dads too!

[On the (mercifully infrequent) occasions that parents have grown anxious about something, it is almost always the case that they have not spent any time at school, and have only an imaginary picture of the lifestyle of the school. A picture is worth a thousand words!]

*Tim, Faye, Jeannette, Philip,
& all the Staff*

