

Child Side Update Term 4 Nov

End of Year Up Date: School closes at **12 o'clock THIS Thursday 14th December**. Thank you for being prompt and making sure that EVERYTHING is taken home, including bikes, helmets, shoes, hats, water bottles, your child's report (see Family Message Boxes)...

Please note that your child's report is written for parents and future educators and that items in Family Message Boxes are for parents to collect to ensure that nothing is misplaced or unread. There were a lot of bikes on the grass on Friday for left for tired educators to pack away and lots of water balloons still lying around. It was also noted that many children had ill-fitting helmets that would not protect their heads in a crash, so for safety please check this out during the holidays when you are active with your child. Please also ensure that water bottles are not left behind as these are frequently left behind every holiday and we are aiming to teach children responsibility for their personal goods and not leave this up to others to find and return for them. There was an astounding amount of children on the Wheel and Wet day who were stressed about not remembering helmets or towels and others who left their water bottles, clothes and wheels out for others to collect for them. It was a big and busy day for our staff whom do not get morning tea and lunch breaks in a quiet staff room nor whom sit children in front of movies and wait out the end of year. Child Side Staff put their heart and soul into supporting the children's community, helping them stay constructively connected with each other, active and contributing right up until the very last day. Hands on families who join in, help clean up and get children organised and settled are greatly, greatly appreciated. It takes a whole village....

Exhibitions of learning for both MCC and YACs are scheduled in the final week to keep learners engaged, accountable and purposeful. Supportive and interested audiences who understand the progressive nature of exhibition skills and confidence building and end of year exhaustion are highly valued! Finding out about children's learning journeys is a highlight for many parents and a chance to interact on a different level with their own and other people's children. Post Child Side learners and Manea Senior College (Yr 11-12) report back on the high value of being able to talk intellectually with adults and share their work publicly. This is a design feature of Big Picture schools and one we greatly invest in for the lifelong benefit for all children. They are the active ingredient in the curriculum!

Please see Story Park for other ways to engage with your child about work and learning the Child Side way across the school. AISWA is currently writing up a publication about best practice in education and has given us positive feedback about the value of sharing children's learning visually through Story Park and exhibitions which put children firmly at the heart of education rather than text books, worksheets, colouring in, tests, exam results, digital programmes....

Please finalise any outstanding accounts with Karron in the office and make sure that all absentee notes are up to date. Our very small school depends upon family fees to enable our high adult to child ratio, small class sizes and highly resourced and physically engaging learning environment, which are our unique points of difference to other schools in our region.



Child Side wishes to acknowledge the Capel Shire for its annual ongoing contribution to our library stock with a \$100 book voucher. We also wish to acknowledge Mad Cycles for the donations for the cycle skills programme and the opportunity in 2018 for a new bike to be donated and raffled off to support the school's mountain bike programme. We acknowledge the value of our ongoing experts like AJ, who enable children to develop physical resilience and life health skills.

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."
Calvin Coolidge.

Important dates:

12 o'clock Thursday 14th December: Last half day of the school year. Please be prompt. We have had parents forget every year which puts pressure on staff and tired children, so please put this on your reminder list! Any offers of help to clean up HUB after Christmas Spiral appreciated. Clean up of kitchens in each cluster and placing everything from outdoors in sheds are other jobs that are very welcomed by staff to have help with on this last half day of school.

MCC Exhibitions of Learning: Today at 1:30pm in HUB.

YAC Exhibitions of Learning: Tuesday 12th December at 1:30 in HUB.

YAC lunch at Bull and Bush Restaurant Boyanup 11:30 walk on Wednesday 13th. Excursion permission note and \$ required.
MCC Ginger Bread House Boyanup Wednesday 13th 11:30 walk. Excursion permission slips and \$ required.

This is an acknowledgement of their daily work in the kitchen garden programme and of their community skill builders they have developed over the year to feed themselves.

Christmas Spiral Wednesday 13th from 6pm. Please bring own picnic for family, picnic blankets, **candles in glass containers** for safety, Christmas memories for our spiral and fresh rosemary for remembrance.

School returns on Wednesday 31st January 2018 for PP to Year 10 and on **Friday 2nd February 2018** for Kindies.