PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Parental Supervision – continued from last week

Conflicting values of shows/themes
Certain themes like revenge may not be ideal to teach your seven to eight-year-old, but they are portrayed in movies. The important point is that labels need to be given to shows and games that deal with such plots and an explanation given as to what the characters are doing. Revenge does occur, this is how the movie plot is dealing with it, it is something the parents have to discuss with their child.

Sometimes culture and religious beliefs mean parents limit or screen what their children can watch. Here, an honest explanation as to why parents believe their children shouldn’t be viewing or interacting with such programs may be in order, especially if there is a risk that they may go behind your back and source it. If [the reason given] is something like ‘Just because’ or ‘Because I said so’ a child with a certain personality might go looking for it themselves to find out why they can’t watch it.

If, however, a parent acknowledges that their child would like to watch the show and explains that the reasons have to do with their family values or culture for instance, it might be better received.

More harm than good?
The brain of a child who’s seven or eight does not have the necessary processes in place to exercise the judgement necessary to make sense of M-rated games. A lot of parents aren’t even aware that the ratings are there for a reason. At this age, looking for big banks to loot and zombie monsters to kill will not be something a child can do with the strategic mindset or understanding demanded by these games. Graphics can also be so realistic, bloody and gory; they might result in the child having nightmares.

Regular exposure to M-rated content where the language might be peppered with profanities and disrespect may also impact an impressionable seven or eight-year-old’s speech. If they are exposed to expletives regularly, whether on a show or in their house, they will absorb them as ‘normal’. This ‘sponglike’ phenomenon applies more to younger children, but if a seven or eight-year-old has been exposed to such things for most of their life, they will become normal for them. And if they start watching this material at age seven or eight and the adults in their life don’t say that they can’t, or don’t turn it off, or at least don’t comment that it is wrong, then the kids won’t have the understanding that using expletives is not okay.

Words of wisdom from the experts
1 Set boundaries from early on in children’s lives. Instil the message that we only watch G or PG material in our family.

2 Watch news programs when kids have gone to bed. This is especially important if a child (of any age) is anxious or has a predisposition to anxiety or worry. If they do come across tragic events, reassure them that even though these events have happened in real life, the child, their family and friends are safe.

3 Be prepared to keep pace with children as they grow older. Assess whether an M-rated show might be appropriate for a particular child’s personality, intelligence and maturity by watching it first. Be available for explanations and fast-forward any questionable parts.

4 Always encourage open discussion about content your children interact with, allowing them the confidence to ask questions when confused.

5 Don’t allow TVs and other devices in kids’ bedrooms.

6 Use parental locks and passwords but try to invest more in gaining their trust.

All the information contained in this article comes from child psychologists and educationalists; worthy of thought and hopefully action too if necessary.

Helen Miller
Principal

THERE WILL BE NO SUBWAY ORDERS THIS WEEK AS WE ARE HAVING THE SAUSAGE SIZZLE ON FRIDAY
Prep Enrolments
Please drop in your enrolment forms and remind any friends, relatives or neighbours about this; early enrolments assist us in ascertaining the number of Prep classes we will have in the new year. We already have the highest number of enrolments ever for 2015!

DIARY DATES

10th September    Zoo Excursion for Groups 1/2/7
11th September    Visiting author
12th September    Out of Uniform Day – Sausage Sizzle

Kanga Cricket at Donath Reserve for Selected Year 3/4 students

15th September    Preps - Reservoir Library visit
19th September    Last day of Term 3
Assembly: 1:00pm
Students Dismissed: 2:00pm

6th October       Term 4 commences
9th October       Swimming commences for Prep/1/2’s
11:30am – 1:30pm
13th October      School Council Meeting at 7:00pm

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

“Happy Birthday” to

Tien, Alessio, Calie, Alex and Jack

who are all celebrating their birthdays this week.

CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all those generous families who have sold chocolates as part of our Fundraising event.

When you have sold your chocolates please send along the $50.00 and we hope to receive the money no later than Friday 12/9/14.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following children who were presented with Student of the Week and Encouragement Awards last Friday at assembly:


The ‘You Can Do It’ Award was presented to

Group 11

for persisting to improve classroom behaviour. An enormous well done!

The ‘You Can Do It’ Award was presented to

The Year 5’s

for demonstrating maturity and ‘getting along’ skills whilst visiting Reservoir High’s Production

SPECIAL EVENTS

MOVEMENT MAKES MUSIC
Classic Kids 3 with the Australian Ballet Dance Education Ensemble
Conductor: Benjamin Northey

The MSO and Australian Ballet Dance Education Ensemble unite to create a program which highlights the link between movement and music. Children will be
engaged aurally and kinetically through activities which encourage listening and responding to the elements of music and dance. **22nd October – 24th October**

**Bookings are essential**

3-26 September  **Plant Craft Cottage**
FREE  Demonstration Days: 9, 12, 17, 18 and 26th September
Watch members demonstrate their plant craft skills.
10:30am – 2pm
FREE  Sunday Open Day: 21st Sep. Explore the heritage listed cottage 10am- 3pm
Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne 9650 3235

FREE  14th September **Mexican independence Day**
Enjoy live music, Mexican art, kid’s corner, piñata workshop and more.
11:30am- 7:30pm
Federation Square, Melbourne. [fedsquare.com](http://fedsquare.com)

FREE  20th Sep and 4th Oct **MSO Family Jams**
Jam with members of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Register online.
20th Sep: Family Jams 6 yrs +
11am and 12:30pm
Bring along an instrument or borrow one from the MSO and develop an original piece of music.

FREE  22- 26 Sep  **AFL Grand Final Week**
Family friendly entertainment including the Kicks 4 Kids clinic, music and performances, live broadcasts on the Big Screen and a chance to meet AFL stars. 10am- 4pm

FREE  **Big Screen Gaming**  29 and 30th Sep and 1st of Oct.
Play Xbox on a large outdoor screen. Games will include arcade classics and new releases and all have G or PG rating. 11am- 2pm
Federation Square, Melbourne 9655 1900 [fedsquare.com](http://fedsquare.com)

FREE  1-5 Oct  **Terrapin Puppet Theatre’s I Think I Can**
7 years +
Drop-in activity where kids can choose a miniature puppet and play out an adventure on a large scale model railway.
1 Oct: 12-4pm
2 Oct: 10 am- 2pm
3 Oct: 11am – 2pm and 5:30pm- 8:30pm
5 Oct: 11am-3pm
Gallery 1, Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne. 1300 182 183, (See website for details and session times).

**OCTONAUTS**  20th September- 5th October
Meet the Octonauts at Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium this school holidays!
Meet Captain Barnacles and Friends  11am- 2pm daily.

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**LOST PROPERTY**

All Lost Property is now on display in the corridor outside the Sick Bay so if your child has lost any items of clothing this term please come along and check.

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**THORBURY HIGH SCHOOL**

**Grade 4 & 5**

**Girls’ Night Out @ THS**

This evening is an opportunity to hear first hand from a panel of current Year 7 and Senior Girls about their experiences at Thornbury High. Your daughter will be asked to participate in a variety of activities which showcase some of our innovative and exciting curriculum options. What better way to make a decision about your daughter’s secondary education than by meeting and chatting with the girls who experience it every day.

**Thursday 11th September 7pm-8.30pm**

The Library
Thornbury High School
238 Collins Street, Thornbury 3071
RSVP: 9480 4066

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**PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE**

All completed lists need to be handed to Mrs Clark before the end of this week.

Many thanks.

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**Pancakes Afternoon**

We are celebrating the end of term with a Pancake afternoon.

Wednesday 17th September from 3.30pm - 4pm.

$1 - $2 pancakes with maple syrup and ice cream or lemon and sugar. Pay when you buy!

Come to the school kitchen to join our sweet celebration, next Weds after school!

**Sue Boucher & Beth Dolan**
Our September Darebin Arts’ Loud Mouth School Holiday Shows are now on sale!

**The Harbinger**
An old man hides away in a dusty old bookshop, forgotten and alone with only a handful of beautiful memories as comfort. Haunted by painful memories of a much happier time and place, he toils away long days to forget. But when a young girl arrives, desperate for protection, the old man is forced to relive the pain and pleasures of his own past and uncover a chance to change the city forever….
Recommended for children 10+ and their families
Thursday 25th September 7pm, Friday 26th September 11am and 7 pm

**Still Awake Still**
Miss Ivory Tinklefinger, Queen of Sleep, is hired to sing the audience to sleep, but tonight her piano has a mind of its own. Her lullabies come alive – and the consequences are wild!
What’s going on? Can she resist the urge to play? And what will she create with the magic her music has unleashed? Based on much-loved songs from “I’m Still Awake Still” this performance is perfect for children 4-10 and their families.
Wednesday 1st October 10am and 1pm.

For further information and to purchase tickets visit darebinarts.com.au or phone 8470 8280
Subway lunches are on FRIDAYS ONLY - orders are collected on THURSDAY at 9.00am

Place money and order in an envelope or bag marked clearly with child’s name and Group and give to the classroom teacher. **Separate orders are required for each child. Correct money is required, no change will be given.**

Please note that Subway do not put butter on their rolls.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CIRCLE WHICH NUMBER YOU WISH TO ORDER – YOU ALSO NEED TO CIRCLE WHAT SALAD ITEMS YOU WOULD LIKE**

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**Please Note: Late orders will not be accepted**