

Congupna Primary School

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



WEB: www.congupnaps.vic.edu.au

PHONE: (03) 5829 9286

EMAIL: congupna.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Dear School Community,

Fidget Spinners have certainly been a topic of conversation amongst teachers and educational leaders recently. Please see a recent article from the Shepparton News that we have included in this newsletter for reference to this conversation. Throughout the Term so far, our staff have made the following observations about Fidget Spinners:

- *They may have some educational merit for some children in some classroom tasks,*
- *They are inappropriate for hands-on tasks (because you actually lose half of your hands) including writing,*
- *They can prove a distraction to those that do not have them (who are now in the minority),*
- *Students who do not have them can feel excluded, and*
- *They inhibit most students ability to actively listen in order to follow specific direction or to participate in important classroom discussions.*

We do universally concur however, that these spinners are fun for children! It is for this reason that we are happy for them to come to school but as a general rule, they will not be used in classrooms. Classroom Teachers will be encouraged to use their professional judgement and make exceptions for certain tasks at their discretion and/or for certain students that have a referral from a Paediatrician or Occupational Therapist. We have come to this conclusion in an endeavour to make our classrooms the best learning environments they can be for all students. Please make an appointment to come and see me if you have any questions or issues regarding this.

Our Open Days got off to a great start on Monday with quite a few families attending to get more information about our school for next year. We had a lovely morning walking around the school and through our lovely classrooms.

All of our students and teachers did a terrific job when I 'put them on the spot' with some impromptu questions from the audience. It was fantastic to see students were able to articulate bridge design, what STEM is, what Coding is and to explain our Big Write and Words Their Way programs. I hope our visitors were impressed because I certainly was! We have another one on Friday and hope it goes just as well.

Our Term Two Working Bee will take place this Sunday from 9:30–11am. Could attendees please bring cutting tools to trim our trees along the front of the school? We will also need a couple of trailers to get rid of our trimmed branches. There will be some pressure washing to do too so some gumboots and safety glasses would be handy. We will have two pressure washers available.

Our Sporting Schools program at School has swung into action once again. This Term we are focussing on Volleyball and it is fantastic to see our children participating in non-mainstream sports such as these by Coaches that are approved by Volleyball Victoria.

A small band of our Grade Five and Six students will join Katandra West and Tallygaroopna Primary Schools to participate in Interschool Football and Netball on Friday. It is fantastic to be able to band together with our fellow Cluster Schools for things like our Cruisers Soccer and Interschool Football and Netball teams so that our students can participate in these fantastic opportunities.

Thanks for Reading, Adam Cleary - Principal

Thought for the Week

Failure gives the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.

Congupna Cruisers Round 3 Wrap

Under 6's

What a great weekend it was for junior soccer. With a few Cruisers missing this weekend we called upon Reuben's 4 year old brother Lachie to step up and don the blue and yellow striped gown and he loved it. As did the other 5 regulars, Cooper, Tait, Jessie, Sophie and Reuben who all had plenty of fun. The intensity the kids showed was inspiring, particularly our skipper for the day, Cooper. He might have shed a few tears along the way but he just kept getting up and going in hard time after time. The highlight for me was the great sportsmanship showed by Sophie who was there with a helping hand and some kind words of encouragement almost every time Cooper went down. And for this she took home the weekly award. It was great to see the Cruisers' number one ticket holder Mrs Sidey come to support the young stars. We scored some goals and the other team scored some goals and we can't wait for next week. **Coach Brett.**

Under 7's

The weather was beautiful again for our U 7 Cruisers and we had our first 'later start' at 10am. We came up against a well-drilled St Lukes side that did some pretty amazing things like clearing a ball off the goalline with a header and scoring directly from the corner! Despite our sterner opposition, it was our best 'passing' game and the kids all had a great time.

The final score was 2-8 and our goal scorers were Tom (1) and Own Goal (1). The Encouragement Award went to Kai for using initiative to play a 'kick behind play' and shore up our defence when it was needed. **Coach Cleary.**



Under 8's

The team went up against Shepparton East on the weekend. It was a very even game with both teams showing some great ball skills. Only one goal was scored for the game and unfortunately it was not a Cruiser's goal. Leigh captained the team well and had the second half as a goal keeper, showing off his super boot kicking action. Award winners for the game went to a couple of Tallygaroopna recruits – Bodie and Diesel. Fun is still the name of the game for fast improving under 8 Cruisers. **Coach Linton**



Under 10's

A very early start for the u10 Cruisers this week starting at 8:30. We played against St Luke's who were a well oiled team scoring a fantastic 10 goals. Our wonderful team scored 2 great goals from Sean and Ethan, well done boys. The teamwork and bring the ball down was great to see. Defence was good, thanks to our goalies this week who had their work cut out for them. Everyone played a great game. Award this week went to Deacon. GO CRUZERS! week went to Darcy and Will.

GO CRUISERS! **Team Manager Kylie Sutton**

We are **KIND**

We are **BRAVE**

We are **CURIOUS**



2017 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

President – Geoff Jacobson, **Secretary** - Wendy Sidebottom (DET Representative) **Members** - Adam Cleary (Principal), Andrew Fletcher, Narkea Rogers, Fiona Davis, Andrew Miles, Tracy Gauci (Parents & Friends Representative)

2017 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

TERM 2

6:30pm on Tuesday 13th June 2017

TERM 3

6:30pm on Tuesday 1st August 2017

6:30pm on Tuesday 5th Sept 2017

TERM 4

6:30pm on Tuesday 24th October 2017

6:30pm on Tuesday 5th December 2017

TERM 2 CALENDAR

May

19th

School Open Day 9-11am

21st

Term 2 Working Bee

23rd

Gr 4/5/6 Reedy Swamp Excursion

30th

Sporting Schools - Volleyball

June

1st

Congupna FC Footy Tea –

Volunteers needed!

2nd

Pie Drive forms and money due

2nd

GV Health Smiles Program

6th

Sporting Schools- Volleyball

13th

Sporting Schools - Volleyball

9th

Curriculum Day (No Students)

12th

Queens Birthday Public Holiday

21st

Parents and Friends Meeting 6pm

22nd

Cluster Alpha Performance -

Snow Queen

26th

Gr 5/6 Doxa City Camp begins

30th

Gr 5/6 Doxa City Camp ends

30th

Last day of Term Early Finish at 2pm

5 Cent Drive Fundraiser



Parents & Friends are running a “5 Cent Drive Challenge”



The fundraiser is a fun and easy way to raise funds for our school. Each class will have a coin container for students to put 5c coins in that they have collected and at the end of the fundraiser the class that has collected the most 5 cent coins, wins a prize!

So start looking around the house and car, fruit bowls and all the other places that 5c coins tend to hide. Why not get the whole family involved as well by asking Nan & Pop to help your class too.

Thankyou :)



Students of the Week!



From left: Piper Rogers, Brodie Kelly, Alina Ismet and Shakhean Stewart

'We are KIND' Award

For displaying qualities at school that make these students KIND people.

Piper Rogers - For showing kindness to everyone in the F/1 grade. Awesome!

Alina Ismet - For being a kind and caring friend to others. Well done!

Shakhean Stewart - for being kind and starting to fit into our little school. Well done!

Kiwanis TERRIFIC KID of the Week

Brodie Kelly - For being an awesome student at Congupna Primary School.

Fidget fixer or a fad?

CRAZE WINDS UP WITH MIXED OPINIONS ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS AS CLASSROOM CALMER

By Barclay White

Forget yo-yos and Pokemon Go, the latest school yard craze is a small toy that has been promoted as a tool to help children concentrate.

The popularity of fidget spinners has exploded in the past few weeks, with children using the dedicated "fidget" toy while sitting in classrooms or watching TV.

The craze has been both praised and criticised by educators, as more and more school children turn up to class with a fidget spinner in their hand.

Prominent Shepparton paediatrician Dr Peter Eastaugh said the toys were sold to parents in slightly deceptive ways.

"They are marketed as a tool for helping children with their concentration, but the feedback I have been



Spin obsession: Are fidget spinners a classroom distraction?

getting from teachers is that they are more of a distraction," Dr Eastaugh said.

"It is a brilliant marketing concept."

He said the small toy was similar

in many ways to stress balls, and that even he had one, and used it often.

The toy is small enough to sit in a child's hand and can spin along a central axis.

Although he did not think the toy could cause any harm to children, he was sceptical of any claim that it would help children with ADHD concentrate in school.

"The marketing has been quite clever because parents rightfully have anxiety about giving their kids stimulants; parents will seek anything else rather than giving their kids amphetamine-based drugs," he said.

From conversations he has had with teachers, he said it sounded like the gadgets had become a distraction in many classrooms.

"They are so popular that whole classrooms have had to abandon

them, every kid is spinning their fidget spinner and not doing their work," he said.

Bourchier Street Primary School principal Denise Howley estimated about one in six students at the school had a fidget spinner.

"Some teachers are okay with them and some teachers find them distracting," Ms Howley said.

She said there had not been any blanket ban on the spinners at the school, and it was up to teachers to determine if they could be used in the classroom.

"It is a bit like the yo-yo or Pokemon, it is a bit of a craze," she said.

Although many children were obsessed with the spinners at the moment, she predicted that — like most crazes — it would die out in a while.

● Editorial, page 10.

Congratulations to our School Banking savers!

Congratulations to our School Banking students who have earned 10 silver Dollarmites tokens and were eligible to redeem these tokens for an exclusive School Banking reward item!

Hamish Scott
Darcy Jackson
Tayla Jackson



Keep up the great work and remember, School Banking day is every Tuesday.



Goulburn Valley Dental Service
Graham St
Shepparton 3630
Dental Reception Phone: 58323 050

YOUR GUIDE TO THE SCHOOL DENTAL PROGRAM AT GOULBURN VALLEY DENTAL SERVICE.

WHO CAN USE THE SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE (SDS)?

- All primary school children in grades prep to six
- All children enrolled in Special or Special Development Schools
- Children in years seven to twelve whose parents hold a current
- Concession or Health Care Card
- All children aged 2-17 years of age eligible for the Child Dental Benefit Schedule (Funded by Medicare)

WHAT TYPE OF CARE IS OFFERED?

- Examinations (check ups)
- Treatment, including:
 - Dental sealants to prevent decay
 - Application of fluoride
 - Fillings
 - X-rays
 - Extractions

WHO PROVIDES THE TREATMENT?

- All general treatment is provided by Dental Therapists
More complex care is performed by Dentists

HOW OFTEN CAN I USE THE SDS?

Once enrolled, your child will receive a notice of offer every 12 or 24 Months according to their identified risk status.

Low Risk:

Children at low-risk of dental disease will be contacted every 24 months

High Risk:

Children at high-risk will be contacted every 12 months

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The service is free as well as Medicare Bulk Billing

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOUR CHILD?

Please have your P.C.C/H.C.C (if applicable) and your Medicare card available and contact Goulburn Valley Dental Service on telephone **58 323 006** between 8.30. and 5.pm,Monday to Friday.

Your child will not be placed on a waiting list for dental care.