Message from the Principal …

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you for all the parents, families and community members who came to the meet and greet on Tuesday. It was a great success as our first school event of the year. A special thank you has to go to our very talented School Counsellor Mrs Gapp and Student Voice representatives who help organize and run the event.

Hopefully you have all seen the fantastic new road we have on Pattinson Close. Please be aware that soon the council will come and paint lines indicating parking and non parking areas, which may change from previous.

In other asphalt news, soon the resurfacing of our asphalt play area will start. This will cause disturbance to our regular school timetable and routines. Notes will be sent out informing parents/caregivers of when and if changes will occur and how it will effect your child.

I hope you all have a great long weekend. If you are travelling anywhere, please drive safe and we will see you all back at school on Tuesday the 15th of March.

Mitchell Ollington
Principal
BULLYING: NO WAY

Bullying is a severe form of harassment that occurs when someone, or a group of people, have power over a student and deliberately upset or hurt him/her, damage his/her property, reputation or social acceptance more than once. The student’s inner self has been hurt and may experience and feel:

• Anxious – when will it happen again?
• Powerless – there’s nothing I can do?
• Angry – it’s not my fault, why me?
• Frustrated – this is consuming me!
• Embarrassed – are other students watching and what do they think?
• Helpless – no one understands what I’m going through!

Bullying is unacceptable in any shape or form and students must be empowered to speak up until they are heard and action is taken by responsible adults to address the issue. All too often, students lack confidence to confront the issue, feel overpowered by the bully, say nothing and continue to be the subject of bullying. The bully must have this power taken away forever and be counselled on appropriate ways in which to treat others. Explicit conversations about bullying build robust assertive attitudes and growth mindsets in our students.

Students craving for peer esteem and acceptance often are blockers for them to report bullying. They desperately don’t want to lose connections to their group and may see speaking up against as threatening this.

Building the wellbeing and resilience of our students to stand their ground and not tolerate the bullying of themselves or others will instill valuable lifelong dispositions in them. The intention of this focus on bullying is to initiate capacity building discussions both at home and at school about bullying. These discussions should include many of the considerations following:

• importance of responsibly reporting bullying and harassment for everyone
• dealing with bullies, social skills training and rights and responsibilities
• need to support those who have been bullied or harassed with empowering strategies
• assertive habits and appropriate responses training for victims of bullying
• anger management strategies, empathetic thinking and restoring focus activities for bullies
• understanding why do bullies bully
• restoring esteem and making things right for the victim.

Noeline Gapp

School Counsellor
The Smith Family
Learning Club
at Fisk Street Primary School

When: Every Monday from 3:05pm-4:05pm (starting 07/03/2016)

Where: Fisk Street Primary School Library

Who: Any student from Reception to Year 7

What: Students will have time to complete their class homework and/or a group based learning project with volunteers

Please fill out the attached consent forms if you are interested for your child to be a part of this very successful learning opportunity