

## Principal's Update



### CARING FOR OUR YARD AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

Earlier this term I wrote about the work we are doing to address the litter problem in our schoolyard. I am pleased to report that improvements have been achieved over recent weeks, however the year level locker areas remain 'hotspots' and require regular attention. As a staff we are currently exploring various whole-school clean-up approaches to identify one we will adopt in Term 4 and use when the state of the entire yard is unacceptable. This is important because respecting our environment is one way we can all show our pride for the wonderful facilities we have at the school.

In this update I want to share with you two actions we believe can make a difference to our problem. The first is an action the school is taking and the second is an action we are asking families to take.

### SCHOOL ACTION – SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Interested individuals/groups have been invited to apply for a School Improvement Grant, up to the value of \$500, to improve an aspect of our yard or school environment. We wonder whether students might treat the yard differently if they feel more ownership and connection to their spaces. We do know that better outcomes are achieved whenever students have an opportunity for their voice to be heard and responded to.

Students need to complete an application form, briefly describing the purpose of their request for funding, how the money will be spent and how it will improve an aspect of the yard / school environment. Application forms need to be completed by the end of the term and it will be very interesting to see what they come up with.

### FAMILY ACTION – REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WASTE COMING TO SCHOOL

Below are four easy ways for families to help reduce the waste brought to school and the reasons why taking this action has the potential to make a big difference to our environment.

1. Avoid single-use zip-lock bags and cling wrap and instead use reusable containers or paper bags. If every student at our school used an average of one zip-lock bag a day, 5 days a week, 10 weeks a term for 4 terms a year, students at our school alone throw away over 280,000 zip-lock bags to landfill every year.
2. Reusable drink bottles help you go green, stay healthy and save money. To better understand the impact of plastic water bottle waste per year, visualise bottles lined up end to end in a straight line - it would wrap around the earth a staggering 190 times. Moreover, the plastic water bottles that were placed in the landfill today will take up to 1000 years to biodegrade.
3. Purchase a reusable straw or encourage your child not to use a straw. Australians use about 10 million straws every day, or 3.5 billion a year. Straws from the school can flow through storm drains or get carried by the wind and end up at Wynn Vale Dam, endangering the local bird and marine life.
4. Buy in bulk and make use of reusable containers in order to reduce packaging waste. As well as helping the environment, buying in bulk can almost halve parts of your weekly grocery bill.

Peter Kuss  
Principal



This.....



Or this?????

