The first weeks

It has been a very smooth and calm start to the 2015 school year at Truganina College. The front office area has been filled with excited students and families enrolling and preparing for the learning taking place at our wonderful college.

A very big and warm welcome to the families who have begun this educational journey with us. Teaching and learning is visible in all classrooms with learning intentions and success criteria playing a vital role in all we do. Students have been involved in establishing classroom rights and responsibilities and have demonstrated their relationship skills in the playground too.

We thank you all for your support in the first few weeks of opening and look forward to learning with you as we grow and move forward into the year.

A Reminder About Insurance at School

The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs. Parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers. Personal property is sometimes brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include, but is not limited to mobile phones, electronic games, calculators, toys, musical instruments, sporting equipment, and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. It is probably wise for valuable items to be left at home. For further information, please contact DET Central staff: Jane Wilhelm – wilhelm.jane.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or Ph. 9637 2509.

Jenny Crowle and Nicole O’Brien
Tips for families when reading at home with children...

Every night it is important for all students to read. The Home Reading Diary and Reading Records are an effective way to keep track of reading activities that are happening at home. Texts that go home to be read are targeted to the reading abilities of individual students.

Each student chooses a ‘Just Right’ book from their Individual Book Box each day to take home with them. A ‘Just Right’ book is a book where students can read this independently and read unfamiliar words by using strategies taught in the classroom. From time to time, a book may come home that is regarded as ‘too easy’ or ‘too hard’.

When a text is considered ‘too easy’, remember to ask comprehension questions to ensure your child is understanding what they are reading. This is also an important opportunity for your child to practise reading with fluency, using expression and re-telling the text in their own words. All essential skills to master as reading becomes more challenging.

When a text is considered ‘too hard’, this is a good opportunity to do some shared reading. When students listen to reading, they are seeing and hearing reading behaviours. We model using expression, reading fluently and the love of reading. Before starting, during and at the end of shared reading experiences, having discussions about events in the book, using language from the text and re-telling the story once it has been listened to are all skills in engaging in texts.

Below are some questions and sentence starters you can use when engaging in reading with your child at home.

Nicole O’Brien
Assistant Principal

Summarising

Summarising helps students to determine essential ideas and consolidate important details that support these ideas.

Suggested prompts to use when trying to summarise a text you have read with your child:

- After reading the book, explain the main ideas using the following keywords: beginning, problem, in the middle, solution, end.
- Summarise the story by re-telling the main events.

Main Idea

Discovering the Main Idea of a text is when we think about the big picture. What is this text trying to tell us? What was this book essentially about?

Suggested prompts to use when helping your child discover the main ideas in a text:

- What is the text mainly about?
- What does the title tell us about this book?
- The start/middle/end of the book is about....
2015 Foundation Students

A big congratulations to all of our Foundation Students. Previously, Foundation was referred to as ‘Prep’. If you hear us talking about Foundation, it is the same as Prep, just a different name and the language used in current Department Frameworks and documents. All Foundation students have made a positive start to their school year. Most have completed their assessments and attended their individual interview times. As of March 1st, Foundation students attend school full time, inclusive of Wednesdays.

Volunteers Needed

If you are available to volunteer your time to help at Truganina College, please contact Nicole O’Brien. Our school library has had many helpers already.

This is a photograph of Renai and Geethika working together to have all books available in our school library.

To help at Truganina College, we require a valid copy of your Working With Children’s Check. We can photocopy it for you when you present the original copy at reception 😊

Wheels

It has been fabulous to see so many students riding their bikes and scooters to school. Near the basketball court, there is a shelter for all wheels to be kept during school hours. Please ensure your wheels are locked by supplying your own locking device.

For the safety of our whole school community, please walk your wheels through the school and begin riding once you are outside the school.
Student Planners

Student Planners are used at school everyday and sent home every night. Thank you to all families in advance for checking and signing the Student Planner each day.

At Truganina College we use the Student Planner to reflect our values regarding open communication between home and school. We expect and encourage high levels of organisation for all our students. Please label the Student Planner with your child’s name and classroom teacher.

We encourage all families to cover the Student Planner using clear contact.

Label All Belongings

All belongings need to be labelled to ensure they are returned if lost. Please label all Hats, Water bottles, Jumpers, T shirts, Lunch box.

State School Relief – Uniform and Footwear Support

State Schools Relief is a not for profit organisation who have provided uniform and footwear support to families since the 1930s. The tradition continues today. If you need assistance with uniform please contact the school’s Business Manager Helen Salmond to put in a request.

Rubbish Free Lunchboxes

Truganina College is a rubbish free school.

Please continue to support our school by providing your child with rubbish free lunch boxes.

Many students have been very proud of the best choices they have made by having fresh fruits, vegetables, snacks, sandwiches and water in their lunchboxes.
Welcome to Before/After School Care!

We hope you had a great holiday and somehow managed to squeeze in some fun, rest and a bit of relaxation! We managed to recharge our batteries, and we are excited to kick off the new term with our Camp Australia kids.

As always, we are excited to welcome all of our new starters in our Before and After School Care timeslots this term. It’s a pleasure for us to meet all these new faces, and we are very excited to see what this year has in store for us!

Here is what our timetable regularly looks like:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3pm:</th>
<th>3.15pm:</th>
<th>3.30pm:</th>
<th>4pm:</th>
<th>5pm:</th>
<th>5.30pm:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We collect the children from their Learning Communities</td>
<td>We sit down and have a talk about our day</td>
<td>We have afternoon tea</td>
<td>Some arts &amp; crafts</td>
<td>We go outside and play a group game or two</td>
<td>Children’s choice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Details
Before Care: 7:00am to 8.30am
After Care: 3:00pm to 6:00pm
School Bell Times

8:35am  Learning Communities Open
8:50 - 9:50  Session 1
9:50 - 10:50  Session 2
10:50 - 11:20  Recess
11:20 - 12:20  Session 3
12:20 - 1:20  Session 4
1:20 - 1:30  Eating Inside
1:30 - 2:00  Outside Play
2:00 - 3:00  Session 5
3:00pm  Home Time

2015 School Term Dates

Term 1: 29 January to 27 March
Term 2: 13 April to 26 June
Term 3: 13 July to 18 September
Term 4: 5 October to 18 December

- The first day of Term 1 (28 January) is a student-free day in all government schools to allow for appropriate planning to take place for the arrival of students.
- Each year government schools are provided with four student-free days for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development, and student assessment and reporting purposes.
- The remaining three student-free days are determined by each individual school, so contact your school for details.
I have read my newsletter 😊

Student Name

_________________________

Teacher Name

_________________________

Please return and provide feedback below

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