



Caroline Chisholm School  
Preschool to Year 10

An ACT Public School

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# NEWSLETTER

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope you all enjoyed the wonderfully warm weekend and were able to be outside and enjoy the return of the warmer sunshine.

This week I wanted to discuss concerns that many of our families have raised with us over the past few weeks; namely social and online platforms. These platforms all have commonalities, with the key similarity being the way in which users can communicate with each other. There has been growing interest and use of these platforms by young people and with greater use at a younger age, comes increased challenges for their young brains to try to navigate. The minimum age to open an account on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Kik, and Snapchat is 13. For Vine, Tinder and Yik Yak it's 17. YouTube requires account holders to be 18, but a 13 year old can sign up with a parent's permission. Despite these clearly stated and published age restrictions, large and growing numbers of children 12 and under are using social media networks, often *with* their parent's knowledge and consent.

So why do minimum ages matter?

**Children's personal information is at risk.** The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) passed in 1998 protects every child under the age of 13. The Act requires that operators of websites and online services provide notice and obtain permission from a child's parents before collecting personal information — such as name, address, phone number and screen name — from that child. Companies also cannot collect geolocation data that could identify the city street, and any image, video or audio files containing the child's image or voice. Anything that can identify what the child is using, like cookies, IP addresses or the unique device identifier (UDID) for mobile devices is restricted by COPPA. But COPPA doesn't work if a 9-year-old claims they are 13. When a social network account is created for a child under 13, or when a child uses a false birthdate, this Federal law cannot protect their personal information from being collected and shared with third party advertisers.

**Children under 13 do not yet have the brain development required to navigate the challenges faced on many of these platforms.** While young people are increasingly tech-savvy at increasingly younger ages, doesn't necessarily mean that their brains are developing at the same rate. Research shows that it takes children about 12 years to fully develop the cognitive structures that enable them to engage in ethical thinking. Before 12 it's difficult, if not impossible, for a child to fully grasp the impact of their actions upon others, online or otherwise. Yet young children are increasingly joining social networking sites, sometimes even



Friday 4 September 2020  
TERM 3 WEEK 7

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### SEPTEMBER

- 7 SC Southside Boys Netball
- 8 JC Footy Colours Day
- 8 JC LSU Excursion: *Dinosaur Museum*
- 8 Year 6 Combined Band @ CCS
- 11 Scholastic Book Club: *last day for orders*
- 15 Year 5 Combined Band @ Torrens PS
- 15 Year 3/4 Excursion: *Zoo & Aquarium*
- 18 Pictureplates: *Last day for orders*
- 22 SC Band Combined Band @ Lanyon HS
- 23 JC Canteen Special Lunch
- 24 SC Unit Excursion: *Glassworks*
- 25 Last day of Term 3

### OCTOBER

- 12 First day Term 4

putting themselves in harm's way by becoming victims of online harassment, solicitation, and cyber-bullying before they are ready to respond appropriately.

What can families do if complexities arise between young people online?

Increasingly we are experiencing impact at the school of negative online interactions overflowing into interactions at school, on both the junior and senior campuses. As a school we can use restorative conversations, unpack concerns which have played out at school, and support our young people to develop the skills to respond to such challenges through our social emotional learning programs.

At home, we encourage families to establish open lines of communication with their young people, so if they are experiencing online concerns, the family can work through this together. A further option for families is to report any concerns through to the safety commissioner. A great space for information and resources for families and young people is through the following website: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

This site assists families to stay informed about key issues including cyberbullying, sending nudes and sexting, amount of time online, online gaming, and unwanted contact and grooming. Families are also able to report abuse including cyberbullying, image-based abuse and illegal and harmful content through the following link: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/report>

The best way to work through online complexities is to be informed, and seek support.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Jen

## ONLINE GAMES - FORTNITE

Over the past year the rise of online games, such as the game Fortnite: Battle Royale, have started to enter the primary school landscape when previously they have been played by teenagers and young adults. Taking Fortnite as our example, it is a free, third person shooter game that can be played on most consoles, PCs, and mobile devices. Users just need an internet connection to play.

Players can play cross platform, which means someone playing on a Windows device can play another person on an Apple device. This game has 125 million players worldwide.

Each round of the game starts with 100 players. Players leap out of a flying bus on to a small island and then fight each other until only one is left from the original 100. Users can form squads or work as a duo. Players are able to collect a variety of weapons of which they can arm themselves as well as collecting resources to strategise and build structures. The game has been compared to a virtual Hunger Games. Fortnite has been given an age minimum of 13 due to frequent, mild violence. While the game is combat focused, no blood is displayed on the screen. It is not rated for primary aged children.

The main concern which many cyber safety experts have raised, beyond the violence, is that there can be unmoderated chat between players in the console and PC players versions. This automatically allows users to speak to other players through voice chat and text functions. What this means is that if a players' friends are not online, they can join other squads of completely random people. This means that children, including those at CCS, are contactable by virtually anyone in the world. This function alone makes the game fairly unsuitable for primary aged children. Recently, UK Police reported that they had to respond to an increased number of cases where children were being groomed.

At CCS, we have heard many children discussing Fortnite on the playground; those who play and those who want to be seen as playing. This has caused a number of social issues between young people and is distracting children from their learning. Some students report playing this game late at night, others talk about how they might play parts of

the game in the playground. The media reports that young people may become aggressive or extremely upset when asked to stop playing the game in order to engage in regular household expectations such as cleaning up or eating their dinner. Experts are attributing this to many factors, including that a player has to leave the game, there is no save or safety point, thereby letting their squad or 'friends' down.

There is acknowledgement that the ways in which children socialise in 2020 has changed. The online landscape is one of these key changes. Experts such as Dr Michael Carr-Greg recommend that, if families do allow their primary aged children to play the game, that parents and carers play it with them for defined periods of time. Each match takes 20 minutes, so families can take advantage of a 'quick play', using this as a natural point of stopping play. Always use the privacy and parental control settings available to ensure your child's safety. In Fortnite, families can use parental controls that switch off or mute discussions. Families are also encouraged to take devices out of bedrooms and have them in a central location overnight, to avoid children setting alarms to get up in the night and play.

We continue to encourage families to speak with their children about their online activity, utilise the parental controls available to them, and consider carefully your child's safety when engaging in online gaming activities.

Thank you for your ongoing support,  
Jen.

## STRANGER SAFETY

This is reminder to help our children understand the importance of stranger safety and the need to report any unusual incidents or approaches to staff immediately.

If you become aware of an incident, or notice anyone acting suspiciously around a school or child, contact police immediately on 131 444 or in the case of an emergency call 000. If you witness incidents or if you have any information that could assist Police, contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Information can be provided anonymously.

Please support us to keep our children safe by having conversations about moving safely around the community and what to do if they ever feel unsafe. You may wish to visit the AFP website section on [Child Safety](#) for tips. In addition, the [Safety4Kids](#) is a non-government website that has useful information and links. The [Constable Kenny website](#) also has a number of tips for parents.

The school and the Education Directorate will continue to work with ACT Policing on this issue.

Contact: [schooloperations@act.gov.au](mailto:schooloperations@act.gov.au)  
Ph: [620 53313](tel:62053313)

## KINDER HEALTH CHECKS

Reminder to the parents of Kindergarten students that Canberra Health Services is offering a **targeted kindergarten health check concentrating on vision and hearing**.



**Canberra Health Services**

These health checks are performed in clinics at the City Health Centre Mondays and Fridays and there will be appointments most days in the school holidays.

**An appointment can be made by phoning the Central Intake Line on 51249977.**

### Year 9/10 Dance – *Bom Funk* workshops

This term in Year 9/10 Dance we have been learning the technical and expressive skills involved in the musical theatre style. To support the building of these skills, we have participated in in-school workshops with Bom Funk Dance Studio. The Bom Funk teachers, Jaimee & Shekiralea, taught our students a jam-packed musical theatre medley routine in week 6 and 7. It included songs from *Singin' in the Rain*, *High School Musical*, *Anastasia* and *Hamilton*, as well as styles such as hip hop, cheer and Broadway jazz.

Our students were so grateful for the opportunity to learn the expertise from studio teachers and can't wait to show the school community what they've learnt!



### Year 9 English – Surveys on the Junior Campus

Year 9 students were excited in travelling over to the JC in surveying students for their upcoming story book creations. Students were wanting to know what the Year 3 and 4 students liked reading, this was to better inform their own writing as we look at how important Children's Stories are.

The Year 9s were incredible in their leadership and maturity in making sure the Year 3s and 4s felt comfortable in talking to the 'big kids'. The responses from the students were various and gave the Year 9s many exciting ideas for their own stories. They'll begin brainstorming their ideas for their stories in English tomorrow.



All students are very excited to go back to the JC in Week 10 to do some Reading Time, watch this space to see what the completed stories look like.

Year 3/4 have been working hard in Term 3.

This term in Inquiry, we are learning all about Sustainability. In Week 9 students will be going to the National Zoo and Aquarium to continue their exploration of this unit. We are so excited for our first excursion of the year, and can't wait to tell our families all about it 😊

In Literacy we have just completed our Poetry unit. Students wrote a variety of poems, including acrostic, haiku, cinquain, diamante and narrative. We are now looking at writing Procedural Texts, including recipes, directions and game instructions.



Throughout Terms 3 and 4 students will be focusing on measurement and geometry in Maths, including 3D objects, angles, units of time, area and perimeter and measuring length and capacity.

In Health, our Year 3 and 4 girls have been exploring wellbeing including resilience, friendships, internet safety, and staying safe both in and out of school and online (through social media). The Year 3 and 4 boys have been working together as a team, bonding through problem solving as well as working on resilience, positive relationships and playing fair on the football field.

We have just finished participating in cricket clinics, which was a lot of fun. We are also working with the Year 9 students on an English project they are completing. They have been surveying and then collaborating with our students to find out what kinds of stories they like and what they think makes a good story. We have been super busy and can't believe how fast this term is going.



Students in year 1/2 have had a great start to Term 3 with all settling in well into the normal classroom routines. We have had an exciting term with Cricket Clinic running on Tuesdays where we have been learning new balls skills. We have all enjoyed gross motor on Wednesdays and have been practicing balancing as well as plenty of throwing.



**Literacy**

We have continued to practise persuasive writing having written to Mr Bindley about getting a new playground for the years



3-6 who, at present, do not have their own. We also enjoyed reading the persuasive text, "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" by Mo Willems and had-a-go at creating our own versions of what the pigeon could NOT do. For the rest of this term we will be creating narratives. We are learning how to infer ideas and information as we read to help us understand the text better. We have also been learning about how to choose Good Fit books in the library.

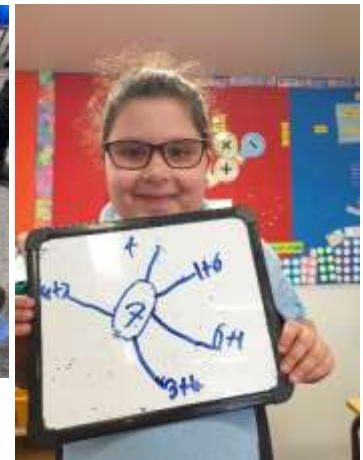
**Numeracy**

We have been learning about making groups using counters and Numicon. The students have been introduced to the concept of making groups of 3's. The students have shown much pride in their work in the classroom and demonstrated mathematical thinking through engaging in their learning.



**Inquiry**

We have been looking at the weather and how it affects our lives. We are learning to predict the weather using what we see, hear, smell and feel to help us to notice the changes and to use our growing knowledge about seasons and their weather to help us make more accurate predictions. We will also be comparing our weather system with others in Australia and around the world.



## JC FOOTY COLOURS DAY: TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER (NEXT WEEK)

JC students are encouraged to wear their favourite team's colours (NRL, AFL, Soccer, Rugby Union, own club colours) and bring a gold coin as a donation to the Fight Cancer Foundation, supporting the education of children with cancer. Please note: Rosellas will do Footy Colours Day on Friday 11 September.



**SHOW  
YOUR TRUE  
COLOURS!**



## PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER: PICTUREPRODUCTS

Turn your child's treasured memories into durable, high-quality melamine Pictureplates that will last a lifetime!

Both decorative and useful, Pictureplates are simply beautiful. Children love eating off their very own Pictureplates, and as the years go by and they grow up and have their own families, their Pictureplates will bring back memories of those happy childhood years.

Preschool students will be provided with a note. If your child is in another year level and you would like to also create a Pictureplate please see the JC Front Office for information. Plates are \$25 each. Last day for orders Friday 18 September 2020.

Preschool Fundraising Committee



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### School Holiday Programs: Spring 2020 - Communities@Work

The most exciting, fun and reliable School Holiday Programs in Canberra are here!

Communities@Work's Spring School Holiday Programs are now open for bookings. We have a full program of fun and exciting activities for your child in locations across Canberra and the ACT region.

[www.commsatwork.org](http://www.commsatwork.org)  
<https://www.commsatwork.org/services/spring-school-holiday-programs-2020/>



## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS™



Our Spring Digital Booklet is now ready for the upcoming holidays.

Our Digital Booklet link is: [www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet](http://www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet)