

MANORVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Department of Education
and Training

Newsletter 13
Tues, 15th August 2023

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

We want our parents / caregivers / guardians to tell us what they think.

A random selection of parents has received a link to complete the online survey. The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education that is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage all families to participate. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey will be open from Monday, 7 August to Friday 8 September 2023.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the survey period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones.

The online survey will be available in English and 10 other languages including Arabic, Greek, Hakha Chin, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Survey results will be communicated to parents / caregivers / guardians through the annual reporting process.

NAPLAN Reports

All families have received the NAPLAN reports either by collection from the office or by mail. If you wish to discuss the report, please arrange a time to speak with your child's teacher.

Prep Enrolments 2024

Letters offering a placement were sent home by last week. **Completed School Enrolment Forms are due by August 25. When returned the enrolment process is complete.**

Families wishing to enrol a prep student for 2024 should complete an application form as soon as possible. **The application forms are available from the office and can be downloaded from the website.**

We are currently running tours for prep 2024 families each week until the end of term. The dates for the tours are: Monday 21st, 28th August and Monday 4th September 2023.

If you would like to attend one of these tours, please contact the office.

Year 6 to 7 Transition

Families of students attending a government secondary college in 2024 should have received their placement offer letter.

100 Days of Prep

Our prep students had a very mathematical day celebrating 100 days of Prep. Thank you to parents/carers who were able to attend and join in the celebrations and activities.

Handyman

After many years at our school our handyman **Ian Cartledge** is retiring. A special morning tea will be held on Thursday to say thank you for keeping our grounds mown and repairing our facilities. Ian has been a great supporter of our school and events. He has also made a substantial donation of equipment. We thank him for all these years of service and support. We wish him a safe and healthy retirement.



SCHOOL MISSION

The school's purpose is to develop optimistic and aspirational students who have the academic and social foundations to become responsible citizens.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Wednesday 3:00-3:30pm

Friday 8:50-9:20am

(Times and days TBC)

Please refer to our "Dates to Remember" section of the newsletter.

**Out of Hours School Care
Camp Australia
Ph: 0405 428 328**

Happy Families

Sponsored by Parents' Club

SCHOOL OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS:

Phone:

9741 6300

Email:

manorvale.ps@education.vic.gov.au

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- * Cash
- * Eftpos
- * Cheque
- * BPay

**Book Week**

Next week is book week with the theme Read, Grow, Inspire. We will be celebrating with a parade to be held on Wednesday. Students wear costumes inspired by a book character from any type of book. Parents/careers are welcome to attend the parade in the gym. Students from the JSC Reading and Events groups will be hosting.

Year 5/6 Narmbool Camp

Last week the campers had a very successful camping experience at Narmbool. Thank you to the students who attended and represented our school so well. Thank you also to the staff who attended and managed the multitude of tasks needed for everyone to have a safe and enjoyable time.

Grade Placements 2024

Teachers spend considerable time making up grades for next year. Every effort is made to create a class which is compatible and equitable based on the professional judgement and knowledge of the staff.

- Consideration is given to
- Social and emotional needs
- Academic needs
- Family and neighbourhood relationships.

Parents/carers who have concerns about the placement of their child should record these in writing and address them to the principal or assistant principals. In fairness to all, requests for particular teachers, the gender and/or experience of the teacher will be considered last and may not be met. Parents who wish to discuss these issues should make an appointment to see the principal and/or assistant principals.

All requests should be received by the school by the end of term 3 - Friday, September 15.

Students NOT Returning in 2024

Parents of students from Prep -5 who will not be returning to Manorvale next year are asked to inform the school in writing. Please include the intended school placement for next year.

Helen Watson
Principal

**LIFE EDUCATION VICTORIA – HEALTH and WELLBEING PROGRAMS
PREP to YEAR 6 INCURSION**

Life Education Victoria will be visiting our school on **Tuesday, 29th August - Thursday 31st August and Tuesday 5th September - Wednesday 6th September 2023** to conduct Health and Wellbeing programs for all Prep - Year 6 students. During those 5 days each grade will participate in a specified session for their year level. There is **NO COST** for this incursion as the program relates to the Victorian Curriculum and the school is subsidising the cost. The general topics covered for each year level are:

Prep Program: 'My Body Matters' (60 minutes)

Year 1-2 Program: 'Ready, Steady Go' (60 minutes)

Year 3-4 Program: 'The Inside Story' program (90 minutes)

Year 5-6 Program: 'Decisions' program (90 minutes)

A note will be sent home this week providing details of the content for each program.

Life Education is presenting several parent-carer information webinars. Please register at the following link if you would like to gain more information about the programs.

<https://www.lifeedvic.org.au/for-families/parent-webinars>

Lily Ibrahim
Assistant Principal



Year 3/4 News WheelTalk Incursion (01/09/2023)

WheelTalk Incursion is an engaging and interactive program that promotes diversity, acceptance, and disability, placing a primary focus on inclusion. This incursion has been planned for Friday, 1st September 2023 for the year 3/4 students.

The incursion will take place in the gymnasium. Students will attend in grade groups and sessions will run for 90 minutes.

The cost of this extra curricular incursion is **\$13.00** per student. Payment and consent is due by Friday 25th August 2023. CSEF can be used to pay for this event.

3/4 Team

Year 5/6 Sport

SSV Summer Lightning Premiership

The year 5/6 students will be participating in the upcoming School Sports Victoria Summer Lightning Premiership competition to be held on Friday, 8th September 2023.

The sports played at this event includes:

- Basketball - Eagle Stadium
- Kanga 8's Cricket - Galvin Park
- Softball - Presidents Park
- Volleyball - Eagle Stadium

Students will need to bring:

- their lunch, snacks, drinks (no soft drinks, energy drinks, Prime or glass bottles) and a refillable water bottle
- their school hat and sunscreen to apply to themselves
- appropriate clothing such as jackets or coats for the prevailing weather conditions
- Student must be wearing their school uniform.

Students need to be at school by 8:50am ready for a prompt departure. Travel to and from the venues will be by bus.

The cost of this event is \$9.00 per student. Signed permission envelopes and payment needs to be returned to the class teacher no later than Friday 25th August 2023. CSEF can be used to pay for this event.

Activities will commence at 9:30am and conclude at approximately 2:30pm. Parents are welcome to come along and support our students.

Book Week (21st Aug - 25th Aug)

The week beginning August 21st, is Book Week and the theme is Read, Grow, Inspire. This year for book week the Library and Celebrations Junior School Council groups have come together to organise activities throughout the week. There will be 'Storytime on the Grass', Book Bingo and a scavenger hunt. On **Wednesday 23rd August there will also be a Book Week Dress Up Day**, where everyone can dress up as their favourite book character. This can either be from your favourite narrative or non-fiction books! We will also have a whole school parade where we can see all the amazing costumes. There will be more information to come so look out for announcements. We look forward to all the fun in that week.

From the Library and Celebrations Junior School Council Groups



DISTRICT ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 2023

On Tuesday 1st August, Manorvale Primary School competed in the Werribee District Athletics Carnival held at Werribee Athletics track. The day produced some great results across the whole team, with many of our students receiving ribbons for their efforts. I would like to congratulate all of our 34 students involved, not only for their efforts but for their outstanding behaviour throughout the day.

Mr Boulter
PE Coordinator





5/6 News

Camp Narmbool

On Wednesday, 9th August the year 5/6s departed from school to attend Camp Narmbool for everyone's very first camp experience. When we arrived we completed different activities such as the 'Narmbool Challenge' where we had to find information about Narmbool. We also participated in Aquatic Sampling where we got to examine and learn about different aquatic insects. Our third activity was a team building challenge called the 'Lava Pit', where we had to cross an imaginary pit of lava using only two wooden planks. Later in the evening we enjoyed a trivia night hosted by Mr. Smith about many different topics.

On day two of camp there was a bushwalk to Mannas, where we played Aboriginal games and built shelters out of logs, twigs, bark and leaves. We had to make sure the shelters would protect us from water, so the teachers threw water onto us. After those activities we returned back to the lodge where we had a pasta dinner and either danced the night away at the disco or watched a quiet movie.

On day three we departed from the lodge and went to Sovereign Hill, where we went to the Red Hill Mine and had an education session about past classrooms. We learnt to write our name in the style of the 1800s (Copper Plate Alphabet), writing on slates and with ink pens. We also had a bunch of free time where we got to purchase different things at the shops and stalls and also went panning for gold. Some people were lucky and found gold! We departed from Sovereign Hill tired, happy and with lots of stories to tell when we arrived back at school where our families were waiting to greet us!

Testimonials:

Camp was the best time of my life! - Alanna

The food was delicious. - Sisi Paw

I enjoyed the disco. - Amelia

I really enjoyed going on the hike. - Leo

I enjoyed spending time with my friends. - Charlotte

I thought the cabins were cool. - Patrick

I enjoyed the Indigenous games we played. - Jusowelle

5/6 Team



The Focus For Term 3 Is RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, ASPIRING, CARING

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following students for being named as STUDENT OF THE WEEK.

PREP SIOMOS	Caleb and Lucy for using concrete materials and drawing to model and solve addition problems.	3/4 RUSSELL/BEECHAM	Horatio for creating a welcoming, safe and inclusive learning environment by consistently demonstrating the four values of our matrix. Hana for being a responsible learner by using her class time effectively to re-search and organise facts to draft her information report.
PREP McCORMACK	Dau and Shlok for using concrete materials and drawing to model and solve addition problems.	3/4 JOHNSTONE	Adel for challenging herself and always seeking to improve in all learning areas. Charlie for working incredibly hard in maths to change her mindset and deepen her understanding of multiplication.
1/2 BATES	Jiraiya for his positive participation and cooperative group work during our Possum Magic Incursion. Jace for getting into character and working cooperatively during our Possum Magic Incursion	3/4 PULFORD	Mukund for eagerly accepting new challenges in Mathematics and striving to extend his numerical abilities. Steeven for always displaying a caring and compassionate attitude towards others.
1/2 ANDERSON	Jace and Isaac for identifying the difference between a fact and an opinion.	5/6 KOCISKI	5/6 RK for their incredible behaviour and persistence in all activities during our camp.
1/2 BOS	Nira for always demonstrating expected behaviours in the classroom. Siapolima for always demonstrating expected behaviours in and out of the classroom.	5/6 RIEKSTS	
1/2 TOMPKINS	Hunter for enthusiastically participating in the Possum Magic incursion. Eh Shee Na for writing a fantastic narrative about the creepy house with four legs.	5/6 KHALIF	Patrick for working hard to achieve his learning goals in Maths. It is great to see Patrick take pride in his progress. Cara for completing all her tasks to the best of her ability. Cara's pride in her work is truly impressive.
SIGNORA MAIORANA LOTE		MRS HOOPER LIBRARY	Kai for showing enthusiasm and dedication to our Reading JSC group projects. Raghav for fantastic contributions to our discussions in Library.
MR BOULTER PE		MS CARLISLE ART	
OSHC			



Dates to Remember

Term 3

All	Prep Tours - every Monday, term 3 @ 10.00am - call office to book tour	
Selected	Lego Robotics	12/09 & 03/11/2023
All	Book Week—begins	21/08/2023
Yr 5/6 students	Year 5-6 Youth Resource Centre Excursion	21/08/2023
All	Book Week Dress Up Day—parade	23/08/2023
Yr 3/4 and 5/6	WheelTalk and Lightning Prem payments due	25/08/2023
All	Life Ed Victoria Incursion	29 & 31/08/2023
All	Father's Day Stall	01/09/2023
Yr 3/4 students	WheelTalk Incursion	01/09/2023
Prep - 2	Possum Magic Excursion	01/09/2023
Yr 3/4 students	Encounter the Orchestra Excursion	04/09/2023
All	Life Ed Victoria Incursion	05 & 06/09/2023
Selected	Division Athletics	06/09/2023
Yr 5/6 students	SSV Summer Lightning Premiership	08/09/2023

Manorvale Primary School
232-246 Greaves Street North
P.O. Box 591, Werribee. 3030
Principal: Helen Watson
Assistant Principal: Lily Ibrahim and Tyson Smith
Phone: 03 9741 6300 Fax: 03 9742 5703
E-mail: manorvale.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Website: www.manorvaleps.vic.edu.au

TERM DATES 2023

Term 1	27th January to 6th April
Term 2	24th April to 23rd June
Term 3	10th July to 15th September
Term 4	2nd October to 20 December

SCHOOL HOURS 2023

Start	9:00 am
Lunch in rooms	11:30 am to 11:40 am
Lunch Play	11:40 am to 12:10 pm
Snack in rooms	1:50 pm to 1:55 pm
Recess Play	1:55 pm to 2:25 pm
Dismissal	3:15 pm
OHSC Bell	3:12 pm

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

To avoid receiving a phone call or a note/letter from the school when your child is absent please remember to contact the school using one of the following methods:

1. Reporting on the Compass Portal
2. Contact the school by telephone on 9741 6300
3. Send an email to manorvale.ps@education.vic.gov.au
4. Write a letter or note to the classroom teacher explaining your child's absence
5. Verbally inform the classroom teacher.

If families have not advised the school of a student absence, a text message will be sent at 10:00am alerting the family. Families are expected to respond to the school with a reason for the absence as soon as possible.

Parents' Club News

Fathers' Day Stall

We are now in the planning stages for Fathers' Day which will be held Friday 1st September 2023. Volunteers required to help with the Fathers' Day stall. Please contact the office 9741 6300.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Do you have free time of a morning or afternoon? If so, we are looking for you!
Manorvale PS is looking for someone to help run the **Second Hand Uniform Shop**.

The uniform shop is a way for preloved items of school clothing to be used again as very reasonable cost.
Flexible times and days.

YES, I CAN HELP - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday AM or PM - Please circle your preferences and return to the office, or call the office on 9741 6300.

Rochelle Reynolds
Parents' Club President



Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

To Parents/Caregivers,

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and Manorvale Primary School is excited to be participating. The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 to highlight the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 8 September 2023.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 6 are challenged to read at least 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

All students will be coming home this week with their user name (which is their first and last name as recorded on the roll plus a number) and password which they can use to log onto the reading challenge application to enter their books at home. Children will also be bringing home a reading record log where they can record the books they have read and they will be given the opportunity to enter them onto the website at school if they do not have access at home or need assistance. The challenge website is <https://www.vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge>

We would like to see all students participating in this challenge as it is complimentary to our classroom and library reading programs. Aside from entering books no additional work is required!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you,

Kate Hooper
(Librarian)



Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a health/concession card holder;
- Be in receipt of a Centrelink Payment
- Be studying or have a child in school
- Have some regular income from work
- Be 18+ years old



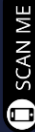
State Schools' Relief

Provides school uniforms and shoes to those that are unable to afford them.

Eligibility Criteria

Situations include but not limited to:

- Unemployment
- Health issues/illness
- Financial difficulties
- Independent living and/or homelessness
- Natural disasters
- Bereavement
- Domestic and family violence



Eligibility Criteria

- Must:
- Resident of Victoria
 - Have a valid Concession or Health Care Card
 - Have have a Medicare Card
- OR
- Residing in Care Services
 - Hold a temporary or provisional visa, is an undocumented migrant or international student



Computerbank

Low cost refurbished computers that include various programs including word processing, Google Chrome and PDF Maker



Get Active Victoria

Program includes:

- \$200 voucher to be used to pay for membership, registration or participation fees at a registered Get Active Kids sport or recreation club

Your
OSHC.21-25 August in
After School Care

Little Book Worms

Celebrating Children's Book Week

The theme for this year's Book Week is READ, GROW, INSPIRE. Featuring fun, tailored activities themed around your child's favourite books, including dress ups, creating imaginary characters and more.

Ask your Coordinator what they have planned for the week and book now!

**Book now**pp.campaustralia.com.auby  Camp
Australia

National Science

Week in After School Care!

Your
OSHC.

14-18 August
2023



Child Care
Subsidy (CCS)
available for
eligible families

To find out more and to book, visit
www.campaustralia.com.au/science-week

by  Camp
Australia

Program spotlight











Your
OSHC.

Manorvale Primary School

Your OSHC by Camp Australia provides enriching experiences for children during term – before school, after school and on pupil free days. At Your OSHC we give children a supportive space to continue their development, build confidence and socialise with their friends.

What's coming up at Your OSHC this week:

14/8/2023 - 18/8/2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 STEM Walking water The walking water experiment will teach children how water can flow without the help of external forces.	 National Science Week 3.2 Coloured Magic Milk What happens when colours are mixed with milk?	 Science 3.2 Dancing Raisins Have you ever seen dancing raisins? Children will get a kick out of this super cool science experiment. Adult supervision.	 National Science Week 5.1 Growing a Rainbow Using only paper towel, textas and water we can make a rainbow grow!	 National Science Week Fun with water Colour then sort the drops of water
 National Science Week 2.4 Leak Proof Bag This leakproof bag experiment develops the curiosity of how the pencil comes out from the bag.	 National Science Week 2.2 Making a Volcano Making mini volcanos with Vinegar & Baking soda.	 National Science Week 4.5 Make a ferris wheel. This STEM activity for older students (grades 4-6) presents many opportunities to solve problems and try again.	 National Science Week 4.1 Crazy Scientist: Craft Celebrate Science Week this year with a 3D crazy Scientist!	 Science 1.5 Science Wordsearch challenge yourself to find all the science themed words



Register for Your OSHC

Once registered, you'll be able to easily make and manage your bookings online via our Parent Portal.

[Register now](#)


Stop by and say hi!

Please feel free to visit the program with your children to meet the team and see what happens in our great program each school day.



Visit our blog

New articles are added each week for parents and cover various topics to help families.

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21/8/2023 - 25/8/2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 Book Week 1 Jack and the beanstalk Stacking activity themed from Jack and the Beanstalk story. children to problem solve, reaching the clouds.	 All About Me 11 Quiet Reading Lets relax with a good book. Reading and storytelling with babies and children promotes brain development and imagination.	 Book Week 4-4 Book Character drawing Children draw their favorite book characters	 Book Week 11 Make a comic book Create your very own comic book. This is a great activity for book week.	 Book Week 13 The Rainbow Fish The Rainbow Fish is a popular book and now let's make our own Rainbow Fish to swim around the OSHC Room
 Book Week 12 Board Game craft Let's get creative and create our own board game using craft items, team work and construction skills.	 Book Week 25 Where's Wally Hunt Let's find where's Wally in the playground	 Book Week 28 Cat in a hat, DIY hats! Children will design and make a hat from the story book "The Cat in the hat"	 Book Week 31 Book mark Book mark with a bombom	 Book Week 41 Book inspired art & craft The children will utilise the arts & crafts resources to recreate something from their favourite books.



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Program spotlight

Manorvale Primary School











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OSHC.**



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What's coming up at Your OSHC this week:

28/8/2023 - 1/9/2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 Families 11 All About Me Sheet Belonging - Children belong first to family. children draw their family on the collect CA family sheet.	 Father's Day 11 Fathers day cards Make cards out of card paper and let children write sweet message and decorate	 Families 15 Family Colouring Comp. Families join in a colouring in or art competition at the service or to take home.	 Families 13 CA Way Sheets Start to get the children to do their CA Way Family Sheet	 Families 15 Make a family tree Discussion with children about families and their different make up
 Families 41 Rock Families Create your own rock family	 National Families Week 11 My Family International Day of Families - Children create their family on cardboard cut outs and create a family display at the service	 All About Me 12 Superhero puppet's Children will create DIY superhero puppets	 All About Me 11 Paddlepop Stick Families Children create a Paddlepop stick family.	 Healthy Lifestyles 3.5 Pizza Making An extension idea from pizza making, we are using muffins as bases to help the children become more resilient with cooking.



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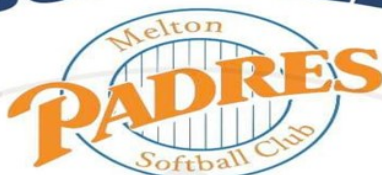
Visit our blog

New articles are added each week for parents and cover various topics to help families.

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HOME RUN HEROES

T-BALL & SOFTBALL PROGRAM



WHO?

JUNIORS 5-12 YRS
All ability levels

COST

\$60

**FUN & INCLUSIVE
SKILL BASED ACTIVITIES AND MODIFIED
GAMES OF T-BALL & SOFTBALL
DELIVERED BY QUALIFIED COACHES
PATHWAY TO JUNIOR SOFTBALL**

**SATURDAYS 10-11AM
FOR 6 WEEKS STARTING SEPTEMBER 30**

VENUE: WERRIBEE SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION,
PRESIDENTS PARK, GATE 3, MCGRATH
RD, WYNDHAM VALE

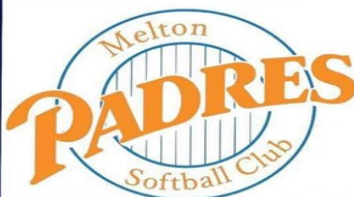
**REGISTER
HERE:**



padressoftball2020@hotmail.com
www.revolutionise.com.au/meltonpadres/



*Are you looking for a way to have
fun and make friends after Covid?*



*Then this is the
sport for you*

Melton Padres is a family orientated softball club. As we grow, the aim is to develop each age group from under twelves up to seniors. We engage with our local community and receive their support through sponsorship. Come and join our group.

COME AND TRY DAYS

SEPTEMBER 2ND 1PM - 3PM
SEPTEMBER 16TH 1PM - 3PM

AT WERRIBEE PRESIDENTS PARK GATE 4

President: Jared Warwick 0481303562
Vice President: Xavier Lucchesisches 0431879183
Our email: padressoftball2020@gmail.com





INSIGHTS

happy families. 

DR JUSTIN COULSON

ISSUE 4 | TERM 3 | 2023

Book Week

For over 75 years, the Children's Book Council of Australia has promoted Children's Book Week®. Book week isn't just about finding a costume for the parade (and hoping that this year your child doesn't want to dress up as Captain Underpants again), it's about celebrating books. Australian authors and illustrators are particularly celebrated, as classroom teachers and librarians in schools and public libraries create displays, run activities, and tell stories relating to each year's theme. This year, Book Week is this week (Aug 19-25), and the theme is Read, Grow, Inspire.

This article isn't about Book Week though. It's about why books and reading are so important for our kids that we should be celebrating books every day, not just one week a year. In this article I'll also describe how you can help your child to get more out of their reading. And lastly, I'll give you some tips on what to do when your kids don't seem to want to read.

The science

It is never too early to start a habit of reading with your kids. A meta-analysis (a study that synthesises the results of lots of other studies, in this case 99 other studies) found that when children are exposed to book reading from an early age, it begins a 'causal spiral'; being exposed to books stimulates language and reading development, and in turn children who are more proficient in comprehension and reading skills choose to read more. Significantly, this study looked at every age from preschool to university and found that the gap between readers and non-readers widened every year, culminating in greater academic success in university. There is also some evidence that people who read more live longer, and that reading fiction boosts social skills such as empathy.

Getting the most out of reading

Reading is good, regardless of how it's done or what is read. But there are a few things we can do to help our children enjoy the benefits and satisfaction it offers. Here are three ideas:

- (i) Have your child read to you. Children don't even need to be able to read to do this. Babies enjoy lifting up flaps and turning pages. Toddlers love pointing at the pictures in their favourite books. Preschoolers may even memorise the words to a well-repeated story. Then as our children learn to read independently, they tend to be really excited to read to us if we can find the time to slow down and turn reading into an activity to share.
- (ii) Read to your child. In addition to bonding, reading to your child helps them to learn about expression, pacing, and the different ways we can experience books. Please remember, when you read to your child, to read slower than you think you should. And for younger



children, pause and ask them questions about how they'd feel, what the characters are feeling, and what they're thinking about the story. (It can be hard to stay awake, I know! But it's worth it.)

- (iii) Have FART time regularly. FART stands for Family All Reading Together. Perhaps once or twice a week, let everyone know it's FART time. Grab some treats. Have everyone select a book. And sit together in the living room while you read those books together, either aloud or in silence.

What to do when your child doesn't want to read

Not everyone loves reading. However, kids who lack motivation for reading are usually struggling with a small handful of challenges. They either (i) have a reading disorder such as dyslexia, (ii) feel disconnected and want connection with someone, (iii) don't feel competent, or (iv) are feeling controlled and want more choice in what they read. Each of these will reduce intrinsic desire to read. Our role as parents is to help them overcome those boundaries. We can do this by:

- (i) Helping them find appropriate support. With time, patience, and the right structures in place, anyone can learn to enjoy reading. Being dyslexic doesn't prevent that; in fact, one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, F. Scott Fitzgerald, is believed to have had dyslexia.
- (ii) Reading together – them to us and us to them. There are few things cosier than snuggling up together with a good book
- (iii) Finding books that are at a level that stretches them but not so much that it's demotivating, and
- (iv) Offering them as much choice as possible in terms of what they read... even if that means reading Captain Underpants again.

One more important point: never bribe your kids to read, unless the bribe for reading one book is the chance to choose another one!

Reading isn't just about academics, just as Book Week isn't just about winning the award for Best Dressed. Books provide a doorway to the world; through them our kids can climb mountains, experience new cultures, and travel through time and space. As Barack Obama once said, "Reading is important. If you know how to read, then the whole world opens up to you."



AUTHOR

Dr Justin Coulson

Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 9 books about families and parenting. For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.

